



Everything is
from the Lord



CHARIS

Newsletter | December 2021

Joy and I would like to start this newsletter with a great big **THANK YOU!** All your prayers and support in response to my letter explaining the situation in Haiti have been both encouraging to us and deeply appreciated by all those in Haiti who are suffering greatly right now. I want to encourage all of you to stay vigilant in this ministry as Haiti continues to fall into a deeper and deeper pit of anarchy, despair, fear, poverty, hunger, and sickness.

I know that many of you are aware of the kidnappings in Haiti, especially the 17 missionaries from Ohio who were kidnapped and at the time of this writing are being held for a \$17 million ransom. Since January of this year there have been 782 kidnappings making Haiti the current world leader in kidnapping crimes.

Since the President was assassinated, on July 7th of this year, Haiti has been in turmoil as gangs are controlling the streets secondary to the lawlessness that has replaced the already weak law and order that preceded the assassination. The gangs recently hijacked all the fuel trucks which have effectively paralyzed the economy and personal lives of everyone in Haiti. Electricity, motorcycles, vehicles, taxi services, generators, hospital services, and even banking services are not available due to the absence of gasoline and diesel fuel. Any gas that can be found is being sold at an unbelievable \$20 US/gallon, making it impossible for anyone in our villages to buy gas.

We recently spoke to Andre Louis, who has worked with us since the beginning of our ministry, and he said that it feels like the world is ending and no one knows what to do. The fear of the gangs has caused everyone to close businesses, bringing the economy to a halt. Please pray for Haiti and please continue to help. We have never seen things this bad, and the need is overwhelming. We are receiving over 100 calls/messages a day from Haiti begging us to send food, medicine, money for rent, etc., and we will definitely help to the degree that we can. Joy and I are honored to function as your hands and feet as you pray and give. Together, we can aid our brothers and sisters who are greatly suffering right now in ways that we can't imagine. God has blessed us to be a blessing to others, so I pray that we all have the heart of God and come to the aid of those who are crying out in need.

Despite all of this tragedy, we know that God is Sovereign and sits on His throne. We feel blessed that He continually reminds us of this through displaying the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Our leaders continue to evangelize during this dark time in Haiti. Since the roads are closed/blocked, and violence is a daily occurrence in the urban areas and main streets, our Haitian leaders and evangelists are going into the rural mountain areas to bring the good news of Christ to the farmers and impoverished people in the mountains. As a result of this work, we have two new villages being evangelized with many being converted as they receive the free gift of salvation offered to them by Christ.





New church buildings in LaRoca and LaKobat

We are also constructing two new churches in LaRoca and LaKobat—we evangelized these villages over 2 years ago and over the course of this evangelism, hundreds have surrendered their lives to the Lord. They have been meeting under trees and in small, enclosed spaces to worship the Lord and learn the Word of God together. We will now construct physical buildings purposed to house these churches that formed in response to hearing and receiving the Gospel.

We have been able to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the following villages this year: Petavi, Tesse; Corail, LaMontay; Ka Serin, LaMontay; Morija, Cap Rouj; and Ma lejen, Cap Rouj.



42,000 lbs of food

Additionally, when the hurricane hit our area several weeks ago, our shipment of Feed My Starving Children food/MannaPacks arrived in Haiti. It miraculously made it through customs with no problems (and believe me that IS a miracle!), was driven to our area and distributed to the neediest families and individuals throughout our communities. A total of 42,000 pounds of food packaged in 950 boxes was successfully distributed, and it was a great blessing to the people!





Introducing Bethesda, Charis' first medical clinic

Lastly, Charis opened its first medical clinic in the village of Savon DuBois. This area is medically under served so this is a great blessing to the community. It is a full-service clinic offering a myriad of medical services including gynecological, pediatric, adult, geriatric, and other services. We were even able to support lab services as blood analysis can be performed.

The nurses that we have financially supported through nursing school are all working at the clinic, along with several Haitian doctors who we have worked with for years. Our nurses and doctors all staff the clinic during the week, and on weekends a team consisting of one or two of the doctors and a few nurses volunteer their time to travel far into the mountain and perform mobile clinics for those suffering with both acute and chronic illnesses in villages with no medical services. While this clinic benefits the surrounding communities, it is a great blessing to all our doctors and nurses too, as all of them would be without work if it weren't for this clinic that your donations have helped construct—Thank You!!



