


Raising leaders and  
evangelists in the

# Haitian Church



**CHARIS**

Newsletter | September 2020



Cherish and value your

# Salvation

---

*“Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation. It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard.”*

– Hebrews 2:1-3

---

This passage from Hebrews concerns Christian salvation. As I study it, I cannot help but think of the stark differences that I observe between Haitian and American Christians considering the extent to which we appreciate our salvation. Before we study this passage, we must remember that the book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians residing in Jerusalem. Its purpose was to encourage, advise, and caution them to persevere and not become frustrated in the face of persecution.

There are two sections of this passage that I want to consider and they reinforce each other. In fact, the two sections can be condensed to two words: **drift** and **neglect**. Christians are instructed to “pay much closer attention to what we have heard.” The writer of Hebrews provides this instruction with the knowledge that a failure to pay attention to the gospel will result in the Christian “drift(ing) away from it.” Drift is a perfectly appropriate word here as its connotation adequately reveals the subtle, yet sinister nature of the offence being implicated.

Drifting is subtle, progressive, and unexpected. One can fall asleep in a boat and discover later that it was never tied to the dock when he finds himself hopelessly lost in the middle of the ocean. The subtle and peaceful drifting away from the shore occurred without ever

disturbing his slumber for a moment. This **drifting** can likewise occur in our spiritual lives if we don’t keep our hearts and minds vigilantly tied to the **dock** of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.

Jesus came to earth to declare salvation to all men and secure it for His elect. This declaration, initially announced by Jesus, was spread and disseminated throughout the world by those who walked with Him and were taught by Him—His disciples. These men became the apostles and are referred to in this passage as “those who heard.” We are still hearing from them today through the speaking and living Scriptures. With this in mind, the writer of Hebrews rightfully asks, “how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?”

Many people read this and think that the word **neglect** means **reject**. Remember that the book of Hebrews was written to Christians. In order for the **reject** interpretation of the text to be true, the letter would need to be written to unbelievers. We know this isn’t the case, therefore, the writer of Hebrews is warning Christians not to neglect their Christianity.

To understand this, consider the use of the word neglect in everyday situations. “*The child had been neglected her whole life.*” “*Don’t neglect your chores.*” Even in Scripture we see Paul use the same word when instructing Timothy to “not neglect the gift you have” (1 Timothy 4:14a). In all cases here, neglect means to ‘fail to care for properly’. This makes neglect the result of carelessness, indifference, and unwillingness.

Today I observe too many Christians neglecting their salvation. Rather than cherishing it, holding it in the highest esteem, and valuing it above all else in life, we have cast it aside as a completed task that requires no further consideration, attention, or cultivation. We take our salvation for granted. In doing so, we fail to live within its power and fail to cultivate a deeper relationship with the One who willingly





gave His life for us. This is why missions and evangelism has lost its central place in the church, why a prayer meeting doesn't exist in a majority of churches, and why hypocrisy in the form of fallen leaders is almost a weekly national event.

Compare this to Haitians who, once they are saved, not only cherish and value their salvation above all else in their lives, but also go around every day telling everyone how Christ saved them and sharing the gospel. Their response is both personal and social. It's personal in the sense of inner joy, knowing that their sins are forgiven and that they have been adopted into the family of God with eternity in His presence to look forward to. Socially they respond by becoming zealous evangelists as they do violence against the kingdom of Satan.

Maybe we just have too much—maybe our jobs, homes, families, and money are just too much of a distraction for us. Maybe the poverty and spiritual bondage that the Haitians live in works to their advantage when they become Christians because there is no worldly interests that compete for their spiritual attention—I don't know. What I do know is that we must realize that we have in fact neglected our salvation through indifference and failing to care for it properly. This has resulted in our drifting far from true Biblically-defined Christianity.

It's time to turn our back on the world and towards God. It's time to quit living with one foot in the world and one foot in Christ. Christ competes with nothing and no one for attention. The Bible is full of people who successfully did this, which means that we can too. The only question is, are you willing? Maybe we need to be more like the Haitians in our view of the world. Jesus knew this, leading Him to announce His messianic presence on earth with the following words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor..." (Isaiah 61:1).



