



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by
RevC

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

HAITI UPDATE



The last week of March, I made a trip to Haiti as I had been troubled in my spirit for several months over the CTC work there. Haiti is one of my least favorite places to go because the work there is very difficult for several reasons:

1. Haiti is probably the poorest country in the world or at least in the western hemisphere.
2. Haiti is still suffering from the effects of the massive earthquake that took place in 2010.
3. Most of its people live on **less than two dollars a day**.
4. **Eighty percent** of Haiti's 10 million people have no formal work or employment.
5. Catholicism, Voodoo, and Islam are everywhere.
6. Haiti is very expensive: \$70 for a modest hotel room and \$150 a day to rent an old vehicle.
7. The food is poor in quality and the drinking water unsafe. There is a proliferation of mosquitos, etc.
8. Often the attitude of the Haitian church leadership is that help comes from the West, not from God.

Yet in the midst of all the garbage, trash, filth, and lingering destruction from the earthquake that lines the streets, there are a few places where pockets of light are dispelling the blanket of darkness that covers most of this country.

My last visit to Haiti was in 2014. I had left there thinking that we had secured a working relationship with one of the local pastors in Port au Prince. We would use his church facility and some of his staff members to teach. That way, the CTC program would be ongoing. Otherwise, we would have to rely on one or two trips a year by Alberto and Jessica, our CTC directors in Guayaquil, Ecuador, who started the CTC program in Haiti. However, that did not work out as envisioned. Yet each time Alberto and Jessica returned to Port au Prince, the number of students and locations grew. Interestingly, they were using the facility of the same pastor that I had tried to establish a relationship with.

From my perspective, the one bright spot in Haiti was way down south in Le Cayes, about a five-hour drive from Port au Prince. Pastor Charles Joseph Sylvain, who I met in 2014, requested access to the CTC material. He wanted to start a program in Le Cayes for young people who had a heart for ministry. I provided what he asked for, and he has never asked me for any additional help or support for his program. Thus, I wanted to see what he was doing and offer any help he might need.

I knew that I needed to make another effort to work something out with Pastor Saint Martin Dalvimar and his young associate, Pastor Sem Noel, who first asked Alberto and Jessica for help with a Bible school in Port au Prince. Jessi-

ca informed me before I left on this trip that there were now three groups there: two with Pastor Dalvimar and one with Pastor Sem Noel. These three, along with Pastor Sylvain, give us four potential groups in Haiti. My goal was to meet with each, see what was needed, and do my best to establish ongoing efforts in each location.

To help me accomplish this, I needed an independent local contact who could act as a translator and make all the arrangements for this trip. I tried contacting several people I knew, both inside and outside Haiti. Pastor Ron and Carla Ives, of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, gave me the name of Pastor Pierrot Lafleur who they said was a man I could trust. I contacted him by email and explained my situation. He graciously offered to help any way he could. Once a date for my visit was set, he contacted the men involved and set up the meetings we needed.

Our first meeting was on Tuesday afternoon with Pastor Dalvimar and a member of his staff who I had met during my visit in 2014. I knew this man had wanted to be one of the teachers. This initial meeting went very well. I



Pastor Dalvimar's church 2014



Pastor Dalvimar 2014

explained how I saw my role in helping them carry out their vision to train others. I emphasized that the school was theirs and they needed to sense responsibility for its day-to-day operation. I offered to help with the cost of teachers and the setting up of classrooms with equipment

and suggested we meet again with Pastor Sem Noel on Thursday after my visit with Pastor Sylvain.

Later that same day, we met with Pastor Sem Noel and filled him in on what had taken place during our meeting with Pastor Dalvimar. Pastor Noel's program takes place outside his home in a small area, mostly in the open, and thus prevents them from meeting if it's raining. He has a good children's





ministry and a group of young men and women who want to do the CTC program. He agreed to meet with us again on Thursday with Pastor Dalvimar.

