



Supporting the Haitian ministries of Sam Rice, R.N.

May, 2008

Gospel Growers, Inc.
P. O. Box 968
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Attention:
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Dear Sponsors and Friends,

Since touching down in the States on April 1st, I've been blessed by the warm welcomes extended to me as I visit family, friends, and supporters of our Gospel Growers Ministries. Coming out of Haiti is always a jarring change as I try to adapt to the much different life style and culture of the USA. Haiti has been experiencing a difficult period of recession and inflation that has some people resorting to eating mud pies. Unemployment is 50-60%. Food and fuel cost have risen 40% leaving an already economically stressed country in dire straights. A few days after I left Haiti there were food riots that erupted in Cayes, which is usually a very quiet area even when other parts of Haiti are restive. A mission team scheduled to visit from Grand Cayman had to be redirected to the Dominican Republic. The Haitian President was obliged to dismiss the Prime Minister and appoint another hoping this would appease the people. Things have calmed down for the present. Government Agencies and NGO's are scrambling to see if food can be found to help relieve the hunger which is causing suffering amongst the country's masses. 80% of the population lives on less than \$2 (US) a day. Here in the States there is much talk of the 4% rise in food costs. Gasoline costs \$3.50/gallon while in Haiti it's more than \$7/gallon.

What is remarkable is that we are hearing that food shortages are also occurring at other places on the planet as well. How should that news affect the wealthier, developed nations of North America, Europe, and oil rich Arab countries? How troubling it is to see so many advertisements here in the States for weight loss programs and products. While some are trying to find ways not to gain weight, others are eating mud pies to stave off their hunger pangs. Something is terribly wrong.....Jesus gave us many indicators to know when He would return. We must keep His words in mind as we try to assess and attempt to understand the times in which we are now living.

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On Saturday, April 11th, I was blessed by a visit to George and Joyce Rodgers of Harmony, PA. They took me to a Gospel Music Concert given by the Booth Brothers. What a blessing it was! After the concert I was presented to Ronnie Booth who was kind enough to donate five (5) of their CDs to our Christian Radio Station in Haiti. Our Haitian listeners LOVE the music of the Booth Brothers! On Sunday, April 12th, I attended church at Harmony/Zelienople United Methodist Church where I was invited to speak at Sunday School and give ministry updates during the two morning services. Many thanks to Associate Pastor Rich and the congregation for their warm welcome!

On April 22nd I was invited to speak to Mizpah, a ladies group at Greenstone United Methodist Church of Avalon, PA. The ladies support a Haitian school child. I was able to give them a ministry update and they were very interested and encouraging. On Sunday, April 27th, I attended Sunday School and the morning worship service at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. It was wonderful to see so many friends here where I was baptized so many years ago. Their former pastor, Ellwood Hall had recently gone to be with the Lord. I have fond remembrances of that Godly man who was so supportive when I went into the ministry. Pray for them as they seek another pastor to serve their community. I am soon headed to Texas for the month of May.

A milestone was reached on April 29th as I made it to another birthday and achieved the venerable age of 55. God has been so faithful to me over the span of my life! It's been a wonder-filled journey with the Lord by my side as He's led me through so many experiences, both good and bad. BUT, I've never regretted answering His call to come to the Light and I look forward to the future with much hope and expectation.

Praise His Holy Name !!!

Love, Sam

Sam will be back home in the USA for furlough during

April '08 in Pennsylvania

and

May '08 in Texas

**If you would like for him to visit your Church
Please let us know by phone call, letter, or email
So we can put you on his schedule**