

How have we been blessed, let me count the ways! Thanks to all those who have prayed and given sacrificially through this past year. We want to take this time to share with you how God has used you in a great and mighty way to be a blessing to us and the ministry of Christ here in Port-de-Paix, Haiti.

The first two months of the year we were preparing to finish up our Stateside furlough and return home into the thick of things. We were privileged to visit many of Benji's family and our supporters in the south. God gave us 2 puppies to bring back and they have been a real joy. It was a blessing to find that the junior church ministry had continued while we were away. Praise the Lord for Bro. & Sis. Robenson who kept it going in our absence. God is continuing to provide junior church workers who are beginning to take on more responsibilities in this ministry.

Fourteen men graduated from Grace Baptist Bible Institute June 11th and 135 are currently enrolled. I was privileged to participate in the pastoral ordination of three former graduates. Since 2008, there have been 68 graduates, 35 of those currently pastoring/assistant pastoring congregations. Our goal is to train these men in order to help prepare them for leading their own people. The end of the school year was a bit rattled with the unexpected thyroid issue Kerri faced. She spent seven weeks in the States under the care of a doctor getting her thyroid levels back under control. Praise the Lord she was able to stay with her parents while there.

As was written in the book of Acts, we are able to inform you that Desroulins Independent Baptist Church has been adding to the church. We praise the Lord for a gradual increase in church attendance, church wide soul winning attendance, and in church membership. I am continuing to preach each first and third Sunday evenings on the family. God has helped the families to become closer as a result of His teachings. Cholera hit our church pretty hard this summer. One of our church council members (a very Godly man) almost died, plus his wife, three children and mother were all diagnosed with cholera. Praise the Lord they were raised up and are back faithfully serving the Lord. Thank you for your prayers.

November brought something new to our ministry. A medical team came for a week to help with the founding of our church's mission work. The team's goal was to have each patient seen get a one-on-one personal gospel witness. Thanks to the doctor, nurses and national church members, 62 decisions were made to accept Christ. Praise the Lord! Another first for our church was a week music camp in which 27 church members worked together with a visiting couple toward the goal of a church orchestra. This endeavor will take some time, but all things must begin somewhere.

After many months of praying and planning, God allowed us to pour the roof for the final section of our house. There is much work to be done, but the roof was the biggest endeavor. My Grandpa Petrey had been praying for this just as long as we have been planning. His health had deteriorated over the last several months, but he hung on long enough to see his prayer answered. He is now with his Savior and my grandma who passed away in 2010.

September is a milestone month for us in several ways. It is the month I came to Haiti as a 15 month old child, with my parents. It is the month our family celebrated eight years of ministering together here. September also marked five years of the junior church ministry of Desroulins Independent Baptist Church. How could I forget that the same month marked four years of preaching periodically on the family. God has been very gracious this past year!

Serving in Haiti,

Benji, Kerri, Micah, Ethan & Katie

Subject: DRYDENS from lately

Dear Friends & Supporters,

Thanks for being patient with me. I realize it has been a while since you have received news of us, so I plan to correct that mistake.

The Lord has blessed this school trimester with 141 students enrolled in Grace Baptist Bible Institute. It started August 17th. We thank the Lord for five national pastors & Bible Institute graduates who help us with the teaching responsibilities. We still have two annexes of the institute with a total enrollment of 34 between them. I visit them on a regular basis. One of our annexes is across the river that borders our town of Port-de-Paix. Because of heavy rains up-river for the past two months, the only way across is to have men transport me, my motorcycle and a teacher across in a small 15' or 20' boat. These men push and pull (they are walking in chest-level water) until we arrive on the other side. After class is over, we come home the same way and repeat the crossing. I am always praying the boat doesn't capsize. Please pray as I will be attending class out there this Friday. I really don't want to get dunked in that river.

Two weeks ago was our annual youth conference. A national pastor from the capital city came and challenged the church from the book of Daniel. Several decisions were made that included salvation and commitment. Thanks for your prayers.

September is a milestone month for us in several ways. First of all, on September 11, 1975, my parents (Don & Bridgitt Dryden) stepped foot in Haiti with their 15 month old son. That means we have been in Haiti for 36 years. Thank you Lord! Then on September 9, 2003, Benji, Kerri, Micah, Ethan & Katie came to Haiti as missionaries to further the Bible Institute and the ministry of Desroulins Independent Baptist Church. WOW! It's hard to believe our family has been here eight (8) years.

It was also in September, but the year 2006, that Kerri and I began a junior church ministry of Desroulins Independent Baptist Church. We have not seen a huge amount of children accept Christ as a direct result of junior church (ie. during junior church), but we have noticed that most who have "graduated" out of junior church have remained faithful to church. They still have a zeal for the Lord and they know more about the Bible. Junior church has also been a great tool in attracting neighborhood children who's parents do not otherwise encourage them toward spiritual things. Over the years, God has given us five faithful workers and several who rotate between children's Sunday school & junior church. Many children have received Christ after Sunday school, which is taught by nationals. I am reminded that Paul planted, Apollos watered, God increased. It is great to see nationals leading their own to Christ! God is GREAT!

