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Worth a second look

Meet Pastor Edouard (Edward) Milien. He is Senior Pastor of this Apostolic church in Port-de-Paix (PdP) where we are standing in the photo. Frantz knew him from Sonlight Bible College in PdP where they both graduated. Frantz and I held our Bible seminar at his church for about 15 hours over 5 days in December 2020. He attended along with just a handful of others. We are in the slums of PdP, Frantz informed me,

as we walked toward the church on the first day. I had not met Pastor Edouard prior to the seminar.

There is so much negative to say about Haiti and I often say it and worry about it. So today I wanted to lead off with something positive. I thought Pastor Edouard was worth a second look.

He was early for class, which is rare even for Pastors. He was also running a school, a ramshackle place (photo left) next door sporting some new tin on one wall but little else.





Seedtime

and Harvest

Ministry

I have met a lot of Pastors in Haiti, yet he was one I enjoyed, seeing him

deliver calm and peaceful leadership. He was a good listener and participated well, setting a comfortable tone for everyone to join in.

On the first day of class a 16 year old girl was being carried out of a classroom on the upper floor. It took a group of people because the girl was alternating between unconscious and combative and peaceful. Pastor Edouard, small as

he is, calmly helped with all phases. It took about 30 minutes of tense moments and the adults did a great job of helping her not

hurt herself or the others. In the photo of the church you can still see her sleeping on the floor of the church (right side, and our class grouped together on the left at the rear of the church). She was still there on the second day of class.

Various people came, asking the Pastor questions during our 5 days and he calmly excused himself and came back. He was called to the courts one day by a man who was said to be trying to take control of the church. But the stress never came out. Just a quiet Pastor each time, all 5 days. Always calm. Always polite.

Pastor Edouard is quietly serving, in a difficult time and place. He is married and has children. He is worth a second look for his work, and worth a prayer ... if you are willing to offer one on his behalf.



Learn a bit more by flipping the page to read the back!

"While the earth remains, <u>Seedtime and Harvest</u>, Cold and Heat, Winter and Summer, And Day and Night Shall Not Cease." Genesis 8:22 Brian Winzenried



INDEED, I DO NOT LIKE WHAT I SEE AND HEAR

We are not sure what to think about it, but we are finding the evangelical churches in Haiti less likely than ever to want our Bible seminar. Typically, they all eagerly sought out a program especially during times like Mardi Gras to offer an alternative activity for their community. Yet recently, Frantz was told to wait. They wanted us to come, they said, but just not right now.

Haiti has a long history of major troubles of all stripes but only recently have we seen church leaders pull back. Frantz was scheduled to present our Bible seminar this February 15-17th, at the same time and in the same city where Haiti



was conducting their national Mardi Gras party. Frantz showed up ready for class but found no one. He waited and called the church leaders but no one showed up.

Mardi Gras went on, however, despite all the upheaval the country offered. (Photo from Mardi Gras 2021 in PdP) All the while, protests and kidnappings still make headlines, the churches have pulled back and Frantz is still waiting.

Haiti's churches are not closed by covid or any government order. But they are struggling and could use a little encouragement. Me thinks a little review on this topic is in order, for myself, all of God's children and especially those called to lead.

Acts 4:27-29

<u>Indeed</u> Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city <u>to con-</u> <u>spire against</u> your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

Yes, yes indeed, evil comes. And God's power was said to have <u>enabled them to conspire against Jesus</u>. In the face of that, the followers asked the Lord for strength to speak boldly.



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