



# THE VALCINS



## Crisis, Hope and Opportunity



As many of you are aware, Haiti has been embroiled in a civil war for nearly two years now. Shockingly, the violence in Port-au-Prince at the hands of gangs has claimed more lives than the devastating 2010 earthquake. With the ongoing challenges we faced, we contemplated leaving the country. But each time that we considered this, something remarkable occurred that advanced the spreading of the gospel and our ministry in Port-ua-Prince. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit and understanding our role as pastors and shepherds of a flock of people, we chose to remain and continue our ministry here. Your unwavering support and prayers have been a source of strength for us, and we are truly grateful.

In this newsletter, we are excited to share with you some of the miraculous events we have witnessed during this tumultuous period. It is a testament to God's grace that even in the midst of war, lives are being transformed by the power of the gospel.

- Gersan and Betty

## THE JOURNEY



After returning from Quebec last fall, we were shocked to discover that the elder board members and several key families had left the country. As we began the process of rebuilding the congregation, gangs started to seize control of the city, causing several neighborhoods to become unsafe and prompting residents to flee to more secure areas. Faced with the decision to either leave or persevere in our efforts to rebuild, we chose to stay. The church has since transformed into a sanctuary for displaced individuals, with a 17-year-old girl accepting the Lord and a 19-year-old boy rededicating his life to Christ amidst the uncertainties and challenges we faced.