Being in America for the last few months has been incredibly difficult for Joy and I as our hearts and minds continually hurt for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We initially felt that the devil had secured a small victory in sending us home secondary to the pandemic, but the words of Joseph, found in Genesis 50:20, can ring no truer than they have in this situation:

---

*"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.."*

– Genesis 50:20

---

In our absence, God has raised up leaders and evangelists from amongst His Haitian church. People are being saved as a result of the passion and love for Christ that our spiritual brothers and sisters are displaying to their communities. We have received so many encouraging voicemails and text messages from our leaders and newly converted believers that we can no longer keep them to ourselves.

Since this ministry is a joint effort between us and all of you, we knew that sharing these testimonies would encourage and inspire you as much as they have us. You will see many references to Joy and I, but know that we do not feel prideful about any of this. Rather, we are humbled that God would choose to use us to go and bring the blessings of the gospel and physical aid to the impoverished and suffering people of Haiti who live in spiritual bondage.

We are able to bring those blessings to the people from you. Every time you read my name, or Joy's name in these testimonies, just substitute your own name because your prayers and giving are equally as powerful and meaningful as our physical presence on the field. As you read these, it is our hope that you can see and appreciate how effectively your love and dedication to this ministry is being translated into spiritual fruit that we will all be rewarded for when we stand in front of our Heavenly Father one day. Joy, the people of Haiti, and myself would like to tell all of you thank you, and please continue in your prayers, love, and giving to ensure that this Christ-centered, gospel focused, Biblically lead ministry may continue for many years to come!

# Eliana



**Eliana (Pastor Abony's wife) wrote this letter after hurricane Laura passed through Haiti. She manages the food depot we started a few months before the hurricane hit Haiti. The food depot provides food to those who have no food in their homes with which to feed their families. Eliana alerts us when the food depot is almost empty so that we can send the funds to restock the depot. Your donations supply and fulfill this critical need!**

“In humility I salute the courage and love you have for the people of Haiti. Since yesterday and all day today, even with strong winds and rain, it did not stop a great many people from seeking food from us at the depot. It was a day that made me happy, because God sent your family to Haiti for a good thing. I see that all that He has put in your hearts for the people of Haiti is good. I want you to give a big thank you to the CHARIS organization for me please, because it is thanks to our food storage that has kept many from dying of starvation, because there is no way for people to go to market at this time. All the fields are ruined, the roads are ruined, but God made Charis a storehouse for us! God knew why! Yes I can say the depot is completely empty! Because only it was there to serve people after the hurricane hit. I have only 10 spaghetti and 2 salami sticks left, oh and a box of spices with 60 cubes, after that nothing at all. Thank you very much. We love you. – Eliana”

August 23, 2020

# Jackson



**Jackson Michel was saved on July 24, 2020 and will be baptized on Oct. 15th – God willing. CHARIS heard the news that his house had flooded and was destroyed beyond repair. Funds were provided, using donations, for another house for him and his family to live in for the next year, as well as the provision of groceries.**

“Hi, this is Jackson. I just want to thank you for all that you and your organization has done for my family after the hurricane. What the Lord has done for me is no little thing. Seeing the way the Lord works through you gives me courage and strength during this very difficult time in my family's life. I pray for you all. I pray that He will protect you, refresh you and hold you in His Hands. What you are doing here is a work that can only be done through you by God. You are causing the hearts of His people in Haiti to sing praises to Him for what He has done. I have to say a thousand thank yous, because I was in the dark, but God delivered me and placed me on a solid rock. He has given me understanding and faith to trust Him. Thank you, my new family in God. My new race in Christ! I had felt there was no one to plead my cause. I felt like we were in a pit and had literally no one to look to for help, but God sent you to me, placed you on my path, it is true. Now He has reached His Hand of deliverance through you and has placed me under his mighty arm of protection. Now I only pray in His name! I am looking forward to being baptized, because I am ready for this, to show everyone Who I have given my life to! He has taken me off the road to destruction and placed me on the good path! Again, a million thank yous for your help in giving my wife and my children a place to lay their heads at night. I have come to understand that when you are “outside” (in the world), there is nothing for you, but death. But when you are in Christ, there is life, true live!”

