

Share n Care

Volume XLIX, Issue 3

April 2024

*There is no one holy like the LORD;
There is no one besides you;
There is no Rock like our God. —1 Samuel*

Battle Between Good and Evil by Charles O. Miller

News and social media feeds have once again focused their attention on Haiti over the past few weeks, and for good reason as the reports out of Port Au Prince are appalling and heart-breaking. There are many sources offering perspective on what is going on and what led Haiti to this point.

How is COTP?

This is a question we hear daily right now. It's one of the reasons we love you all, and your care for the mission and people of COTP. You want to know how we are doing. You want to know how to pray for us. You see the news reports and worry about how closely this is all impacting COTP.

Thank you for your care. The honest answer is both simple and complex.

The simple answer: We are safe and we are grateful for the relative safety we've experienced in Northern Haiti over the past 4 years.

Haiti is a small nation. However, the reality is that there are 2 versions of Haiti right now. There is Port Au Prince, the nation's capital and largest city by far. Nearly all news stories you see in the media are covering the political instability and gang violence happening in the capital.

The other Haiti is the countryside and the other major cities. COTP is located in the countryside just South of Cap Haitian, Haiti's 2nd largest city. Like any major city, Cap experienced violence and other issues. However, the city and region have taken pride in the fact that the trends in Port Au Prince have not made their way to Cap Haitian. It's not been easy, but we've seen a unified effort of police, community leaders, businesses, NGO's and even local gangs to preserve the relative peace in our region. This has allowed our region to operate relatively normal for the past few years.

There have been moments or short seasons of crisis in Cap Haitian, where events in Port impact life and operations in Cap in some way. We are currently in the midst of one of these seasons. However, it is our hope that this season will pass soon and our region will continue to move forward, providing a reminder to the nation and the world that Haiti is still fighting for peace and progress.

The complex answer: The events in Port Au Prince impact us in other ways.

Here are the current challenges we are facing:

1. It's heavy. This isn't some far off conflict. These are our people and the nation we love. It's esti-

mated that half of the gangs are made up of minors, desperate young people who feel they have no other options. It's human to want to blame or hate the perpetrators, until we realize that they are just humans like you and I. People make unthinkable choices when they endure unthinkable situations. This is heavy. We want distance, but we can't. These are our people. This situation is traumatic for all of us. This trauma will have residual effects on all of us long after the situation is resolved.

2. Planning is exhausting: Though we are thankful for the stability we've felt locally, we are also exhausted by having to plan for such a wide scope of scenarios. We've made great strides toward transformational, proactive programs. Yet we still have to prepare for emergency worst case scenarios. We have to be flexible, and have plans A, B, C, D....planned. Ultimately, we have to trust that God will provide and move through our plans, and beyond.

3. Resources: The biggest physical challenge we face is in the availability of resources. The events in Port Au Prince have caused shortages of food and fuel, driving up costs and malnutrition. The needs are increasing, while the availability of resources has been diminished. This makes our programs more important, and at the same time harder to operate.

(Cont. on page 4)

Birthdays

April Birthdays

11 Marv Moorlag
 12 Karen Leenstra
 18 Darcy Roelofs
 22 Christina Jurgenson
 23 Darla Marcus
 24 Kendall Bos
 27 Edith Ryder
 28 Clara DeRonde

May Birthdays

5 Gayle Brouwer
 7 Sam Modderman
 Denise Dierenfeld
 9 Mae Ryks-92nd
 13 Jodi Marcus
 15 Esther Rood
 16 Roger Groen
 Darlene Roelofs
 18 Derek Roelofs
 19 Traci Bos
 20 John Rolffs-91st
 22 Roman Iedema



Anniversaries

April Anniversaries

13 Duane and Alvina Noordmans

May Anniversaries

31 Dan and Brenda Bergsma

2nd Sunday Offering Schedule

April 14

CCS
 GEMS (National)
 Family Promise
 Calvin Seminary

May 12

CMCS
 Resonate Global Missions
 Luke Society
 Youth for Christ

Pulpit Schedule

April 14: Pastor Les Kuiper

April 21: Josh Ottoson

April 28: Pastor Harrison Newhouse

May 5 & 12: Pastor Les Kuiper

May 19: Tom Burton

May 26: Pastor Harrison Newhouse

In Memory



Martha Kiel *May 8 1923 -April 3, 2024*

Martha Marie (Vande Steeg) Kiel, 100, of Willmar, died Wednesday, April 3rd at Copperleaf Senior Living in Willmar.

