



Soldiers FOR Christ





Charis Family,

We pray that this newsletter finds you, your family, and your loved ones healthy, blessed, and living with a sense of spiritual vigilance. I know that 2020 has been a difficult and tumultuous year that has left many of us feeling frustrated, uncertain, and even defeated. Failure within our government, failure of our leaders, lack of morality and decency, wavering truths, racial division, political discord, violence in the streets, and a global pandemic have all lead us to a sense of hopelessness.

This is not only occurring in America as the entire world appears to be descending into greater darkness and evil. The antichrist spirit has fallen heavily upon our world, and as a result, people everywhere are spiritually lost. Godlessness is blanketing the world as we know it. Jesus has practically become an offensive word in America, while the freedom to openly sin with an expectation of social tolerance is rapidly becoming our day-to-day reality.

We are watching Scripture, specifically the words of Matthew, materialize in front of our eyes, and thus none of this should surprise us.

“And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

– Matthew 24:10-12

So where does this leave us as Christians? How are we supposed to think? How are we supposed to approach this world that Satan appears to have such a firm and influential grip on? The answer to these questions were brought to my attention by the Lord when Joy and I were able to briefly travel back to Haiti in October. Along with informing you of the ongoings in Haiti, I would like to share with you what God showed me.

Our return to Haiti

Joy and I made the decision to return and visit Haiti this year after much consideration. There were many reasons that could have justified not going, but the reasons to go outweighed them. Haiti has been hit hard with successive tragedies this year that started with COVID killing many Haitians who had no hope of treatment or even diagnosis. Then in late summer, hurricane Laura struck Haiti violently resulting in homes and gardens being washed away, animals being killed, and even loss of human life—especially the elderly who lived alone.

If that was not enough, several weeks ago the President in Haiti began to manipulate currency rates and overnight the US dollar to Haitian Gourdes ratio went from 118:1 to 60:1! This crushed a great majority of small businesses and food markets in Haiti as vendors who had bought their goods at the 118:1 rate found themselves having to sell their goods, that earn them a living, at the 60:1 rate. As a result, they couldn't make even a fraction of their money back and many lost their livelihood.

When this occurred, Joy and I felt that our Haitian brothers and sisters needed to know that we were still there for them as they greatly needed encouragement and love—both of which cannot be properly

given over text messages or phone calls. We also decided to bring a small team down with us consisting of individuals that were either planning to join Charis long term on the field or to create sustainable business ventures within our communities. These 6 individuals were very willing and excited to travel with us, so we flew down to Haiti in October.

Our trip was very rewarding and turned out to be mutually beneficial as the people we went down to encourage ended up inspiring and encouraging us. When we left Haiti back in the spring due to COVID, we were crushed. The plans we had set and the goals we had made for 2020 had been ripped from us. The people, who were as happy to see us as we were to see them, had to say goodbye almost as quickly as they had said hello. We were overjoyed and excited to return to Haiti, even if it was only for a short time, to see everyone and check on our leaders and ministries. I want to share a few highlights of our trip with you in hope that you will experience the same excitement and joy that we did.

Haitian leadership

First, all the ministries that were in place when we left are not only continuing to function effectively, but they are growing! This is all due to the Haitian leadership we put in place when we left. Many of these leaders are direct products of the ministry which functions through your support and the spiritual discernment that God has given us. Some of the leaders were pastors when we arrived in Haiti and simply needed more teaching, which they have received over the years from Charis.

The remainder of the leaders and evangelists, which make up the majority of our leadership, were saved through the ministry and have been disciplined over the years by Joy and me. The passion and persistence of our beloved leaders, even in the face of much adversity, has resulted in enthusiastic evangelism, teaching, and discipling. Because of this the ministries have sustained and grown even in our absence. When Joy and I saw this, we were overjoyed because this is the absolute goal of missions—self-sustainability and growth within the church.

The road to Cap Rouge

The next blessing that we had the honor of witnessing was a direct result of the leadership just discussed. Our evangelism team, consisting of Andrelie, Deba, Lucson, Rene, Lorvelie, and Destine Mevoy, have all, (with the exception of Destine Mevoy who was reared in a Christian family), been converted to Christ out of vodou and are now functioning as the most zealous evangelists I have ever seen. It is truly an honor to know them as the new creations that God allowed them to become through their hearing of the Gospel.

