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From Toe-Blake Roy - July 19, 2017 Report on the BLF Canada Outreach to Haiti

Good morning in our Savior's name,

Sunday morning Pastor Galilée took me to a Word of Life church of some 300 people. The church and the pastors had been well prepared for our arrival. The pastors of the church specifically requested me to teach rather than preach. I think in their mind this means that a preacher screams more than a teacher when he speaks. I chose to teach on the topic of 'Conflict Resolutions' in the church and in the home. Because I did not have time to completely finish this mini-course since we had to go to another church that morning, the pastors wanted to get all the notes on this topic which I gladly gave them. Before I left, the pastors and the church gave me a certificate as an honorary teacher to the Haitian people. I have to admit I certainly was not expecting a certificate for having taught, but in their mind this was the greatest way they could show their appreciation to a teacher. I thanked them, accepted the certificate and gave all the glory to God.

The second church we visited was more like a rundown shed of about 16 feet by 24 feet. The door was so low we had to bow down like a Japanese greeting just to get in. Once inside there was wall to wall people with no aisle, with a temperature of 38 degree Celsius, (a little over 100 degrees Fahrenheit), that morning with no fan and some 55 people present, I delivered a message. This is when I understood that even for a preacher, he can work at the sweat of his brow.

As we traveled to La Chapelle at the beginning of this week for a second session of teaching, Pastor Galilée turned on the radio station in Gonaives in the truck. He wanted me to listen to it even though it was in Créole. I do not speak Créole but I am starting to understand it because of its close relation to French. This was a talk show about finances. The talk show host was talking about a course on finances he had taken with Pastor Roy the week before. Pastor Galilée explained to me that one of the pastors who took the course on finances last week has a day job as a radio host and obtained permission from his station to use my notes and share with the people in Gonaives (some 350,000 people) Biblical principles on finances that pastor Roy from Québec had taught in their town. It was a special blessing to hear someone else use my course notes (with my permission) and use them on a public radio in Créole. Pastor Galilée then called the radio host directly and put me on the air via phone to address the radio listeners for a few minutes. Thank you for your prayers for I am only an extension of your prayers.

At the end of my course on finances the police commissioner for the town of Gonaives who also was present for the course and who is a pastor on the weekend, made a 15 minute discourse to all those who took the course. His exhortation was that as a police commissioner he had to take courses on administration and finances at the Haitian university and in all of his courses he had never heard such sound principles on the administration of money. He then encouraged the pastors to teach this course in as many churches as possible in Haiti.

I have now completed a second session of courses in La Chapelle with a new group of students. This course was on leadership and the interpretation of Scriptures. This church where the teaching took place is considered among the poorest areas in Haiti, even though poverty seems to be everywhere. We were not exactly sure how many students were coming because the organization for the course was made without registration. However, we had 41 students. Praise the Lord. With the 130 students in Gonaives and these 41, we exceeded the goal of 150 for this year. Even if these people are very poor, they had prepared food for lunch for their teacher that would be fitting for a king. I am not sure what I ate but it tasted great.

When I get back to Canada I will include some pictures to these reports. Once again thank you so much for your support and your faithful prayers.

For BLF Canada, Toe-Blake Roy, Director