We opened a new medical clinic and named it Bethesda. Our 2 Haitian doctors, Dr. Evania and Dr. Job, as well as our 5 Haitian nurses, Michou, Richarna, Rita, Dol Myrtha and Juliet, all staff the new clinic.

Besides this medical team working at the new clinic they also travel deep into the mountains to serve our 4 most desperate villages:

Cap Rouj: Moriija and Ma lejen
 LaMontay: Corail and Ka Serin
 Macary: Mondezi
 Marigot: Dupont and Grand





This upcoming season

I know that many of you are viewing society and wondering how evil the world must become before God chooses to remove His protective grace from our country and the world as a whole. We know though that such things lie within God's timing, and He instructed us not to concern ourselves with such things.

"It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority." –Acts 1:7

While it is VERY easy for us to be preoccupied with the spiritual darkness that is surrounding and encroaching upon us, we must remember our role in this world as Christians.

I have been thinking about this a lot lately as the holiday season is upon us. In my recent personal Bible study, God has strongly impressed upon my heart that we cannot allow the dark god of this world to have his way with us during this time of the year (or any time of the year for that matter.) What I am writing here, I am writing to myself and anyone else who feels that the world is getting the best of them. It is my hope that this writing fuels self-examination with a subsequent commitment to surrender ourselves completely to God, His Word, and His Kingdom work that has been assigned to all Christians in the global church.

Every good and perfect gift

In my recent time with the Lord in Bible study, I read the following verse in which God is speaking to His prophet Hosea concerning Israel. (Israel is personified here as "she" and "her.")

"Now she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they bestowed upon Baal." –Hosea 2:8

When I read this, the Holy Spirit immediately convicted me about our lives, as Christians, here in America. Couldn't God accuse us of the exact same thing He is accusing Israel of in this verse? Israel had prosperity in terms of plentiful food, wine, and wealth. Rather than using what God had blessed them with to bless others and expand God's Kingdom on earth, Israel used God's blessings to serve Baal. (Baal represents the Satanic spirit of the world!) This surely sounds abominable to us. Unfortunately, we do the same thing and our offense is most pronounced and obvious during this time of year. Everything we have in our lives is from God and the Bible clearly tells us this. James writes,

"Do not be deceived my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..." –James 1:16-17a

David writes,

“I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.’ –Psalm 16:2

Jesus Himself says,

“...apart from Me you can do nothing.” –John 15:5b

All our money, our homes, our heat in the winter, our air conditioning in the summer, our health, our ability to work, our jobs, our beating heart, our functional brain, our intellect, our emotions, our salvation, etc. is ALL from God. If God turned away from His Sovereign power over all life for even a millisecond—we would cease to exist. So why were we created, what is our purpose?

Created for God’s glory

While philosophy has debated and pondered these existential questions for millennia, Christians know the answers to these questions. God tells us, “Everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.” (Isaiah 43:7) Furthermore, Solomon who had more wealth than anyone before or after him wrote, “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

So, we know that we were created for God’s glory, not our own; and that the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commands. The command that Christ gave us before His ascension was to go and share His saving gospel with the whole world. We may erroneously think that we have a choice when it comes to this matter, but nothing could be further from the truth. Paul tells us the truth of who we are following our salvation.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” –1 Corinthians 6:19-20

To summarize, as Christians, we are not our own. We were bought with the price of Christ’s blood. Our existential purpose is to glorify God, fear Him, and obey Him.

The “holiday spirit”

As we enter this Christmas season, let’s ask ourselves if we are adhering our lives to these Biblical requirements and definitions of true Christianity? Are we using our jobs, health, money, intellect, and influence to expand God’s Kingdom on this earth through supporting

or performing missions? Or are we going to expand our own kingdoms as we use all that God has given us to fund the beast system of Baal by buying excessive and expensive gifts, eating extravagantly and gluttonously, and vacationing?

Throughout November and December, it is very common to hear people, both Christian and non-Christian, make ongoing references to the “holiday spirit”. Have you ever stopped to consider the accuracy of this term? There is definitely a holiday ‘spirit’ within our culture that masquerades as traditional fun, but in reality, it is the spirit of Baal that descends upon us during this time of year. The power of this spirit is augmented by ads on television, decorations throughout our cities, Christmas songs like ‘jingle bells’ and ‘deck the halls’, and our stores packed full of Christmas gifts, candy, and décor.