September 7, 2020 at 1:53pm

# Vana



**Vana is a former Mambo/vodou priestess who was saved on June 2, 2020 and will be baptized on Oct. 15th – God willing.**

“I am so happy to have left that dirty life serving the devil. Now that I have burned all my things from the past and have put my life in God’s hands, I know Jesus as my personal Savior! Words cannot express what God has done in my life. However, I love to sing and this one song called “He saved me!” says it best: “I don’t have a lot of money, I don’t have a big house, a lot of people say it’s a miracle, when they see me full of joy. Something they don’t know is that Christ Spirit is living in my soul. When I think about my problems, I think about those who do not have Jesus, they are the ones who really have nothing. It’s true I have problems too, but through my sufferings I stand in joy, because I know Jesus calls me his own.”

I can never forget where I was and how I had no hope, but Jesus took hold of me and I am not the same person anymore. It is true He saved me. He restored my life. He dried my tears and filled my heart with joy. He made me a promise, and, in His promise, I have hope—that He is returning to take me home.”

**September 3, 2020 at 7:43pm**

# Molene



**Molene is a former Mambo/Vodou Priestess who was saved May 25, 2020 and will be baptized Oct. 15, 2020 – God willing. Molene was saved in May and then lost three family members, one after another, from the Coronavirus in the months of June and July.**

“With all that has happened in the last two months, if God wasn’t watching over me and giving me His strength, if I wasn’t in Christ, I do not know how I could get through this difficult time! He has given me strength to prepare everything for my family who is now facing the death of our 3rd family member. With His strength I can stand. He is watching over me, my children and my family as His own now. This knowledge alone gives me such strength. I am certain that I will never turn back to the devil, no matter what. I am now a new creation! Even if I am facing hunger or am broke or sick unto death, I will not ever turn back to the devil. The tears are running down my face right now, because I lost my youngest brother, my sister and my aunt. My parents do not have the strength to carry them through this, and I, only by God’s strength am I getting through this. I just thank God right now for the BIG work that He is doing through you to create a way for the people here to come to know the Lord - to remove us from problems, from calamities and from the devils we serve. I know the Lord will protect you when you lay down and sleep and when you wake and work. I do not have any money to repay you for leading me to Christ, but I know I can pray for you and that God Himself will repay you! When I pray, I ask God for direction for the day and I say thank you to Him for the big work He has done in my life. Everything that has happened in my life, I see clearly now that He has arranged it so that I could come to know Him. I never thought that God had such love for me, like this! My only regret is that I have come to know the Lord too late. It is this God that I serve, the One who created the heavens and the earth. How can my heart be so happy even though I am in grieving?”

**August 4, 2020 at 6:40am**

# Fetley

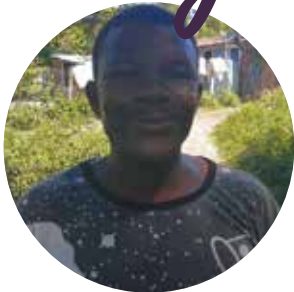


**Fetley Joseph is a former vodouisant/a practitioner of vodou, who was saved March 12, 2020 and will be baptized on Oct. 15, 2020 God willing.**

“I am so happy now that I have found Christ. Whenever I am in need, He supplies. Even if it is just enough for that day to feed me and my 2 sons, I see that He is the one providing it. It is in Him that I look for all that I need. When I was involved in serving the spirits and allowing them to possess me to guide people for money, I was just feeling so filthy and I hated my life. There was no love or support from coworkers of Satan. But in Christ there is so much love. You are like a mother to me. Doctor Malcolm is like a father to me and all those who believe in Christ as the only way, I consider them, all my new family. I am so, so, so happy and at peace. I rejoice in the new life and heart and mind He has given me. I feel beautiful and clean. I live with a happy heart. I just took too long to come to know the Lord, because I see that in Christ, we have everything we need. I am praying for the Lord to strengthen me so that I will not be tempted to turn back to the things the world has to offer.”