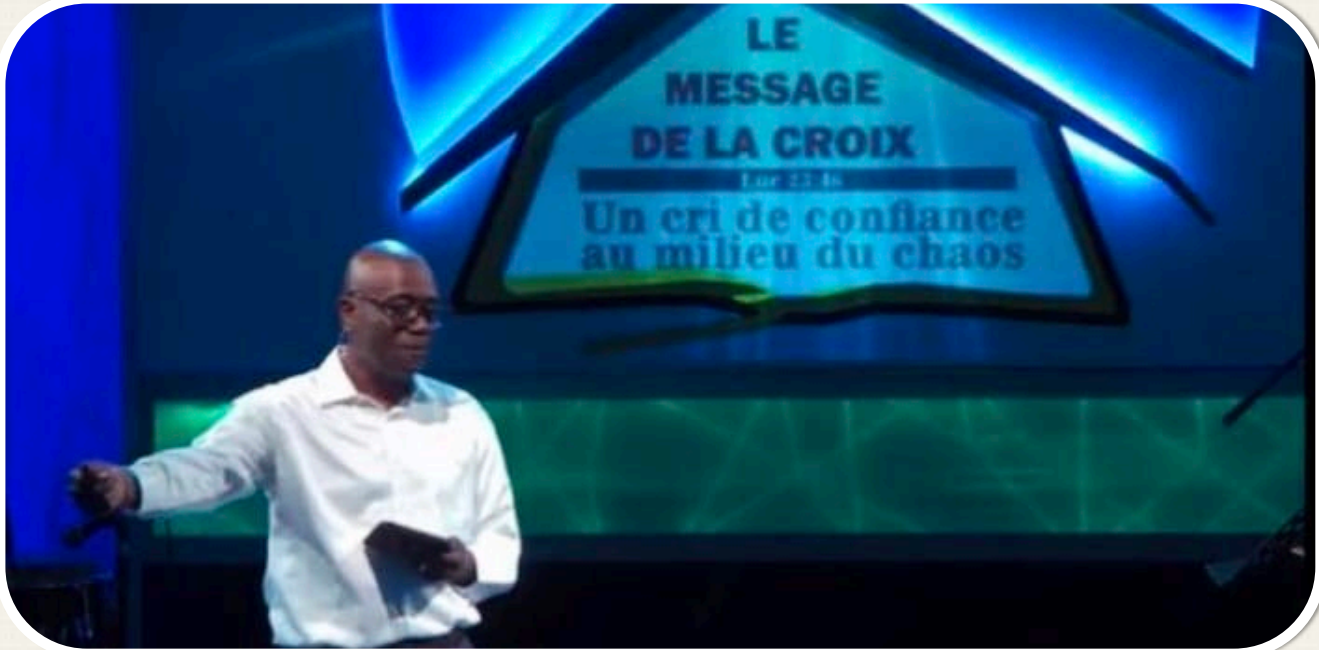
## THE JOURNEY

Teaching about the Lord's supper in February was a transformative experience for our community. Witnessing believers who had not partaken in communion for many years joyfully participating was a powerful moment of liberation. It became clear to us that newcomers to our church needed a solid foundation in the basics of Christian life. This realization ignited a deep sense of responsibility to impart the teachings of the Word of God to them, guiding them on their spiritual journey and nurturing their faith. During that period, the pressure from family and friends compelled us to reassess our decision to remain. After much prayer and deliberation, we chose to stay, while closely monitoring the situation.

In March, following a prison break where criminals were freed by gangs, the gangs started to exert control over the airport, increasing the pressure for us to leave the country. Amidst this turmoil, we found solace in the support of individuals who stayed overnight at the church, assisting in preparations for Sunday morning services. It became evident that people were not just attending church for convenience, but rather to find hope.



## GOOD FRIDAY



Good Friday at the village church was an amazing experience! Despite gang violence and overwhelming insecurity in the region, about 300 people gathered to celebrate this holy day.

The ceremony was marked by the baptism of a new believer, a moving moment that filled our hearts with joy and hope. Then we listened to the reading of the Easter story, a powerful reminder of Jesus' resurrection and victory over sin and death.

The songs and praises resounded in the church, creating an atmosphere of peace and gratitude. Despite the challenges and dangers that surround us, we have found comfort and strength in our faith.

Good Friday at The Village Church will be remembered as a time of communion, unity and courage. We were grateful to be able to celebrate together, despite the difficult circumstances. May this holy day remind us of the love and grace of God and inspire us to live in faith and hope.

## EASTER

Despite the ongoing uncertainty and danger that loomed in the country, the decision was made to open the doors of the Village Church for worshippers on Easter Sunday. It was a bold move, but one that was met with overwhelming support and enthusiasm. After a year filled with challenges and hardships, the community was determined to come together and celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, no matter the circumstances.

The turnout exceeded all expectations, with more individuals showing up to the service than could have ever been anticipated. Extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the crowd, but the atmosphere in the church was nothing short of electric. The room was filled with a sense of hope, faith, and joy as people gathered together to worship and give thanks.

It was a day that served as a powerful reminder that in the face of adversity, love and community will always prevail. Despite the obstacles that may come our way, the strength found in coming together as a community and sharing in faith will always shine through. Easter at the Village Church was not just a celebration, but a testament to the resilience and unwavering spirit of those who come together in the name of love and worship.

Betty's birthday bash just got a whole lot more exciting this year as it coincided with Easter Sunday! Double the celebration, double the fun! It's like getting two parties in one day - talk about a birthday miracle!



## YOUTH RETREAT



After five long years of trying, the junior youth retreat finally happened and it was a massive success! 31 energetic kids showed up ready to have a blast and connect with each other. Throughout the weekend, they participated in team-building activities, worship sessions, and deep discussions about their faith.

By the end of the retreat, something amazing happened. All 31 kids made a commitment to serve in the AV department of the church. They were excited to use their talents and skills to help enhance the worship experience for the congregation.

It was truly inspiring to see these young minds come together and make such a meaningful decision. The energy and enthusiasm they brought to the retreat was infectious, and it was clear that they were ready to take on this new challenge.



Once again, we are so thankful for the wonderful prayer support that we have received from our ministry partners. Here are our current prayer requests:

1. Even though the country has become more stable and less chaotic, we still ask that you continue to pray for our personal safety and that of The Village Church congregation
2. Please pray for health issues that our daughters Elizabeth and Deborah are dealing with.
3. Pray for our discipleship process as we need for more leaders to be trained so that they can mentor new believers and newcomers to the church.



## SUPPORTING THE VALCIN'S

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Support for the Valcin's, and their various ministries is coordinated through Commission to Every Nation.

Please visit our web site to see how you can provide much appreciated financial support.



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