

July, 2018 — Report on the BLF Canada Outreach to Haiti

Friday, July 6th

The trip to Gonaives, Haiti, went very well even though a lady lost consciousness during the flight on the plane. By the time we landed everything was back to normal. It was amazing to see the organization team that pastor Galilée has formed for this seminar involving registration, feeding, book distribution and many other details related to a borrowed church for this special event. We have 177 pastors officially registered for the course. Being a course on [Eschatology](#), many students had burning questions which they gave me written out on pieces of paper during break time or lunch break. The classes start at 8:30 AM, and continue to noon, with a 10 minute break, even though the pastors meet at 7:00 to pray and praise the Lord until class starts. Then we took a one hour lunch break which is served on location, and restarted the class after lunch at 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm with a 10 minute break.



From Toe-Blake and
Linda Roy, Director of
BLF Canada

This schedule is demanding for a 60 year old, but I enjoy every bit of it. I came back to my room tonight with three of my pant pockets full of questions that were written on scrap pieces of paper, that were handed to me by students during the break. Their desire to learn is exciting and contagious.

This course will finish tomorrow (Saturday) at 3:00 pm. On Sunday I am scheduled to preach at a church on the topic of being a peace maker. On Sunday afternoon I will go with pastor Galilée 3 hours north to visit land that was recently purchased for the future site of a new Bible school, a medical center and a book distribution center. This ministry center has yet to be built. So if some of you are thinking of a construction mission trip and could consider Haiti, we will need to speak further.

Monday we will go to an out of the way place (about a 2.5 hour drive) which is considered very poor by Haitian standards. I will be teaching a second smaller class for pastors. We do not have a final count on how many pastors will be at that class yet.

I have a special prayer request. I might be in Haiti longer than plan. The government in Haiti has a complete monopoly on the price of gas for the entire country and just raise fuel prices by 38%. People are protesting and blocking roads and there is only one road back to the airport on Tuesday next week. Things can get very nasty very fast in Haiti. To make matters worse, gas stations are refusing to sell gas as a means of protest. All stations were close tonight. Pastor Galilée's diesel truck brought me back to my room on fumes, and Pastor did not know if he had enough fuel to get back to his home. We are praying the gas stations will open tomorrow morning. We are keeping an eye on the situation for security reasons. Where we are located is on the National road (the major road) which is the first choice for protests.



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Saturday, July 7th

Today was the end of the first class. I did not know this morning how things would go because of the protests. Many of the roads were still closed this morning with big rocks and tires still burning. In some cities reports of people killed, was on the local news, much looting went on and all the new cars in one big Nissan dealership were set on fire. When pastor Galilée came to pick me up this morning, he came on a motor bike rather than a regular truck. It was possible to go through the remaining obstacles with a bike but not with a truck. This was my second ride on a motorcycle in a third world country. The pastor could not take me and my computer bag (which has all of my teaching equipment, computer, projector etc.). I could take only my Bible and my course notes (just like in the old days). Of course, neither one of us had helmets or any other kind of protection. This does not seem to exist in Haiti. What a ride this was! During the 8 kilometers to class while twisting around rocks left on the road from the protest the night before, encountering pedestrians, passing illegally in the oncoming traffic, and hanging on to the bike for dear life with my right hand, while my left hand held on tightly to pastor Galilee's shoulder, I was actually reviewing my notes on Eschatology in my head instead of asking the question: Are we there yet? I ask pastor Galilée jokingly while riding, if we were in the tribulation or in the end times. My dear wife still does not know about this experience yet. I probably will not be congratulated for surviving it. But love conquers all!

The day of teaching went very well and we also had the joy of distributing the books that were shipped from BLF Éditions. The pastors expressed their sincere gratitude to BLF Canada, BLF USA and BLF Éditions for participating so generously in their theological education.

It looks like the government of Haiti will back down on the 38% increase on the price of fuel. This could cool things down if they follow through with it. Tomorrow, Sunday, starts at 7:00 with a two hour ride (in a truck hopefully) to go to a far away church and teach for two hours on the requested topic of "Blessed Are The Peace Makers". In the afternoon, if the roads are not blocked, we will go visit the future site of the Bible School.

Sunday, July 8th

Sunday morning, I had the privilege to teach at Église du Tabernacle de Louange des Gonaives. At best, the church was a gravel parking lot with a covering for shade. Imagine wooden benches set out in a gravel parking lot with a roof for shade. When I get back to Canada, I will make pictures of this entire trip available.

In the afternoon we embarked on a three hour trip to see the site of the future Bible school. This trip was going North in the mountains toward [Cap Haitian](#), not too far from the border of the Republic Dominican. We encountered some road blocks but were able to go around with not too much



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trouble. But about 2 hours and 15 minutes into our trip, the road was completely block with citizens demanding road taxes. We felt it was unwise to attempt to negotiate with emotionally motivated and highly frustrated groups of people. They were demanding road taxes as a means of financial survival, given their extreme poverty, even though the government has rolled back the 38% fuel increase. Two days ago, pastor Galilée had his truck vandalized simply for having parked it on the street. Someone wrote with a marker on the hood “kill the president” in Creole.

Monday, July 9th

My plans for today were changed. We were planning to have a three hour trip west to a very remote area called “[Limonade](#)”, (which is knownd for its poverty). The purpose was to teach a second class. The trip was later cancelled because of road blocks along the way. Therefore, today we will attempt to go back to Port-aux-Prince (about a 2 hour trip, at least). If we succeed I will be near the airport and ready to depart on my flight Wednesday as scheduled, assuming there will be no flight delay.

Thank you for your faithfulness in praying,

Toe-Blake Roy, Director of BLF Canada

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