

SANDS ISLAND HOPPER

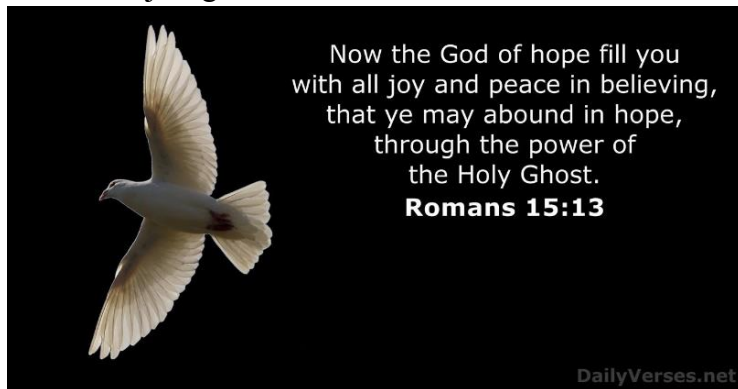


Roger & Judy Sands, 3405 Atlantic Blvd., Vero Beach FL. 32960 rogerjudysands@gmail.com cell-772.766.2279

Dear Family & Friends,

Just days after our summer letter was mailed, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake indiscriminately shook and decimated the foundations of countless Haitian homes in the Southern parts of Haiti. Days later, a tropical depression descended on this same area. The combined affect left thousands without shelter and sustenance. The injured, painfully suffered. Those who lost loved ones, mourned. This small island nation was already reeling in despair. The assassination of its elected president, the covid epidemic and the uncontrolled murderous gang violence has literally paralyzed the rudimentary tasks of life of eleven million people.

A dear friend posed an honest question. "Is there any hope for Haiti? What is the point? Their condition just gets worse. Are our efforts and contributions for naught?"



RH picture: The "Church" is meeting outside under a mango tree. Their church "building" was destroyed in the August 14 earthquake.

In life, there are those who cross our paths that radically impact and influence our lives. These special people walk with their friends where life happens. Truth is spoken. Love abounds. They exemplify Christ. Some would say this is what we call discipleship. I would agree. Forty-two years ago, a couple crossed our path in a similar fashion. They were our best friends, mentors, confidants... Last week we received that difficult phone call from their son. As we were processing what had happened, the word "HOPE" came into the conversation. His dad had suffered a massive stroke and it did not look good, but they knew that he had that wonderful HOPE of salvation. A day later he passed away and went to Glory. Several days later, I listened to his children testify to his impact on others through being a disciple of Christ. Dan was all about his "JOY" in Christ, he trusted God in even the most difficult times and his life was being a servant leader to those he encountered.

Going back to that difficult question I was recently asked, my answer is: I praise the Lord that there is always HOPE in the Lord. It is pure JOY to have the privilege to help share the gospel message. Giving up in tough times for the cause of Christ is never an option. God doesn't make mistakes and his work always has purpose and never fails.

To support us at **Missionary Flights International** | 3170 Airmans Drive - Fort Pierce, FL 34946 MEMO: Acct # 2806
Or give online at www.missionaryflights.org/Sands



We were able to fly eighteen relief flights into the earthquake devastated area. Supplies included tarps, tents, food, medical, and hygiene supplies. Missionaries and first responders met us at the airport and quickly distributed the critical items to those in distress.

When disasters happen, MFI immediately springs into action. Our individual roles morph into something that is very different than our ordinary activities. In this case, one of my responsibilities was to field all incoming calls related to earthquake relief shipments. I categorized each shipment and scheduled when they would be loaded and flown into Les Cayes, Haiti. Each mission was notified what day and what exact time their supplies would arrive. The airport is very remote without much infrastructure. We had to assure that there were enough hands to get the aircraft unloaded in a timely manner. Typically, we were able to carry 8300 lbs. per flight. Another responsibility included attaining clearances and the necessary permits to bring in the supplies free of duty charges.

It is a beautiful thing to see multiple organizations working together to accomplish His work. Time and time again those at ground zero helped us out with communications and logistics. A volunteer team of missionaries was created to meet our flights each day. They were always there to get the job done. On most flight days I was able to communicate with the flight crew when they landed. A sense of relief, elation and praise came over me every time I was told that the aircraft was unloaded and on its way home. We give God all the Glory!



Badly needed supplies were taken in for this children's ministry. It is obvious that even in normal times life is difficult. When disaster strikes the problems multiply.



JOY



H
O
P
E



PEACE

Prayer and Praise

- ✚ Since the earthquake, Jean Charles Jean William, our Port-au-Prince Mailroom manager, has taken small teams of 7-10 local brothers and sisters in Christ to the areas hardest hit. As seen in the picture in the foreground, there are times they must walk up a donkey path to get to people that need the help most. They have help hundreds of families get back on their feet, giving them tents, tarps, shelters, and food. Furthermore, he has the great opportunity to share the love of Christ with them. He has done this on the weekends on his own time. Pray for him and his team’s safety as they often must travel through gang-controlled areas.
- ✚ Pray for the seventeen missionaries that were kidnapped. Five have been released. Pray for their release and continued safety.
- ✚ Pray for our affiliate missionaries that live in the dangerous areas around Port-au-Prince.
- ✚ Pray for Judy and me as we wear many hats and have a lot on our plate. Pray for continued good physical and spiritual health.
- ✚ This winter we are blessed with “snowbird volunteers”. Pray that they can serve alongside us effectively.
- ✚ We are pushing forward with the restoration of our third Turbine DC-3, N300MF. It is a monumental task. Pray that we will make consistent progress.



Matt and Krisa continue to live in Anderson, Indiana. Matt is the youth pastor at Grace Baptist Church. Kinsley just turned four and Everett is two. Both children are always full of fun and smiles.



Dwight and Teri Lee reside in Simpsonville, S.C. This family of eight is always out hiking, camping, exploring, and playing games. Their interests include music, art, sports, fishing, reading, and Alabama football!



(LH Picture) In Oct. we had the opportunity to visit Fred and Karen Pannell in Cheyenne, WY. We had never been that far West before. The Pannell's took us to Utah where we visited Moab, Canyonlands, and Arches National Park. We were all struck by God's incredible creation.

As we are approaching another new year, may we all anticipate more opportunities to shine brightly in a very dark world. May we share the **HOPE** of salvation to those who have not heard, may we express that **JOY** and **PEACE** to others that only Christ can provide.

With gratitude, Judy and I thank you for your prayers and gifts.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Blessed New Year!

Roger & Judy Sands