**August 12, 2020 at 8:31am**

# Sergot



**Sergot Jean Baptist is a former Hougan/Vodou Priest who was saved March 21, 2019 and was baptized April 4, 2019.**

“Hey there, how are you? How are all the missionaries? How is Doctor Malcolm? Doctor Malcolm is the one who found me in the darkness and helped to put me on solid ground, clean and washed. He is a shepherd to me who came and showed me the True Shepherd, Jesus Christ! I was the single lost sheep. But God sought me out and found me, by way of doctor Malcolm entering my country, paying the expensive airplane ticket and somehow making his way to my house, over the river and into the mountains. When one hears me talk about the past, there is no doubt that I truly was a vodou priest. In fact, when doctor Malcolm and his team came to me, I was in the middle of conducting a sacrifice. I think he even has a picture of the sacrifice I was conducting. I took a goat and was preparing to sacrifice it, so that I could use the blood to do evil on someone for a lot of money. But I have been removed from all that – all that filth. Even though I was serving the devil at one time, now I believe and am no longer in slavery to the devil. I am faithful in attending all the Bible studies and church services. I ask you to pray for me and to ask Christ to give me more strength and understanding. You know very well that when someone was a vodou priest, there needs to be a lot of prayer covering him, so that he can rid himself of all the devils that have attached to him over the years. It is not an easy thing to leave the devil, but with enough prayer and deep Bible study, just hearing the Word of God, you come to understand that you do not need to serve these devils anymore. Ecclesiastes chapter 2 says that there is a time for everything and now, by grace, it has been given to me a time to leave the devil and not serve him any longer, but to find peace with God through Jesus.”

**August 10, 2020 at 5:12pm**

# Andre



**Andre Louis Pierre is a former Assistant to a Vodou Priest. He was saved February 14, 2014 and was baptized March 25, 2016.**

“Listen, the person that I am today, is all because Jesus loves me. He chose me. In the same way He chose Jeremiah. Because when God chooses you it is while you are in your mother’s womb, before one can do right or wrong. So, I believe I was chosen before I was born, however as I grew up in this world, I was in direct rebellion to God. But there was a day in my life, I will never forget, when God reinstated me. He does not reinstate everyone. He does not choose everyone. He will never force anyone to return to Him. However, those He has chosen WILL return to Him! In a vodou ceremony, everyone there worships the spirits and do all that they ask you to do, but the truth is only God is worthy of our worship. With all your heart, mind, soul and strength....we were created to worship only Him. And God has a work for each of us to do on this earth. Until you do complete that assignment, there is not anything that can happen to you that will take you from this world before it is done. Satan does have power even to cause harm to your body, but he cannot touch your soul if you are His elect. God will defend His children!”

August 8, 2020 at 12:00pm

# Deba



**Deba Wilena is a former Mambo/Vodou Priestess who was saved in March of 2017 and was baptized March 19, 2017. We were discussing how the Vodou Priests in Haiti had just tried to rededicate the country to the devil with a huge ceremony called Bois de Caiman – and how mightily the believers in Haiti came together to fast and pray all night to ask God for deliverance and mercy. Deba gives her perspective:**

