

# TAKING THE WORD OF GOD TO HAITI

## CHRISTIAN MISSION

### Elders

Bill Bonar  
Mike Burd  
Mack Fluharty  
Dave Henderson  
Eddie Pattison  
Dave Taylor

[www.takingtheword.com](http://www.takingtheword.com)

### **In God We Trust**

### Missionaries

Bruce and Mary Ann Graff  
61 North Liberty St.  
West Alexander, PA 15376  
(724) 484-7515

John and Wanda Skorczewski  
4606 Wren Road  
Pinckneyville, IL 62274  
(618) 357-8774

March 2009

---

“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I Thessalonians 1:2-3 NIV

Greetings in the name of Jesus. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve Christ together with you in the mission. In essence, as Christians you are all missionaries. The prayers, efforts, support, and actions we perform together advance the proclaiming of the Gospel to people throughout the Gonaives area in Haiti. We have an open door by which the Holy Spirit bids us to enter and serve. Praise God for this privilege to serve Him.

Since the last newsletter, much has taken place. The rice and clothes were purchased and distributed to the churches in the mission. It has come in a crucial time. Though the flood was six months ago, the lingering need seems to always be pressing. Fuel is available now, even though the price is inflated. The price of everything is inflated. The flood is a long-term problem in Gonaives. Islande informed us this week that they had a flash flood, which caused many of the schools to be closed. They are afraid that they will have another flood like they did last fall. The emotional effects of the flood also linger.

We are preparing to purchase the material to rebuild the walls of the church where Dielius preaches. That is the building that was put together with the salvaged metal roofing after the flood. With 150 children meeting there each weekday for school, they need more space, which will be provided with the walls built on the original foundation. Below is a picture of the renovated church building during a school day last month. It is amazing how they were able to improvise with what little they have. Notice the footers of the original building around the current building. The picture to the right is Dielius and John standing at the door of the church. Dielius does a great job teaching and preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ. You can see by the pictures that the Lord and His Church are much more important than the building itself. The building is simply a meeting place for Christians. If you would like to see more photographs like this, be sure to check out the website at [www.takingtheword.com](http://www.takingtheword.com).



Islande has been doing a great job with the mission. However, she has been having some health problems, mainly with her new diagnosis of diabetes. She has been going to the doctor to keep this in check. Islande is learning how to care for her condition. Pray that she can keep the blood sugar under control. She has been dealing with the classic symptoms of high sugar levels. One of the mission supporters has given a newer glucometer with test strips to help her monitor this condition.

Last month I wrote in the newsletter about a widow with her six remaining children who were flooded out of their home, lost her husband and one child, and then was living in the church building. The good news is that some brothers and sisters in Christ have responded to help her. One couple gave \$200 to help her immediately. Another couple is giving monthly support of \$70 for one year to help her keep her family together in a house and fed. This very generous action makes me rejoice for the same kind of compassion that our Father in Heaven bestows upon us. Thank you for this prayerful and powerful response. It is a pleasure to serve with each and every one of you.

John is not doing too badly since he got home from the last trip. He has been exhausted with colds and/or the flu during the past few weeks. The cold weather doesn't make it easy for him as well as Wanda. But John is hoping to make another trip in the near future. Please pray that God would give him the strength to do this. The people in Haiti look forward to his coming, too.

John asked me to insert the following note in the newsletter:

Although the transition of the Haiti mission seems to be going very smoothly, I need to make clear what the situation is. Some of you are still sending support checks to me instead of directly to Bruce, which tends to add delay and cost of mailing to the mission operation. Bruce is now in complete charge of the mission (under the direction of the elders at West Alexander), but the operation of the mission is still the same. We are still working with the same people for the same cause of spreading the Gospel. I am assisting and encouraging him in any way I can. My age and mental alertness make it impossible for me to do the things I have done in the past, and I thank God that He has blessed me with the good health to have done those things in the past. But in view of the circumstances, it would be to the good of the mission and much more efficient and affordable if all correspondence and support would go directly to Bruce and Mary Ann. I bless you and thank you for all past support you have given me, and I beg you to work with Bruce and Mary Ann as you have with me in the past.

John and Wanda

The apostle Paul says, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

Every thought of Haiti reminds me how God is so able and is at work through lives of Christians to get the Word of God to remote areas. It is for such times we are called to actively serve Christ. The economic crisis that we are beginning to experience here in America is something that the Haitians have always lived with. As it has been said before, that the only way to fix the problem in Haiti is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And the Gospel is the only way to fix the problem of sin and corruption in America as well. It isn't all about fixing the economy. It is all about saving souls for Christ, which produces servants in the faith who live and proclaim the glory of Christ and His Church. And this is what we are here for.

May God continue to bless each and everyone of you as we serve Him together.

In Christian love,

Bruce Graff