For the last several months, I have been preaching a series on the family entitled "Building The Family." Each first & third Sunday evening are devoted to this. I am using each room in the house to draw a spiritual application for the family. The Lord has been working in families, so keep praying for me as I only have a couple rooms left before completing the house construction for the family.

It is great to know we have many faithful partners all over that are praying and giving. Please keep up both. We are trying to faithfully represent each of you and serve our Lord Jesus Christ in Port-de-Paix, Haiti. May God richly bless you as He has been blessing us. Serving, Benji, Kerri, Micah, Ethan & Katie Dryden

E-mail

July 11, 2011

Subject: Praise the Lord

Thanks to all who prayed for the 2 requests I sent out last night. By 10:30 this morning, the Lord had helped me find the broken wire on the generator and fix it. The generator is now running real good. Also, my grandpa Wilbur Petrey is in ICU because his remaining kidney is only functioning at 10%. God used this internal bleeding issue to get him to the doctor which is where they found out about his kidney. The doctor is still trying to figure out the bleeding problem, but God is able. Again, we appreciate all your prayers. Please do not stop. Serving in Haiti, Benji, Micah, Ethan & Katie

E-Mail

July 10, 2011

Subject: Dryden Update

Supporters,

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Kerri is still not back, but we are praying for only 1 and a half more weeks until her return. Please pray with us toward that goal.

Tonight was the last service of our Bible conference. The first 5 nights, a national pastor from another town preached about more personal Bible study. I then followed with Saturday night & Sunday morning with respecting God's Word. Our national assistant pastor preached the final message on the infallibility of the Word. Praise the Lord 2 souls were added to the fold during the conference.

My dad went to the States for 3 weeks to see a few doctors and spend some time with his mom. Just today, he had to take his father-in-law to the emergency room because of dehydration & internal bleeding. Please pray for the health of Wilbur Petrey. Also tonight, our generator shut itself off. Our church service tonight was held in the light of flashlights. For those of you who are early birds and will get this early in the morning, please pray that before 7am Monday I will be able to figure out the problem and fix it. We have batteries & inverter, but without the generator to charge the batteries, the electrical current will run out. I realize this is a lot to pray for, but please do so. We need the prayer & the practice is good for you.

Serving in Haiti, Benji & Kids

E-Mail

July 6, 2011

Subject: Dryden Family Update

Dear Friends & Supporters,

It is with great joy I write this update about the Benji Dryden family. Kerri is still in the States, but is doing much, much better. A huge THANK YOU to all who have been praying. Kerri was taking too much thyroid medicine, which resulted in her body full of hives. She is now almost totally clear of hives, but still under observation for a couple more weeks. The children and I are doing well. It really helps that Grandma Dryden lives next door. My parents, especially Mom, have been such a tremendous blessing during this time.

We are in the middle of our Bible conference at Desrouling Independent Baptist Church. God is using a great national pastor to stir our hearts toward more reading & studying of God's Word. I will be conducting about 15 interviews over the next several weeks in hope of accepting new Bible institute students. If the Lord allows us, we will begin the next school year with 145 students. We are still working on our house little by little.

Thanks to all who have been praying for us. The separation has not been the greatest, but Kerri is staying with her parents and that is comforting.

Serving in Port-de-Paix, Benji, Micah, Ethan & Katie

A SECOND GENERATION TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Benji ~ Kerri ~ Micah ~ Ethan ~ Katie
Serving in Port-de-Paix, HAITI

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2010

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Traditions are things we do that have been done for years & years. My favorite memory of Christmas is the reading of Luke 2. Each Christmas, we kids would wake up and on the way downstairs were allowed to get into our stockings. For breakfast, we usually ate pumpkin or pecan pie along with coffee or milk. Before handing out gifts, my dad would have us all sit down and each year a different child would read “The Christmas Story.” We still continue that tradition today. But I need not wait till December 25th to read Luke 2. We must read God’s Word constantly and continually. Praise God for that privilege.

We appreciate all the prayers lifted up for us during the last several months. In September we were able to report and present Haiti in four churches. During October we took part in three missions conferences. November and December brought a lighter traveling schedule, but it was great to spend time with Kerri’s folks. Neither Kerri nor the kids had been able to spend time with Kerri’s parents in two years. We were also able to reconnect with our friends in our home church. I have been blessed in being a blessing to our pastor.

Praise the Lord three of the churches we presented our work in have taken us on for support and a family has made it a family project to support us. That humbles me. “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”

Since August, Micah & Ethan have been praying for snow. Well, just last week God answered their prayer. Then Wednesday night, He sent freezing rain. Kerri and I are ready to let you all have this cold weather to yourselves and return to 80 degree Haiti. I believe my toes would thaw out.