Wednesday, Pastor Lafleur and I left in our old SUV rental that cost

\$150 per day with what was supposed to be a three-day minimum. Fortunately, he knew the owner and arranged for us to only have to rent it for two days. Our visit with Pastor Sylvain met all of my hopes. His church is about halfway completed, already full, and in need of a second floor for children's ministry. He called his students together to so I could share of the CTC wanted to help stand that are a small



Pastor Sylvain STUDENTS Pastor Lafleur

meet with me some history program. I them understand though they group of

about 14 young adults, they are part of a much larger school program with presently over 1300 students. I also took the opportunity to tell Pastor Sung's moving story from Vietnam. It touched all of their hearts and greatly encouraged their faith to believe God to do great things.

After the meeting, we took Pastor Sylvain to dinner where I shared how I appreciated that he had not asked me for anything, unlike everyone else I had met in Haiti that was connected to the CTC program in some way. Then, I offered to help him with the addition of the second floor of his church through a foundation that I have relationship with. I told him that although I could not guarantee they would help, I felt it was definitely worth making the effort. He is to send me some information that will be needed to do this. After dinner, Pastor Lafleur and I decided to make the drive back to Port au Prince since the roads would be less traveled at night. It was after 10 PM when we arrived at my hotel, and they had not yet rented the room I had been in, PTL!

I met with Pastor Dalvimar one last time. He brought a young translator with him who spoke four languages and had Bible training. That meeting got very "testy" as Pastor Dalvimar wanted me to help him complete part of his building to do the school. Because I knew he had other areas we could use if we furnished the rooms, I told them I could not do so but would help furnish a classroom with chairs and chalkboards and help pay the teachers. I also explained that

I would come to teach when it was possible.

At this time, we are still working on the things needed to move forward with Pastor Dalvimar's two locations. They are asking for 90 chairs, split between two locations at a cost of \$60 per chair, chalkboards, water coolers, printer, supplies, and help to set it all up. The total cost would be about \$7000. When you consider our average cost to graduate a student is between \$500-\$600, with 90 students that is less than \$80 per student. Our only ongoing cost would be teachers and my travel. Spread over 90 students, this is a real bargain! Not only that, the Kingdom of God will move forward in Haiti, with Pastor Sylvain's program being the icing on the cake! Prayerfully by the time you read this, we will be further along. I will report back on how things are going.

I am presently in China as I write this report. It is 3AM Monday morning! I cannot sleep due to jetlag even though I have only had about six hours of sleep since leaving Tampa Friday morning. I am alone somewhere in the upstairs of a farmhouse. It is colder than I had expected, there is no heat, and I am fighting a chest infection with a week of teaching ahead of me. Welcome to foreign missions!

ECUADOR EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

Portoviejo was one of the most heavily damaged cities in the series of earthquakes that hit in April. Thankfully, the homes of Vicky's family and the church we remodeled had no serious damage even though buildings directly across the street did. God is faithful! PTL! We are finalizing what we can do to help and I will lead a team through MVI to do some construction work in late July. If you wish to help financially, you can send directly to the PO Box or give online. We will make sure it is put to good use. Thanks in advance!

PROJECTS & PERSONAL SUPPORT

We continue to need your help with both projects and our personal support. We can only do the projects that you support. Giving is an investment; thus, I am constantly presenting projects where you can invest with confidence, knowing that I am expecting a return - fruit that will abound to your account and ours. Just to let you know, Vicky and I also invest in most projects.

Personally, we live by faith each month. No mission or organization underwrites this ministry. This year our personal support has been down \$1000 or more each month. Years ago, our board placed a limit on what I can earn, so you can give knowing that I am not raising unlimited personal support. I would much rather be spending my time raising project support and doing the work of the ministry than worrying about our personal finances. Too often the burden of ministry seems to fall on the few faithful. How we appreciate their faithfulness each month. But we need more of you who read this letter to partner with us. Please join with us!

Together We're Making A Difference!

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