

Winter 2022 ★

Asaph UPDATE

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

From: Andy

Greetings from Pennsylvania, where it's not sunny and warm! My trip out of Haiti was more of an adventure than normal. A three-day general strike had been announced for September 7th to 9th. I was scheduled to fly out of Cayes on the 9th. Things were completely blocked in the country for the first two days. A neighbor was driving to Cayes early on the 9th to pick up some friends, and I decided to ride along.

By the time we were outside the city of Cayes, roadblocks were appearing in front of us and behind us. I decided to move ahead on foot and on a motorcycle with a friend living in Cayes (see image). He led me over, under, and around road blocks until we arrived at the airport. I had missed my flight, but was able to secure a spot on the next plane out of town.

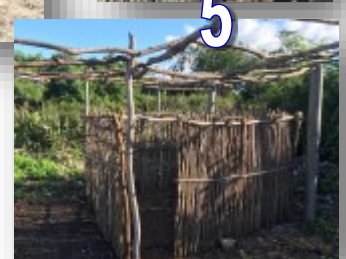
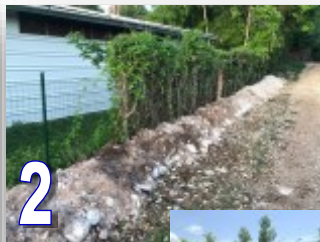
My friends helped me that day. Strangers helped me that day. God used them all to get me home safe and sound.

In our day and age, you never really know if you are safe. We are all trusting our Maker and Redeemer for security...or we should be. I am making plans to return to Haiti in December, being careful to assess the situation. Join me praying for all those living through these tough days in Haiti.



While I Am Away...

Erntz (WEC) has been keeping people busy. He led several work projects that keep young men active while schools remain closed. The projects also provide a salary for young people to cover rising food costs. The projects also improve the circumstances around our place : 1) tree trimming 2) run-off barrier 3) cleared field for goat grass 4) toilet 5) chicken pen



TWO “ASAPH” STORIES :

NORMAN (name changed for privacy)

Norman is a talented young man living with both parents and one brother. His parents are faithful members of a local church, and are involved in the lives of their sons. Norman plays trumpet in the ASAPH Brass Band and has played goalie for the AAF soccer team.

Norman is a teenager, and he has a temper. He was involved in a dispute with the AAF soccer coach in which he violated team rules. Rather than address the problems and move ahead, he chose to leave the team.

As a trumpet player, he made a decision to practice every day. He went months without missing a day. The progress has been remarkable. He was able to play higher than all of the older players in the band, and we moved him to the “solo trumpet” book. Sadly, on an occasion where the ASAPH Brass Band was about to play out of town, the group’s committee called Norman aside to address a simple problem with his wardrobe. Rather than change, he took his trumpet and went home.

At ASAPH, we know that each kid is growing...a work in progress. We long to help young people learn lessons that will make them better adults. We will work with Norman helping him to maintain relationships with people who “offend” him, especially authorities, so that he can become a team player. For now, he remains at a distance.

These cases are never easy. Pride left unchecked will bubble up and dominate people. Pray for Norman. Pray for the leaders at ASAPH as we struggle to help our friend.

EMMA (name changed for privacy)

Emma spent years playing with the ASAPH Brass Band. She was a founding member. Her father had played trumpet years ago, long before our town had a band.

Emma was a decent student in school. As she advanced into her late teen years, she seemed to hit a ceiling with her trumpet. She didn’t play much and slid backwards.

She concentrated on school knowing that the government exam to “finish school” can be a difficult hurdle. During her final year in school, we didn’t see her very often at band practices.

Sadly, Emma did not pass her exams. Most all of her classmates did pass, and she was embarrassed. She pulled away from church and band. It wasn’t long before we heard she was no longer in our town.

Emma has found her way into a nearby city where she is learning to be a seamstress. She has dropped by to speak with me on occasion. She seems to have found a good place to grow. She has caught the eye of a young man, and appears to be on a good path.

ASAPH has been a regular supporter for Emma as she moved through high school and continued on. Her father never really did support her very much. Her mother was unable to do much either. Without ASAPH, her life would be very different. The same can be said for many others. They may be spread across the globe, but ASAPH was a valuable part of their life.



INDIAN ARTIFACT ? Students in American schools learn about the Indian nations who occupied the land 500 years ago. They are introduced to the Iroquois, the Pueblo, the Apache, the Susquehanna, and other groups. Students in Haiti learn about the people who lived on their island before the Europeans and Africans arrived. Haitian students are familiar with tribes like the Arawak, the Carib, and the Taino.

You know words that come from the Taino people, the group who occupied much of the Caribbean centuries ago. The words they used for certain things made their way into Spanish, and then English. Here are a few : hurricane, hammock, barbeque, canoe, iguana, papaya, tobacco, and potato. There are many more.

This year, a boy in our town found something. He noted the peculiarity of the object and brought it to me seeking to learn what it might be. He said he found it on along a dirt path. It is a perfectly spherical stone (see image) about 1.5 inches in diameter.



I did some research and discovered that both American Indians and Caribbean Indians played a game that involved a ball. Though the balls used in games were most likely soft in nature, many stone versions have been discovered. If you do a search for INDIAN GAME STONES or INDIAN GAME BALLS, you find many images that seem to be exactly what this boy in Pasbwadòm picked up along the dirt path.

Is it possible this is a 500 year old toy? Is it possible a young boy made the stone, to be discovered centuries later by...a young boy?

I have no idea. If you know anyone with expertise in these kinds of things, help me to get in touch with them. Thank you !

A.A.F. The ASAPH Academy of Football had an active Fall season, while the country of Haiti was falling apart. Under the direction of *Erntz* (WEC), the team practiced every morning. Schools were closed due to political tensions and a lack of fuel nationwide. Prices were sky-rocketing because delivery trucks were not circulating. WEC and I decided to have the team get together and practice each day, so that the kids would be busy and so that they could enjoy at least a snack together after practice...sponsored by ASAPH. It was a big help to young men who were not getting much more than that on any given day.



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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

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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.

Life Stops For Water And World Cup

In November, so much rain fell up in the mountains north of Pasbwadòm that the ravine that bisects our town was once again filled with water.

The temporary river splits our town into two parts. While the river flows, what is on the east side of town stays on the east side of town. Trucks, cars and people stop and wait for the water to recede.

November also brought the biggest regularly occurring event in Haiti - - the World Cup soccer tournament. As is true for much of the world, life in Haiti stops for World Cup games. ASAPH is helping the local community to live the World Cup this year.

Your life may not stop for rain or for soccer, but make sure you do stop on occasion. Faster is not always better.



**Mackendy
tests a Bible
student.**



**Anemson
teaches a
music class.**



**WEC
leads an A.A.F.
soccer practice.**

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!