Martha Marie (Vande Steeg) Kiel was born May 8, 1923, to Marinus and Alice (Toering) Vande Steeg in Hospers, Iowa. Martha was baptized at Hospers Christian Reformed Church. She later moved to Minnesota receiving her education at Central Minnesota Christian School in Prinsburg.

On April 6, 1954, Martha was united in marriage to Vernon Kiel of Pease, Minnesota. To this union they were blessed with one son, Harvey. They lived in Pease, Prinsburg and Willmar. Martha volunteered for Meals on Wheels and Call for Cookies for Friendship Classes. Martha enjoyed reading, crocheting, coffee with friends, playing Scrabble, and jigsaw puzzles.

Martha is survived by son Harvey (Ann) Kiel; grandsons, Alex (Jessica Stowe) Kiel, Brian (Talia) Kiel; and great granddaughter, Eliza Kiel. She is further survived by her brother, Marion (Marge) Vande Steeg.

Martha is preceded in death by her husband, Vernon, parents and siblings: Clarence, Henry and Kathleen Hayunga.

Friendship

Friendship met for their last regular Bible lesson on April 8. They went through the significance of Holy week with Laura Hoekstra leading the lesson through slides of Jesus entering Jerusalem, to the Lord's Supper, Jesus' Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, His crucifixion and resurrection. Many of the students remembered the story well and were reminded that the price Jesus paid saves us from our sins and He left us with His Holy Sprit, so we can always talk to Jesus.

As usual, they enjoyed the singing, the large group lesson, Bible activity, cookies and fellowship with one another and their mentors. Thank you to the students and mentors who attended this year.

Their final meeting of the season will be on April 22 for their Spring Banquet at **6:00 pm**. Staff members of the students have also been invited to show our gratitude for bringing their clients. The students would be unable to attend if not for them!



Children of the Promise Update (Cont)

4. Travel: All flights in and out of Haiti have essentially been grounded for the past week and a half. For the past 4 years, the International airport in Cap has been consistently open with flights. The current shut-down does not appear to be a result of an imminent threat in Cap, but rather a broader policy in Haiti at the moment. We are hopeful flights will resume soon. If they do not, it limits our ability to move in and out of Haiti.

5. International Adoption: Finally, another concern is for our children and families in the process of adoption. This process requires offices and processes in Port Au Prince to remain operational. Thankfully, the process has proceeded over the past 4 years. The recent events have raised concerns about IBESR's ability to continue processing adoptions, and an International response to explore solutions. Our hearts are with the people involved in these very personal transitions: the children who are awaiting massive life changes, the caregivers who will have to say goodbye, biological family members wrestling with the emotions of the situation, adoptive families concerned about the safety of their adoptive child. We hurt for them and pray for resolution, and peace in the meanwhile.

There is simple wisdom and comfort in knowing . is that the God of the universe knows what we do not, and is in control of all things even when things feel out of control. massive life changes, the caregivers who will have to say goodbye, biological family members wrestling with the emotions of the situation, adoptive families concerned about the safety of their adoptive child. We hurt for them and pray for resolution, and peace in the meanwhile.

How can you pray with us?

- **Resolution:** The complexity of what the country of Haiti is dealing with is great...but we trust that God sees it, understands it, & hears our prayers! Now that the Prime Minister has resigned, we ask that you join us in praying for resolution!
- **Safety:** As we mentioned, things are relatively quiet where we are. We pray for continued safety in our region! We also ask that you would pray collectively for other organizations all throughout Haiti, as many are not as safe as we are.
- **Resources:** We anticipate that resources will begin to be difficult to come by, as the airports and the sea port (in Port au Prince) are closed. This also means that every day prices will go up, causing strain on our budget. Pray for wisdom for our leaders on the ground as they anticipate what the coming days could look like.
- **Clear minds:** There is much about what is happening that is out of our control. However, we know that we can continue to work on "controlling the things that we can control" and trusting that God will help us

Thank you

for your continued prayers & support



Youth Group Fundraiser



CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH BALLS FOR SALE!

