

# A SECOND GENERATION TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Benji ♦ Kerri ♦ Katie

The DRYDEN Family in Port-de-Paix, HAITI

May – September 2023

The Lord's blessings be upon all who read this update! Thank you for your patience in hearing from us. In May, our son Ethan graduated from Pensacola Christian College, and in June Benji was privileged to perform Ethan's wedding ceremony to his college sweetheart, Carley. We are thrilled to have a Godly daughter-in-law! Katie worked the remainder of her summer at PCC, and began her third year of studies in late August. Kerri went back to teaching 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Grace Christian Academy in Jacksonville, FL, while Benji assisted his parents even more and dealt with different issues arising in the ministries of Desroulins Independent Baptist Church in Port-de-Paix, Haiti. Benji's dad, Don Dryden, needs more attention and is closer to being with his Heavenly Father than ever before. Please pray for grace and mercy, especially for Bridgitt, Don's wife!

While we have been in the United States, God has been working in Haiti. Each day we are in contact with ministry leaders about some aspect of Desroulins Independent Baptist Church, Desroulins Independent Baptist School, and Grace Baptist Bible Institute.

Desroulins Independent Baptist Church has had some bumps along the road, but also positive actions taken by the deacons along with the church body. Both are necessary for church growth. One of the graduates of the Bible Institute who was saved in our church and preached regularly could not seem to submit to the authority of the deacon board, and eventually left the church after a few bumpy months. False teachings are a constant threat to any church, but especially while the pastor is away. Praise the Lord for electronics and instant communication, which have allowed Benji to correct some erroneous teachings, and help move attitudes in the right direction. There are still some members who have shown their detachment from 'their pastor', but we realize they are showing their true colors. A monthly soul-winning day has been added to the weekly one, and seven souls were saved that first day.

The grade school (kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade) ended the school year with 185 students, and all but one of the 9<sup>th</sup> graders passed the state exam (a requirement for advancing). This summer saw the formation of a school board made up of men of the church. This has helped greatly in overseeing the governing of the grade school as they are right there in real time.

It's with great pleasure that we report of 110 men finishing the school year from the Bible Institute, eleven of that number completing their course requirements. Fifteen new students enrolled for the beginning of this school year which began mid-August. God has given the Bible Institute eight staff members which are either graduates of the Bible Institute and/or local pastors. In the end of November, seven men will complete their five years of study and begin preparing for graduation in late January. All ministries are being nationally led, which has been our vision for decades. I do assist from afar and still send financial help each month.

Please continue to pray for a very tense political and economic living situation there!

*Serving in Port-de-Paix & Baldwin,  
Benji & Kerri Dryden*

MAILING ADDRESS: Unit 1075-BIMI / 3170 Airmans Drive / Ft. Pierce, FL 34946  
UNITED STATES PHONE #: 618-403-0271 / E-mail: benjidrydenfamily@yahoo.com  
HOME CHURCH: Calvary Baptist Church / 901 N Olive / Flora, IL 62839 / (618) 662-4996  
Baptist International Missions, Inc. / P.O. Box 9 / Harrison, TN 37341 / (423) 344-5050