We received a call from Deba several months ago telling us about a dream in which she heard God telling her to go to a people far away to give them the gospel. She was very excited about this dream and began praying and asking God where these people were that He wanted her to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to. Over the course of a couple weeks, she and the team had gone out to check on some new Christians who hadn't been regularly attending church. One of these people was named Nesley.

As they visited him, he expressed regret about not having been to church for a few weeks as he had experienced some family problems and hadn't been able to come. When the team inquired about his family problems so that they could pray for him, Nesley informed them that his family resided at the top of the mountain in a village named Cap Rouge (red peak in English). This village was far, and the problems were resulting from the fact that there was no Protestant church in the village, only a poorly run Catholic church, and vodou saturates the area.

Most of Nesley's family practiced vodou while also attending the Catholic church, and he asked the team if they would be willing to go to his family's village and bring them the true gospel as he feared for the souls of his family and the village as a whole. As soon as Deba heard this she knew that this was the village that she had heard God telling her to go to in her dream and she was ecstatic. In her excitement she called Joy and asked if we could support her trip to this area. Sharing in her excitement we immediately sent the money to fund the trip to Cap Rouge.



The team traveled there and received a very warm welcome. They shared the gospel with a large group of the villagers (that included Nesley's family), and then made plans to come back every Saturday morning to continue their evangelism efforts in the area. On their third Saturday trip to this community, a man, nicknamed Ti-Bob (little beard in English), stood up after the Bible study and announced that he was very interested in Jesus Christ and the Christian life and wanted to surrender his life to Christ. He then announced to our team that he was the chief vodou priest of the village!

The team was thrilled, and at Ti-Bob's request they made plans to return a few days later to burn his vodou books and instruments. This was about 10 days before we were scheduled to arrive in Haiti. Knowing that we were due to arrive soon and that we would want to travel to this village to meet and talk to the people, the team decided along with Ti-Bob to only burn the vodou possessions in his home and wait to burn the items that were in his temple until we arrived.

When we arrived, we traveled to Cap Rouge, which took about two hours, and upon arrival there were between 50-60 children and 60-70 adults waiting for us. Joy took the children and taught them, and I and the team stayed with the adults and talked to them about the Gospel, Christianity, Catholicism, and vodou. We met Ti-Bob, and after the study walked to his temple. We talked with him, prayed with him, and then helped him clean out his temple and burn everything that symbolized allegiance to Satan and demons. This village, that we had

not yet known when we left Haiti in the spring, was now, 6 months later, won for Christ and the head vodou priest had surrendered his life to Christ too! Ti-Bob told us that he now had a mission to eradicate vodou from Cap Rouge and he was planning to travel to every vodou priest under him to share the freedom and message of Jesus Christ. Before we left, he had already led his assistant, Richard, to Christ. What a victory for the Kingdom—and that victory was won by the obedience of a Haitian evangelism team without Joy or me even being present—HALLELUJAH!

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There are so many things to share with you all, but for the sake of time and length I will mention only one more. Our evangelism team and church leaders worked tirelessly in our absence to ensure that the work of evangelism and discipleship was continued. This left Joy and I with the responsibility to pray for them, and God answered those prayers as His hand remained powerfully upon the work and lives of His Haitian leaders. God's presence in this work was revealed through salvations, as many who sat with our team and listened to them had their hearts regenerated and were saved through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

When we heard this blessed news, we scheduled a large baptism for all of the new converts, and when we were in Haiti we were blessed with the honor of baptizing a total of 74 new believers! 72 were baptized in



the ocean in front of a large crowd of family members, friends, and onlookers. Additionally, two other men were baptized who could not physically come to the ocean. One was a 102-year-old man who lives in Cap Rouge. Due to his age and associated disabilities, he couldn't make the two-hour trip to the beach, so we went to his home and baptized him. I felt so humbled that God would allow me the honor of baptizing a 102-year-old Christian brother in Haiti who isn't far from death. He cried in great joy as we baptized him, and afterward he told us that he was now ready to leave the suffering and hardships of this earth and go to heaven to be with his Father—what a beautiful experience.



