

Fall 2021

Asaph UPDATE

Presenting Christ in a Rural Haitian Community...One Lesson at a Time

From: Andy

Greetings from Haiti! Getting in and out of this place is not what it used to be. For years now I have avoided the drive to Port-au-Prince for security reasons. Small commercial planes and private planes are the mode of transportation many people use regularly nowadays. It is a sad situation, and it does not appear to be getting any better.

I left PA at 2:00 a.m. on September 12th. By 8:00 that evening, I was in my house here in Pasbwadòm. By God's grace, every connection worked.

Haiti is in the news for all of the wrong reasons, over and over. It is a tough place to live. People long to leave, but it is almost impossible for most. So many of those who choose illegal paths to leave Haiti only drift deeper and deeper into problems of all kinds.

I am glad to be here. I remain "called" to be in this place with these people. I am grateful that so many of you support that "call" by contributing to the ministry. In spite of a pandemic, inflation, and a million other problems, ASAPH Teaching Ministry is having a good year. God bless you for being a part of that amazing news!!!

AN ASAPH STORY :

(Name changed for privacy reasons)

Amos comes from a small family. He doesn't have a great relationship with his father, who claims Amos is not his child. He is closer to his mom, who is raising all of her children in the local church. In a community that doesn't have many round people, Amos was pretty round as a boy.

Amos has a brother who is much better than him in sports. Amos never excelled in playing soccer or basketball. He was always a popular member of the Asaph soccer team though, if only for his presence off the field. Players loved his energy. I remember him leading singing in the back of a truck on the way to camp one summer. He was just a clown-like boy at that time.

Years have passed, and Amos is taller and thinner now. He has gone from being a weak school student to strong one. In a conversation I had with him after a foot injury, he confided how he longs to see his fellow players find a relationship with Christ. He is the unanimous president of the ASAPH soccer team. He leads work projects, and players follow him in all he does.

I don't have a hard time imagining Amos as a pastor one day. His participation in Asaph Teaching Ministry activities is a chance for him to develop his leadership skills.

Andy takes pride in the events that happen at ASAPH while he is away. They are a testimony to the leaders that are working in the name of ASAPH Teaching Ministry. This summer's highlights included :

- ♦ Two parades by the ASAPH Brass Band



- ♦ An all-day soccer tournament hosted by AAF (Asaph Academy of Football)



- ♦ Emergency relief funds and several tents distributed to people in need after the August 14 earthquake and ensuing hurricane, Grace.



Teaching The Bible Through School Textbooks

For the past several years, I have spent many of my mornings translating educational documents for Christian Aid Ministries, based in Ohio and active in countries across the world. I receive the texts in English, translate them into Haitian Creole, and send them away. After editing, they are published and distributed in schools and churches in all parts of Haiti.

In addition to those regular smaller projects, I have been able to translate some books about agriculture. One of the books is printed and in use now. The biggest project that I have ever tackled is a book called RESTORING THE SOIL. It is a detailed account of one man's work to promote the use of "green manure" in farms where soil is in distress. The technique involves using vines and other plants that improve the soil while other crops are being farmed. The technique is practical, effective, and has no bad side effects on the environment. I can't wait to see this document in use here in Haiti...in Haitian Creole.

A few years ago, Christian Aid Ministries called on me to write the lessons for a series of school textbooks. I was given a skeleton for a set of Bible textbooks for grades 1 to 6. It was a joy for me to write lessons, create activities, and bring the skeleton to life. Much of what I wrote was content I had taught in Sunday school over the years. Those books are in use in C.A.M. schools across the country now.

Now, an even bigger project is underway. In August, I travelled to Ohio for a meeting with C.A.M. leaders who want to produce Bible textbooks for grades 7 to 9. I am now working on preparing the skeleton for those lessons, and writing the lessons complete with exercises and activities.

In my time here in Haiti, I have addressed issues that young Haitian students confront everyday...family issues, faith issues, education issues, friendship and dating issues, and so much more. I have joyfully taught groups of 5, 10, 15, or 20 young people. These school books are a way for me to teach thousands of students across Haiti through written lessons.

I am humbled and excited to be involved in this project that will be a tool in the hands of Haitian classroom teachers.

I invite you to pray for this ministry especially. My desire is for God to lead me in all of the choices I make in preparing these books, and for God to bless the investment that Christian Aid Ministries is making in the lives of young Haitian students.



ASAPH's Board of Directors:

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“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.”

Psalm 118:1

Tax deductible contributions can be made to:

ASAPH Teaching Ministry

Mail to:

Christ Lutheran Church
c/o ASAPH Teaching Ministry
126 W. Main St.
Dallastown, PA 17313

Phone: (717) 244-2605

www.asaphteachingministry.com



E-mail: andyclairstump@yahoo.com

Cell in Haiti: 011-509-3872-8186

Cell in USA: 717-719-9085

The official registration and financial information of Asaph Teaching Ministry may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



MINISTRY MATERIALS

Andy's time at home this summer opened the door for the collection of some important equipment, materials for ministry, and fun stuff. Some of the new items are :

- A pair of donated trumpets
- Two music stands
- A pair of donated trombones
- New soccer shirts for practice
- New soccer shorts and socks
- Over \$100 of first aid materials
- Crutches
- One flute
- Wire fencing
- Hot dog cookers for camp-fire cooking
- Mexican Train and Sequence
- Two volleyballs
- Wrenches
- Towels and sheets
- Fruit snacks from Leona...for the band
- One sousaphone !!!

(Thank you Connie, Sam, and Carl)

Asaph funds cover :

- shipping to Florida via UPS
- shipping from Florida to Cayes and through customs via AGAPE FLIGHTS
- shipping from Cayes to ASAPH TEACHING MINISTRY via local missionaries with vehicles

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A FRIEND.

JOIN AMAZON SMILE, CHOOSE ASAPH AS YOUR CHARITY, AND EVERY AMAZON PURCHASE YOU MAKE MEANS MONEY IN OUR HANDS.