

A SECOND GENERATION TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Benji ~ Kerri ~ Ethan ~ Katie

The DRYDEN Family in Port-de-Paix, HAITI

January ~ April 2023

We should be ever grateful that Romans 8:26 is in the Word of God. Even if the requests which we pray for are not exactly what needs to be asked, the Holy Spirit translates our requests to our heavenly Father.

While you all were praying fervently for Benji & Kerri while he was to be in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, your prayers were actually for our strength to deal with the fact that Benji was not able to travel. Benji's passport was not yet in hand, and the small MAF airplane to travel from the international airport to the small regional airport in Port-de-Paix was no longer an option. We were and still are saddened, but the Lord has shown us our presence in Baldwin, FL, is "for such a time as this." My retired parents, Don & Bridgett Dryden, need my help as Dad is becoming mostly house bound and Mom needs periodic breaks. Also, safety of foreigners in Haiti is a concern.

Praise the Lord for men and ladies whom the Lord can use in the ministry. Although we have been away for over seven months, the Lord has been using many in ways they thought they could not serve. What I mean is that necessity has pushed several church members to step into roles they did not realize they could fulfill. Monthly I receive reports of how a certain brother or a particular sister has served the Lord within the ministry.

Although we are a thousand miles away, we are thrilled to work in the ministry of Desroulins Independent Baptist Church. For nineteen years the Lord has used us in Port-de-Paix, and while He is still using our influence there in Haiti, He is using us here in Baldwin (Jacksonville), FL. While Kerri has taught 5th and 6th grade at Grace Christian Academy, Benji regularly preached in school chapel, teaches an adult Sunday school class, and spends much time encouraging and lifting (literally) his parents. When a servant is willing to serve, the Lord always knows the best place to put that servant. To God be the glory!

As we look forward, we are not sure of when our return to Haiti will be. As we continue waiting on the Lord's leading in that direction, we continue to serve Him Stateside. Our son Ethan recently graduated from PCC and will be getting married June 10th. I have the wonderful and awesome privilege to perform their ceremony. From then, we will spend some time with Kerri's family.

Please pray for safe travels and for my parents' resilience during my absence. Continue to pray for Desroulins Independent Baptist Church, Desroulins Independent Baptist School and Grace Baptist Bible Institute in their continued spiritual and physical growth. I have adopted the missionary philosophy my dad had for nearly 45 years: working myself out of a job. The result is that national men and ladies have stepped in to fill the void (in some respects) left by me & Kerri. We pray that we may one day soon return to our beloved ministry family, but we pray also for the growth of national Christians. This reminds me of Paul's advice to Timothy, "the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

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

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