Experiencing true peace

The second man's name is Seneque (sen-e-kay). Seneque was 37 years old and bedridden secondary to end-stage liver cancer that had metastasized throughout his body. The cancer had caused so much fluid to accumulate in his abdomen that he couldn't breathe when he laid flat and his pain was severe and uncontrollable. Seneque is Lorvelie's uncle (Lorvelie is the daughter of a powerful vodou priest and, at 26 years old, is the youngest member of our evangelism team—she was saved as a result of the ministry).

Upon hearing of her uncle's condition, she urgently went to him out of concern for his salvation. Seneque, like most of Lorvelie's family, had been heavily involved in vodou since he was a young child and was now going to die in his sin if someone did not bring him the Gospel.

Lorvelie knew that his soul was in jeopardy of being lost and rushed to share the Gospel with him. Upon hearing the gospel his hardened rebellious heart was softened and saving faith was given to him by the grace of God. Lorvelie and her mom made the decision to stay with Seneque in order to pray with him and care for him, respectively.

About two weeks after this we arrived in Haiti and Lorvelie asked me to baptize her uncle. Since he was immobile and bedridden, we traveled to Jacmel, entered into the small, hot room he was staying in, and baptized him. Afterwards we prayed with him and told him that there was nothing to fear about death as his salvation had now conquered death and heaven was waiting for him. Seneque was overjoyed and for the first time ever he experienced true peace. Sadly, at the time of this writing, I received news that he died in his sleep on November 27th.



Remember who God is

As we were flying back to the States, I sat on the plane and meditated on what I had just experienced in Haiti. Hundreds of people being saved, 74 new believers being baptized, hundreds of people overjoyed to see us as loving embraces met us in every village we visited, those saved as a result of this ministry 5-7 years ago now zealously evangelizing distant villages because they can't stand the thought of people dying not having had the opportunity to hear the gospel. I could go on and on, but what all of these wonderful occurrences have in common is the progressive and successful defeat of Satan in a country that he considers to be one of his great strongholds in the world.

As I was thinking about all of this, I felt such joy over the fact that through all of these events and spiritual victories God is being glorified! Then God reminded me how different I was feeling on the flight to Haiti when I was sad and frustrated over all that is occurring in America and all the tragedy that Haitians continually must endure. I was even asking God why He allowed such suffering in this already impoverished country. God's reminder made me ponder why was I downcast on the way to Haiti, but uplifted on the flight home from Haiti?

As I prayed God gave me discernment that this great shift in my emotional and spiritual self had resulted from my forgetting who He is. On the way to Haiti I was thinking about how bad things are in America and Haiti both spiritually and physically as it feels like there is an irreversible descent into godlessness and darkness. What I had done is allowed the world to dictate my feelings and thoughts, while I had forgotten God's Word that I know all too well. Consider these following verses:

"... shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" – Job 2:10b

"I form the light and create darkness: I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things." – Isaiah 45:7

"Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?" – Amos 3:6b

God is, and always will be Sovereign and our faith in this fact should deter us from any depression, hopelessness, frustration, or anger associated with the things of this world. When it comes to both good and bad leaders and their leadership, we must remember what God says in Daniel,

"...the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will and sets over it the lowliest of men." – Daniel 4:17b

This statement is repeated 3 times in Daniel 4 in verses 17, 25, and 32. Without question this is a fact that God wanted us to be fully aware of. When it comes to the darkness and evil within people today, remember God's words to us in 2 Timothy 3.



“But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.”
– 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Listed here are 19 attributes and character traits of people in the last days. Since these attributes are highly prevalent within the world that we are currently living in, we can know that these are indeed the last days—so why does any of this evil and rebellion that we are surrounded by surprise us? When it comes to false churches being led by false teachers who are preaching false gospels, we should not be shocked because God has once again warned us that this would happen as we approach the arrival of the antichrist onto the world scene.

God tells us that as this time draws near, He will allow various deceptions to deceive those who refuse to soften their hardened hearts and choose to reject the truth of Christ and His Word. This is clearly stated in 2 Thessalonians 2.

“The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because

they refused to love the Truth and so be saved. Therefore, God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” – 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

This explains why false gospels have gained such notoriety in our world today. Wealth and comfort have become the great equalizers when it comes to Christianity and secularism. In America there is no difference when it comes to these two categories. Christians, as well as the carnal, don't want to surrender any aspect of the world and its comforts that they have become so accustomed and addicted to.

