Newsletter July/Aug 2021

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A GOOD PROBLEM TO HAVE

Seedtime

and Harvest

Ministry

Our Haiti inventory is depleted. Those items in our inventory were not lost or wasted. Rather, we were granted success in getting Bible study tools into the hands of students. And success in conducting classes to lead the folks through them. So, this month we are packing and shipping more Bible study materials and the things that go into supporting our teacher Frantz Pierre Louis. Frantz has been a blessing and faithful to scripture, so our faith in him to teach is high and we thank God for his provision.

We are a discipleship teaching ministry and shipping money or materials even to a poor country simply is not a focus for us. But the demand for Bible studies has been strong and we are happy to send more materials to support that desire for Godly wisdom.

A SIMILAR PROBLEM WE SEE

When we begin speaking to a church in Haiti we are met with a lot of quizzical looks. We are Americans bringing an *intangible* gift, a mere Bible study, and *not any tangible* gifts. And it is not a gift at that. We charge them a small fee for the class. Amazing! The Haitians begin most of our classes in a very doubtful mood. We have blown away their concept of missions, discipleship and perhaps most of all their expectation of how the money flow should work. This is regularly a problem with our Haitian students when we begin.

Enter the US experience. Talk to an American church about a drama that is not meant for entertainment first and foremost. Try to explain that it is for discipleship and will teach a lesson. It will have much more entertainment than the average sermon but it purposely targets the heart more than the funny bone. A very familiar, doubtful and stunned face appears on those in the American church. Adjusting to something new is a problem for both Haiti and America. We decided to shelve the drama idea for awhile.

So, instead of the drama let's conduct our Bible study in the American church. Wait. Not so fast. And they are right to say this. It is the job of the church to protect the pulpit. What *will* we teach? Finally we settled on a date in August just for a test drive, a 1 hour teaching of our Haiti Bible study. In Haiti they change and embrace our class. Will we see the same change of heart from the American church? The doubts are similar as we head to the first day. This will be interesting. The materials we teach in Haiti were actually drawn heavily from Crown ministries, a group whose materials were written by Americans and for Americans. Will Americans even accept this teaching anymore? It's a good question to ask.

NO PROBLEM

If you want to pray for us, walk with us or simply send words of encouragement... All are welcomed.



An interesting talk about SERVANTS on the back... Flip the page!

"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

The Bible described two servant types.

Servant A

I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11b-13

Paraphrased:

Hey Boss! You can assign me to any job and I will perform loyally. Because I used previous experiences to learn contentment, I am now okay with whatever job you give me today.

Servant B

Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, ⁹ So that I will not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" And that I will not become impoverished and steal, And profane the name of my God. Proverbs 30:8b-9

Paraphrased:

Hey Boss, be careful. Think twice about what you give me. Give me too much and I'll ignore you. Give me too little and I'll steal from you. I'm still in training boss, so choose carefully whenever you deal with me.

Simply pointing out the two servant types from the Bible is helpful. It is easy to recognize for myself which I am more like.

At this point I am looking for two things. One is to become more like Servant A, and secondly, I am looking for someone to walk with. Doing the right thing and having the right attitude is quite difficult. If you are so disciplined and controlled that you are able to walk this walk without support then good for you. For us, we *much* prefer to walk with others, with those who appreciate grace and mercy, as we make our move towards Servant A.



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