



Changing Lives - Body, Mind and Soul!

September 4, 2024

Dear Jodi and Carlos,

As you've seen in the news over the past several years, the political and violent situation in Haiti has become dire. In the past five months, we have had to evacuate our campus twice and the second evacuation is still in effect after three months. Our main campus suspended operations outside of essential services - farming, security, administration - in June. The entire months of July and August were like a literal war zone full of constant gunfire in our community as the gangs invaded our police station in Gressier and are continuing to push to gain ground toward Leogane. Haitian Special Forces and our local police have done an amazing job given their lack of personnel and limited weapons, in pushing the gangs back and trying to hold our community. They have had our team's full cooperation and support.

Our entire community is mostly evacuated, particularly women and children. Some men remain but now we are starting to get reports of organized local crime by members of our community going into empty homes and robbing them of what is left. It is only by a miracle that our campus is still standing, but we know that could change any day.

Many of our employees have left Haiti for the US and many families with children in our schools have fled elsewhere either in country or to other safer places. We were able to privately tutor about 23 Lasalle students who were scheduled to take their national exams during the shut down so they wouldn't fall behind and the satellite schools were able to complete most requirements for the past school year. Even when schools have been able to operate under modified circumstances, circumstances in the country impact registration and the ability to keep school rosters up to date, but we can no longer track the kids in our sponsorship program as so many have fled to other places. Many are in the Leogane area, but we hear reports of those who have fled living in open fields in camp environments.

Our 46 year journey has brought much joy for many people, lives changed and lives saved. Christianville, with your support, has provided employment for countless families, affordable and quality education for thousands of children, health care for people young and old, and food for more people than we can count. Our pastors' association has extended our reach providing spiritual support and valuable community resources to so many more beyond our main campus.

We've survived many storms - hurricanes, earthquakes, political unrest. There have been numerous circumstances over the years that have brought selfish people with ill intent to our gates and even then, God protected and sustained. But over the last 6 years, the deterioration in the country and continued economic decline have brought the worst of the human spirit to the surface.

Christianville administration and the board of directors has worked tirelessly to keep the mission afloat amidst the turmoil in the country and diminishing donations, with leadership often personally funding operations which is not sustainable. We've shared with you during this past year the challenges of increasing costs for security, fuel, food, and supplies and the general scarcity of everything we need to function. We have stayed to work hard when so many others have left. And you have held the course with us.

With the recent gang invasion of Gressier, it is no longer feasible to operate our campus. For over a year, it's been nearly impossible to get fuel to power such a large campus, pay for security to control such a large campus and meet increasing demands from employees for more and more pay. We have reached a

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place where even local community members are attacking our property and dangerously threatening our employees. We cannot continue any longer under these circumstances with absolutely no end in sight to the violence, chaos, dire economic conditions, unrelenting costs and demands, insecurity and instability of the government.

After an abundance of prayer, the US board of directors has made the difficult decision to close the US side of Christianville. Christianville was built in the community and for the community, it will now be returned to the community. The Christianville association of pastors and other solid leaders are forming their own national board and the entire operation with all assets will be turned over to them to continue providing social services to their people as they see fit.

In September, any remaining donations in the US account will be transferred to the Haiti account and signed over to the new national board. They will use this money at their discretion to continue the operations, satellite schools and churches.

Those forming the national board, at the request of many parents, have been looking for alternative ways to open school this upcoming school year. It's not feasible to do it at LaSalle so they have found an empty building in Leogane that they can rent for a year for the up front fee of \$22,000 USD. As a board, we would love nothing more than to provide them this opportunity to continue offering a solid education for these kids. But our bank accounts are nearly empty at this point. We are seeking assistance in helping to rent this space along with transferring a small balance in the Haitian account for them to get started as they determine how best to raise additional funds in country for the upcoming year's expenses. Should St. Andrew's be willing to assist with the money raised for goat chili, the funds will be a huge value for the team as they chart this new path.

The team believes that Leogane will remain safe for the upcoming school year based on reports from the police. Many Gressier schools are looking to make the same alternate move we are contemplating. The parents are requesting this so we are confident we will have a healthy enrollment. Satellite schools will likely open as well.

It's been an honor to facilitate sponsorships with our incredible students and donors for these past years. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of your sponsored child(ren). We will continue to pray for these children and their families and for the new national board to be the hands and feet of Christ in ways that can best serve the community during this time.

Words can't express the sadness we feel having to send this letter. We prayed so long for God to allow us to stay and serve in Haiti. But we know in our hearts that his way is greater than ours and we trust him to care for those we love at Christianville. God sees every person in Haiti, he knows the turmoil they face each day. He loves them.

In Christ,

The Christianville Board of Directors