While carnal people want all of the world, Christians want all of God and all of the world at the same time. These Christians ignore God's Word because it offends the glorious life that they have set up around them. Rather than listen to God's Word, they try to blend the words of the Bible and their love for the world together by creating an abominable, false gospel that is far from what the Bible teaches (see James 4:4, and 1 John 2:15-17). Since their hearts remain hardened, God gives them over to their warped, self-centered desires. The prosperity gospel, along with these teachers, is the result.

Vertically focused

I write all of that to offer you, as God offered me, consolation as we try to live effectively in this perverse and evil world. It feels as if the Devil is winning, but I can assure you he isn't. Our temperament and state of mind solely becomes a matter of our focus. If our focus remains horizontal (on the earth), we will surely be frustrated, fearful, angry,

depressed, and insecure, and we will begin to lose hope. But if we keep our spiritual eyes focused vertically upward, we will see God, our loving, omnipotent Father who is ALWAYS in complete and total control. If we believe that God is in control, we must remember and meditate upon the fact that He uses Satan and evil to accomplish His will.

We are reminded of this by the words of Joseph, directed toward his brothers and their past evil deeds against him, in the book of Genesis, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...” (Genesis 50:20a). This discussion brings the prophet Habakkuk to mind. He was losing hope as he saw rampant evil burgeoning around him, and so he cries out to God with his complaint, and God answers him.

“O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and You will not hear? Or cry to You ‘Violence!’ and You will not save? Why do You make me see iniquity and why do You idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous, so justice goes forth perverted. (The Lord answers) ‘Look among the nations and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe even if you were told.’” – Habakkuk 1:1-5

Habakkuk had failed to look at God in the midst of earthly turmoil and chaos. He had allowed his spiritual gaze to drift down to Earth, and thus his spirit was troubled. God’s answer, rather than being full of carnal reassurances and fleshly pacifications simply tells Habakkuk that He is working with Divine purpose, even amidst evil and chaos whose prevalence and seeming power escape our understanding. Habakkuk’s eventual understanding of God’s work, sometimes utilizing evil men and evil spirits to accomplish His will, leads him to make a final statement. It is amongst the loftiest in all of Scripture. As you read this, allow it to penetrate your heart and encourage you as you remember Who you serve.

“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will

take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer’s; He makes me tread on my high places.” – Habakkuk 3:17-19

When we stand in front of God upon our death on this earth, it won’t matter who was President over our lifetime. It won’t matter who got away with crimes. It won’t matter who cheated you or wronged you. It won’t matter that the wicked prospered while the righteous suffered. All that will matter is how you considered these matters and how you acted.

Did you suffer well for Christ? Did you show the world that no matter who is in power or how wicked the earth became you still exhibited the peace that only God can give? Did you remain strong when everyone around you was weak? Did you stand bold when the world was afraid? Did you glorify God when the world found nothing to glorify? These questions will be the only ones that matter.

When I go to Haiti and see hundreds of those in bondage to Satan being saved by the power of the Gospel that is being preached by our impoverished and uneducated Haitian brothers and sisters, I am ashamed that I allowed my gaze to fall to the earth when it should be ascended to the heavens as it rests on my Redeemer, my Savior, my Father, my God! Know that God is working. He is still in control. If we can’t see that, we are simply looking in the wrong place. Look up and see God working and remember that He never leaves us nor forsakes us and nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from His love—be encouraged and stay vigilant.

We love you all and appreciate your commitment to this ministry. We look forward to working with all of you in 2021 as there is still much work to do—let’s continue to pray, support, and go and don’t allow the ruler of this world (Satan) to appear as if he rules over you too! The greatest way to glorify God is to believe that He is all that He says He is, and He is a conqueror!

Double your donation

We would like to announce that an anonymous donor has agreed to match (up to \$10,000) any donation made to Charis through noon on December 31st! Checks can be sent to the address below.



Mission Statement

Charis (Greek for God’s Grace) operates in complete obedience to God, giving Him His rightful place in determining the path and goals of His ministry that He has, by grace, allowed us to perform. Charis primarily focuses on the unseen spiritual needs in Haiti, and secondarily on the seen physical needs, always remembering that our success is completely dependent on the will of God, the gospel of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit working effectively through us, His willing servants.