

The brother of Jesus wrote of something of such great importance to those early Christians that he put it nearly first in what is now the Book of James: “*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect (spiritually mature) and complete, lacking in nothing.*” Our first reaction to suffering is surely not joy. Yet there is joy in the better outcome that the trials of the day produce.

Our fellow current Christians (and those to be) on La Gonave are in a time of trial. We read and see the turmoil, the failures of leadership, the corruption, the intimidation, the destruction...and we are out of breath! And we do not even have to live it.

Here is a link to a recent report from the streets of Haiti. It is reported that six families of oligarch’s control most of the economy and have it set up so as to pay no taxes. This would be the oil, food, hardware and communication industries.

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/03/15/opinions/haiti-gangs-violence-pierre-pierre/index.html>

As horrific as this maelstrom has become we are never to give up on the ultimate plan of God. As for our medical clinic in Sous á Philippe we see them in a more business as usual state. It is interesting how a hardship can turn into a benefit. The island of La Gonave has been neglected and forgotten by the various regimes and aid programs over the centuries because of the geographic separation. Now that the mainland is amuck— that very separation has turned into a protection. No gangs, burning tires or shooting are occurring there. It is as if they were protected by a moat, the same waters that separate them from the rest of the country.

The airport and the sea ports are closed but the banks are open.

Our medical clinic is still working five days a week. They have medicine supplies, the proper staff to prescribe them and are not daunted by this trial. If they are not— then nor should we.

Dear God, we know by faith that You continue to stand with these poor, and, therefore, so should we in their time of trial. We Christians are not promised an easy life and this is most dramatically displayed in Haiti. Help us, in our walk, to give thanks for our very lives and to help carry the burden of our Haitian sisters and brothers, just as you offer to share your light yoke with us.

Your sole support for this clinic is targeted at this rural clinic like a laser beam. This is God's righteous work.

Dick Nanna
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