“God is taking much pleasure in what we are doing in Haiti right now. There are so many souls that are lost here, but God is fulfilling His will in Haiti. Pastors here in Haiti are all afraid to go to a vodou priest or priestess’ temple to sit with them and share with them directly the gospel of Jesus Christ, no, this never happens, there is too much fear. But oh, what a marvelous thing that God placed on doctor Malcolm’s heart to enter Haiti and do this specific work. He will not lose his reward for this. He will not get his reward on earth for what he is doing, but in heaven. What grace has come to us since your family and all the many Christian Americans who have entered Haiti through the organization to bring a witness to us and help us, love us, support us! A lot is being done. By the grace of God MANY souls are being saved! Haitian pastors have not been quick to go to the ones that are far off in darkness – but it is to us who have been given the engagement to go to the vodou priests and bring them the truth, bring them to Christ! Then, when they have found Christ to have them enter the church and learn to be faithful in the church, to be baptized and become a witness in and of themselves. And I know God will continue to give all of us health and strength to continue to do His will. I am always remembering you and your family in my prayers, because the work that you are doing is hard, it’s a big vision that has been given to you, but you are doing it with strength and courage and God will continue to give you the strength to press on. I know He will accompany us as we do His work until He returns.”

August 25, 2020 at 7:43pm



# Sano



**Sano Djeumet is a former Hougan/Vodou Priest who was saved in March of 2017 and was baptized April 10, 2017. Sano sent us this message a few days after Hurricane Laura ripped through Haiti - houses were destroyed, 15 people lost their lives, animals drowned, and gardens flooded.**

“My brothers in Christ, please, I need you to understand me. Take what I am about to tell you into consideration. I am asking you to help us! Take some of our heavy burdens or carry them with us. I have people in my village that I was recently talking to. Their houses have been destroyed. Their little businesses were washed away. There are so many problems here now. Your brothers and sisters in Christ here are suffering.

There is barely anyone who can afford rice, now -everything is so expensive. It is so sad. It's the hardest thing to see. I think that if you were to come here today and walk through the streets, you would look and see the children crying - the young people with tears in their eyes. If you were to stop and ask them, “hey what's the matter?” they would tell you “my stomach is so empty. I am so hungry.” Oh, the misery my people are enduring right now. Calamity after calamity. Will you put this picture in your head and remember to pray for these people? Tell my brothers and sisters in Christ across the water to pray? Ask God to please give us some relief. Ask God to please watch over us. I believe everything that is happening right now is God's proof that mankind is wicked. Jesus has to be returning soon! I am so glad that I am someone with a testimony and I can be a witness. My testimony started when I met doctor Malcolm...and Andre Louis, Mevoy was there too. They were on my road near my house. Doctor Malcolm shared the Good News with me. When they shared the Gospel with me, the True Gospel, I was amazed at the words they were speaking to me. The Words of God Himself. I feel that what the doctor did for me and what you are doing for others is a huge thing. He was the one that taught me what is the Good News of Jesus. He taught me all that Jesus did for us and is doing for us today. He helped me understand the Word of God and Who God is and that we could come to know Him through Jesus. I am now on the right path – the path of truth and life. There are not two masters, but only ONE – Jesus Christ. I am so glad God sent doctor Malcolm and his family to Haiti. I know he did not chose this life, God chose it for him, but I am so glad that doctor Malcolm obeyed God's command to go. He didn't rebel against God, but instead humbled himself to do the will of God. And I can say that because of his obedience I have now come to know the deliverance found in Jesus. I am slowly coming to know the reward I have in Him now. Money cannot buy this reward. I could work for 10,000....15,000 years and I could never pay for this reward. Now the reward that I will receive of everlasting life is all by the grace of God shown to me by doctor Malcolm, and you and the other missionaries, my brothers and sisters in Christ who go and share the gospel with the lost. The greatest weapon one can have in their life here on earth is to have Jesus Christ. There is nothing you should fear once you have Jesus and His salvation.”

**August 27, 2020 at 10:30pm**

## Mission Statement

Charis (Greek for God's Grace) operates in complete obedience to God, giving Him His rightful place in determining the path and goals of His ministry that He has, by grace, allowed us to perform. Charis primarily focuses on the unseen spiritual needs in Haiti, and secondarily on the seen physical needs, always remembering that our success is completely dependent on the will of God, the gospel of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit working effectively through us, His willing servants.