Before we allow our minds to jump into defense mode, let’s consider something. Does the ‘Christmas spirit’ offer anything that glorifies our Lord Jesus Christ who was born into this world to save sinners like you and me? Not a single thing glorifies Christ. Rather, they all glorify self, materialism, greed, and pride—all justified and held up by a spirit named ‘holiday’. What this means is that we have unfortunately, and most probably unintentionally, presented our offerings on Baal’s altar as we succumb to this ‘holiday spirit’ that intoxicates and stupefies our minds, decisions, purchases, and lives.

This holiday deception has resulted in us living in contradiction to the high standards of the Bible that are descriptive of the Christian life. We do not glorify God in our materialistic celebration of Christmas. We are not keeping His commands to deny ourselves, to die to self, live humbly, and to separate ourselves from the world. We are not living like we are owned by God—purchased with Christ’s blood. Rather, we are using God’s gifts for Baal’s kingdom and now that we are aware of this we must change.

We are ‘in Christ’

In conclusion, I repeat what I said at the beginning of this—that I am in need of hearing this just as much as everyone else. In our culture it helps me, and I hope that it helps all of you, to be frequently reminded of who we are in Christ. We are not ‘in Baal’, but rather ‘in Christ’ and no two considerations could be more opposed to each other.

This is a very difficult time of year to live a set apart life—one in which we, as Christians, must refuse to succumb to the temptations of this hyper-materialistic culture that we live in. Excessive amounts of gifts, spending, and eating are expectations that demand attention and fulfillment every year at this time. As we faithfully fulfill these requirements, that are determined by the god of this world, we claim the whole time to be celebrating Christ’s birth.

Would you celebrate your child’s birthday by partaking in everything that he or she hates? These holiday celebrations are highly honored and expected by the world around us—but what does God say about things that are highly esteemed by men?

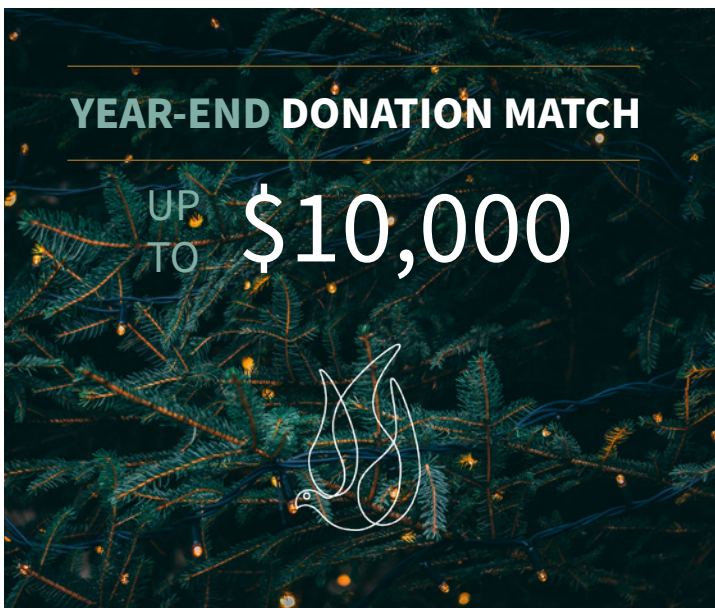
“What is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God” –Luke 16:15b

I don't think that I have ever written a newsletter that has personally convicted me more than this one, and as I sit and write this I feel like a hypocrite—but I think the days have arrived where God is dealing with His people in a very serious and convicting way.

Look at the darkness and evil expanding and growing around you—we must stand apart. We must separate ourselves from this demonic world, we must provide the world with an example of who Christ is and we must stand and fight the spirit of this world that waxes so strong in our day. As we go forward let's truly surrender our hearts and minds to Christ and refuse to intermingle our lives with this world. I'll conclude with this verse written by Paul to the church at Corinth.

“And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” –II Corinthians 3:3

As Christians we represent a love letter, written by God and delivered by Christ to the world as He uses His Holy Spirit to write, and our hearts as the tablets He writes on. Are you God's letter to the world? Let's all pray together that we become that letter as we utilize all that God has given us for His Kingdom on earth—a Kingdom that only grows in the soil of missions, and never the mire of self!



Double your donation

It is a joy this Holiday Season to extend to you our sincere thanks for your valued friendship and support and to wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. We would also like to announce that an anonymous donor has agreed to match (up to \$10,000) any donation made to Charis from today through NOON on December 31st!

Donations can be sent to the address below, or online.

3015 E. New York St, A2-295, Aurora, IL 60504

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.



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