(SUGGESTED DONATION)

1 DOZEN - \$12
2 DOZEN - \$24
50+ BALL BUCKET - \$50





Mission Trip: Cookie Dough Making

April 27 1PM - 3PM LOCATION: Unity CRC

We will be prepping the cookie dough for our cookie dough sale. More details will be coming soon, and we encourage you to pre-sale as many dozen as you can! The time is approximate as we may need more time if we pre-sell a lot :) If you'd like to pre-order, please call or text Travis @1-763-210-8344 or email: solidryg@gmail.com or contact one of the students

Prayer Corner

Keep Praying!

As we at Little Lambs cry out to God to help and protect the people of Ukraine, we invite you all to pray with us. Ukraine is the biggest and the most free country in Europe. Our brothers and sisters are teaching Bible lessons in public schools and orphanages which is unthinkable in other parts of the world. Ukraine trains more missionaries and pastors and has more evangelical churches than any other country in Europe. Of course Satan does not like that and the war declared on Ukraine seems endless.



Ways to Pray

- * That churches and believers there will be able to provide for people’s needs and that the love of Jesus will shine through them.
- * For strength and rest in God for groups, pastors, and friends who are functioning the best they can, trying to help others while exhausted and going through trauma themselves.
- * For emotional protection for children who are being exposed to war and fear.
- * For border crossings to go smoothly and quickly, for more border crossings to open.
- * For sustained internet, for the provision of drinking water and fuel for cars.
- * For warmth and protection, patience and peace, for those trying to get across the border of Ukraine and for those taking shelter in cities.
- * For President Zelensky... safety for him, for other Ukraine government officials, and their families.
- * For protection of Ukraine from the air.
- * For the salvation of all Ukrainians... may they trust in God alone to deliver them. May they look to Him for peace and hope.
- * For wisdom and support for disaster response teams.
- * May God draw near to the broken-hearted, as He has promised!

(<https://www.littlelambs.com/>)

Remember in Prayer:

Those who are unable to join us

- Gloria Epema
- Gerri Hillenbrand
- Margaret Negen
- Jean Rolighed
- Mae Ryks
- Burton Ulferts
- Bea Visser

Our Servicemen

- Jacob Lefever
- Joe Pavelko

Our College Students

- Reagan Bos-St. Benedict
- Simon Brouwer-ND State
- Avery Dierenfeld- U of M Duluth
- Eleanor Ryder-Dordt University



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Willmar CRC Statements

Purpose Statement

Worship

God in obedience to His Word

Equip

God's people to do His work

Proclaim

God's love and grace to His World

II Timothy 3:16&17

Values Statement

Loving

God above all, and our neighbors as ourselves

Praying

in all circumstances because God controls our ministry

Preaching

and teaching from God's Word, the Holy Bible

Giving

of our time, gifts and money which are blessings from God

Seeking

the Lord's will and direction in everything we do

Helping

others to find and follow Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1b-2

Vision Statement

Reaching Up

to God as we listen for His voice in our prayers of thanks, confession and praise.

Reaching In

becoming more Christlike, clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness

Reaching Out

Boldly through the power of the Holy Spirit, with words and deed, in our Community and worldwide.

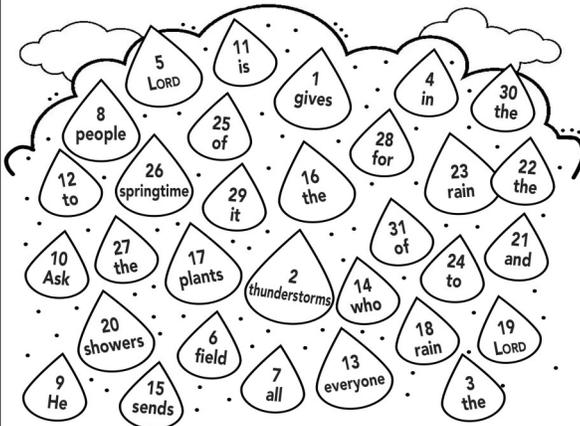
Colossians 3:12-14

All to the Glory of God

Kid's Corner

Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18

_____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____ ;

_____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15

_____ 27 _____ 2 _____ .

_____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23

_____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25

_____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13 _____

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples – twice – when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?



- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21)

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?



- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.

Answer: A (See Acts 2:15)