

December 13, 2006

## PRAYER REQUESTS!

Dear Brothers/Sisters/Friends in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you from God our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Concerned, scared, frustrated, depressed and caring about the status quo of the situation of our nation, I cannot stay passive without taking any position regarding what is going on at this present time. Day by day Haiti finds itself in a chaotic situation. It seems that the Haitian people are paying a debt/price. No one is living. When we consider the sufferings of the children, parents, and teachers and so on, I wonder if we are really living. As a Christian and a pastor, I am asking myself if our God does not see the evil actions and deeds of the wicked. This time is worse than any other time that I have ever lived.

The phenomenon of the kidnapping is something that preoccupies all of us down here except the kidnappers and the selfish politicians, the gluttons that are working in the government. Right now the children, teachers, parents, and some other specific people are the main targets upon which the kidnappers focus themselves. In many schools in the city children are kidnapped and some of them are just offered in human sacrifice. Two weeks ago a 22 year-old university young girl was kidnapped and after receiving the ransom from her poor mother, the kidnappers killed her; even before the killing they tortured her, took her eyes out, and made so many other types of evil treatment to her. In the same week a 6 year-old boy from the "St John the Evangelist School" has been kidnapped in Port-au-Prince and the body was found in Cap-Haitian, the second largest city of the country (in a forest). Before they killed him, they kept him in the forest for a few days where big snakes and other wild animals visited him. This Monday in the "Sacre Coeur School" led by the Catholic Sisters, a six-year-old child is kidnapped and when his father was trying to release him, the kidnappers shot him. What a tragedy are we Haitian brothers and sisters going through!

Right in Port-au-Prince, the capital city we have at least 25 cases of kidnapping in just one day without counting other cases that are not reported. This Wednesday it is reported in the news that a school bus transporting children to school was kidnapped. This same day a couple was taking their four children to school, the kidnappers came in, took the car with all of the four children, and asked the parents to get out. So, they left with the children. In Laboul 12, up in Petion-Ville, the kidnappers got into a house and took the child of that family and left with him. These three cases just happened this Wednesday.

The population is abandoned to itself. No one cares. The government is just taking care of its own business, filling its stomach with sins and so on. Also the foreign troops and organizations that are in Haiti are doing nothing to prevent the nation from experiencing such tragedies even though their main goal down here is for stabilization. As a father of 3

children, and a pastor pastoring God's people either at school or at church, I feel frustrated, sad, depressed and discouraged to hear and to see those things in the news. Anytime I hear and see them, I think of my children, those attending our school and church. I cannot prevent tears coming from my eyes and it seems that a sharp knife is cutting my heart into pieces. In spite of all, I do not doubt God's love for the children and for us. God loves us all no matter how things are going on either in our lives or in our country where we live.

**I find comforting words in the Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:19-26 that says: "I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassion never fails. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, the Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait on him. The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him; to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."**

**I don't know what to do in such a terrible situation but again when I open my Bible in II Chronicles 20: 6-17 that states: "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, if calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save."**

**Verse 12: O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you. Verse 17: you will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the lord will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.**

Again I find comfort and am ready to put myself to work, even with wet eyes. **This is the purpose of my letter, that you support the Haitian families, the children, teachers, workers, and the church in your prayers.** I consider the church to be like a living organism living in a corrupted and evil society. She will need to take appropriate positions when things are going so bad in the society, not like corrupted politicians, but as faithful servants of God. By Jesus Christ God will answer their prayers. Faithful prayers can accomplish tremendous things. James 3:13-18

Thank you so much for your prayers and may God continue to bless you and your ministry!

In Him,  
Pastor Thomas Bernard