



WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WOMEN, DENEEN MCDONALD



Reflections on the Most Recent Tragedy in Haiti

By Anne Bradley, Missionary to Haiti

On Wednesday, July 7, 2021, I woke up early. I was on my way to make coffee and picked up my phone. There was a message from my sister-in-law in Haiti, telling me the President of our country had been assassinated. It didn't sink in right away. I reviewed the message over and over in my head and my family started calling me. By 8:00am the news was confirmed, and rumors of his wife's death were circulating as well.

During this time, I couldn't think, pray, or make sense of what had happened. A country already on the brink of collapse is now in the hands of...*who*? So many thoughts ran through my head. I was in serious denial, particularly of how it happened. Throughout the day all I could say was *Lord, you promised peace. Why is Haiti in a constant struggle for its basic needs?* I asked God many questions but, at the end of the day, the president was dead, and his critically wounded wife was flown to the States to receive care.

Though this situation is incomprehensible to us, I trust that God knew then, and He knows now, that the people of Haiti are at their wits' end. No one is safe. Fear engulfs the city of Port-au-Prince and Haitians are struggling to make sense of the killing of

HAPPENINGS

Walks in the Park
8/11, 8/17, 8/18

Volunteer Fair @ COS
Sunday, August 22nd

ALPHA Churchwide
Kick-off
August 28th

Registrations for
community groups and
bible studies begin 8/29

their president in his own home. The level of insecurity has been increasingly terrorizing the people in the capital. Several neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince are unlivable due to gang activity. Gun violence is rampant, kidnapping for ransom is the new way for gang members to make money and no one in the country's leadership has condemned it. In a country where there are not enough schools, we have had to shut down schools in neighborhoods where it is too unsafe for the children.

Our Haitian family members, colleagues and friends are struggling to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in their communities. Several of our schools were unable to locate students in communities where gang members forced out many families. Rebecca's family is one of them. She graduated from Maranatha several years ago and is attending culinary school with the dream of one day owning a bakery. She and her family fled their small home to save their lives. They are now living with other families in a gymnasium. Where is her dream now?

As I reflect on this most recent tragedy and the many before it, I echo the many voices who thank God for the resiliency of the Haitian people. We need to pray, however, that they are delivered from the clutches of injustice, inequality, greed, and everything that keeps this nation from experiencing unity and prosperity. Until Jesus returns, we need to pray for those who are in the Kingdom to persevere and to live justly and have mercy. We need to pray God raises men and women who can move the country from oppression to freedom. And we need to ask God to bring more Haitians into His Kingdom. Would you join me in asking God for these things?

Upcoming Events

Walk in the Park

Walks in local parks are still going on this month. To join [register here](#).

Volunteer Fair

To view the many serving opportunities this fall, go to our [August newsletter](#) or to the homepage on our app and click on Volunteer Fair. Pray about where you can best serve using your gifts, talents and passions. Then, on 8/22 come to ask questions and join a serving team.

ALPHA KICK-OFF

Launch for fall outreach programs - Alpha, Alpha Marriage, and Rooted. Saturday, 8/28

Community Groups

Registration 8/29-9/12; Groups begin week of 9/17

Women Studies

Joy Studies - Wednesdays @ 9:30am & 7pm beginning 9/8

Free Fridays hosting Alpha beginning 9/24

Registrations will open later this month

Worth It Program

Serve women victims of sex trafficking here on our campus beginning week of 9/13

[Sign-up here to help](#)

Awaken Hope Conference Philadelphia @ COS (Moms In Prayer)

All COS women are invited to join this conference as we ask God to deepen our commitment to prayer for our students, teachers, and local schools.

Saturday, 11/6. To learn more or to register, go to [Awaken Hope](#)