

I just wanted to take the chance to explain my current position and plans. I am very grateful to all of you for your continued support. It is comforting to know that in the event that I need to evacuate, I have the support of Christian friends like you. I hope that that specific support will never be needed.

As most of you are aware I am a full time missionary to Haiti working for and with the Eglise Methodiste d' Haiti. When I accepted this position, I felt that it was a definite call from God. I felt and still feel very strongly that God is asking me to stand in solidarity with my Haitian brothers and sisters. Although I stay busy in my service to the church, there is not much that I can do to change the lives of the people of Haiti. But there is one thing that I can do. Through my fund raising, project management and general activities I can offer hope.

From 1492 when Columbus "discovered" Haiti, life here has been on a downhill slide. The people of Haiti have been oppressed first by the Spaniards, then by the French then by the rest of the world and often the United States. For a variety of reasons, Haiti has never been able to develop as a stable nation. What few resources Haiti has, primarily cheap labor, have been exploited. Haiti's history has been full of revolutions, political turmoil and chaos. Today is no different.

Through it all the people of Haiti have survived. They have survived with a hope and a faith that "one day things will be better". I believe that that is true and spend most of my time trying to bring a balance of the harsh realities of life with the eternal hope that in the end, God will prevail. The faith of many Haitians is truly remarkable. They endure the hardships of unemployment, hunger, lack of water and sanitation, the lack of quality education for themselves and their children. At the moment many Haitians risk their lives from gangs, kidnappers, rapists, and murderers just to attend church. The testimony to the Haitian Christian faith is that this morning's worship at Eglise Freres was full, perhaps not at capacity, but full. The same praise, singing and preaching that is normal was present today.

My role as I see it is to try and feed and foster that faith, that hope in my colleagues, the staff here at the guesthouse, and to the everyday people I deal with on a daily basis. Every day, sometimes more than once a day, I have a balcony chat with someone who is suffering. Many are asking for

financial help for food, water, medicine, or tuition for their children. In most cases, I am not in a position to help them. I can only give them my prayers and my assurance that God will provide. I do not know, and I cannot tell them whether God's help will be in their lifetime or mine. I can only share with them that Jesus Christ has promised eternal life to all that believe in Him.

This morning's lectionary included Psalm 119 which concludes with "105 Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light on my path. 106 I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. 107 I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according to your word. 108 Accept Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. 109 Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law." This is the hope of the people of Haiti.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued physical, emotional, and spiritual support for me and for all the people of Haiti. We are in a desperate crisis and in great need of all the support we can have. Some days it is easy to become discouraged and think that all hope is lost. But remarkably almost every day someone sends a message of encouragement that restores hope. Bless you all!

Romans 14:8

IN HIS SERVICE

David Draeger

EMH Mission Volunteer Coordinator

To everyone in this e-mail. Please click this link if you can give any amount to help with an evacuation fund for our missionaries in Haiti, particularly David Draeger United Methodist Church and Michelle Sutton with Missionary Aviation Fellowship (our pilot)

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=9J9VQGHCFHGE