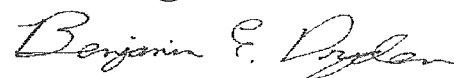
We ask that you continue in much prayer for the country and people of Haiti, especially those of Port-de-Paix. The cholera epidemic has already dealt some blows to our church family of Desroulins Independent Baptist as well as students of Grace Baptist Bible Institute. One of our students is now in the presence of the Savior. If you did not realize, the presidential election which took place November 28th has not been concluded. There is to be a runoff between the top two electorates (out of 18) in January, but there is debate who those top two are.

We also request you pray for my parents in Haiti. My dad is having to take care of my responsibilities as well as his. Plus, it will be just them for Christmas. The devil is stirring some malcontent amongst some believers in the church there

Our plan is to leave Illinois January 6th for two months of traveling in Georgia & Florida, reporting to churches and visiting with Benji’s family. Lord willing we will return to Haiti March 1st to resume our responsibilities in the Bible Institute as well as the church.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Serving in Haiti,



Benji, Kerri, Micah, Ethan & Katie

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Latest E-mail

Date: June 14, 2010

Subject: Haiti Happenings

Did we get them all? After 24 men walked the aisle Saturday to receive their Bible School diplomas, I wanted to make sure we didn't miss any of them. This was the largest graduating class yet. We are blessed in the fact that national pastors entrust us with the education of their church leaders. Praise the Lord for many of these graduates already pastoring their local church. Our prayer is that they put into application what they have learned.

Katie is now a second grader! I remember when I was a second grader.

How can this be? Oh well, the only option to us getting old is death. There is much to be done, so I'll just grow older serving the Lord.

Thank you for your prayers over the past several weeks. Our church Family Life Conference went really well. There were 2 saved, an older gentleman and a young lady. Our main objective was to strengthen the families of the church. We believe God is doing just that. Please continue

to pray for God's hand of protection. The devil (I don't like to capitalize

him) always wants to take us down into the valley after we have been on the spiritual mountain top. Pray that the Lord will keep us steadfast.

Only 5 weeks until we begin our 7 month furlough. We pray that God will

use us in a might way to strengthen churches while we visit with them. God

bless. Until next time, The Drydens in Haiti

Dryden trip update May 12, 2010

HOW CAN IT BE FLAT TOO????!!

We arrived well at our destination. However you wish to measure the trip (21 miles or 2 & a half hours) is up to you. Needless to say, we were tired. After fellowshipping with some believers, getting a bit to eat (great Haitian food!) and cleaning up, we beaded down in the vocational school office (it had a double and a single bed, boys slept on the sleeping bag. With a hearty breakfast and a cold water bucket bath behind us, we walked over to church. The children enjoyed Sunday school/ junior church, while Kerri and I separated to our respective Sunday school classes outside under the trees. The service was nice, with me as the speaker. After church, I noticed the left rear tire of the truck was low on air. I took it off and began to plug a leak in the tubeless tire. I had only plugged 3 of the holes when I noticed a sizable lump in the wall of the tire. The many leaks had weakened the tire wall, rendering it useless as a tubeless. Since the "boonies" has no auto parts store, I commenced to get the spare tire out in order to get home that afternoon. I couldn't believe it. It was flat too!

Praise the Lord a young man in the neighborhood can fix tires, so he fixed the spare (it had a tube in it). By the time we got the tire back on the truck, it was really too late to leave and make it home by dark. I'm not afraid of the dark, just if we would have had tire trouble we would be stranded where we knew no one and no possibility of fixing the tire. The pastor graciously allowed us to stay another night, then 7 AM found us rolling down the road. We made it home with no mishap, and are glad to be home!

For those who have been praying for Micah and his tooth, it was a baby tooth which did not want to let go. The new tooth was behind it and would have eventually pushed it out of the way, but the dentist took care of that for Micah.

Thank you for your prayers. Until next time in the humdrum life of a missionaries life,

Benji for the Drydens

Haiti Happenings

May 06, 2010

Dear prayer partners.

Wanted to update you on Micah and his tooth. The Lord blessed in that a visiting dentist was at the mission several miles from us, and he was able to see Micah right away Wednesday afternoon. It was a baby tooth that the permanent tooth was just underneath. The baby tooth just didn't want to let go, but the doctor persuaded it to. Thank you for your prayers on our behalf.

Allow me to share another request. Several months ago, a pastor out in the country invited me to preach a Sunday morning. Well, the weekend has arrived and the whole family was invited to come on Saturday and spend the evening with the pastor and his family. This will be a new experience for the family. This is something we have never done before, together. Pray for safety, security and salvation of souls.

God bless,
Benji Dryden in Haiti