

Healing for Haiti 40-Day Prayer Journal

January 1, 2025 - February 9, 2025



HEALING FOR HAITI

UNITED CHRISTIANS INTERNATIONAL



United Christians
International

Direction In Prayer

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. Matthew 6:13

Jesus taught us as much about prayer in example as in word. "The Lord's Prayer," or as it could be known, "The Disciple's Prayer" is a part of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. This model prayer gives us an outline of the subjects we should pray over.

At the close of the prayer, Jesus instructs us to pray that we will not fall into temptation. We are to have a healthy understanding of our enemy and his ability to deceive us away from the Father's will for our lives. Satan loves to bring the child of God into the place of temptation and, after we have surrendered to temptation; he brings us to the place of bondage.

We should pray every day for God to lead us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Pray that He will give us daily deliverance from the enemy's power and deceit. Yesterday's deliverance was great, but we must depend on the Father to lead us every day. The enemy never ceases his relentless attacks. He plans and schemes to control us constantly. Therefore, prayer should be a vital part of our daily life.

Of course, we have the opportunity for complete victory over all of the enemy's attacks. As believers in Jesus Christ, we know who is the King of the Kingdom. We belong to His kingdom, and prayer refocuses us on kingdom priorities. After prayer, we realize that His power accomplishes all these things, and our focus is on His glory.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that God will transform the family of UCI into prayer warriors with a desire to connect with God daily. Pray that God will give the family of UCI a desire to pray daily for the Healing for Haiti. Pray that He would daily lead us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Pray that we will recognize temptation and quickly turn from it. Pray that God will guide us continually and protect us from the evil one. Lastly, pray that we would have kingdom priorities and we would work for God's glory.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Why Pray?

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Can prayer really make a difference? Can my prayers actually change things? Is it possible for the will of God to be thwarted because I don't pray?

These are legitimate questions and your answers reflect the very foundation of your relationship with the Lord. On one hand, if God is sovereign, He is going to do everything the way He wants, so why pray? On the other hand, if He is waiting on my prayers to execute His will, then I had better get serious about praying. How do His sovereignty and my prayers go together?

God uses prayer to make the impossible, possible and the ordinary, extraordinary. Prayers make our efforts effective and help us to discern God's will more clearly. C. H. Spurgeon said, "Whenever God determines to do a great work, He first sets His people to pray." Faithful praying allows us to see God in His full glory and makes us sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.

In 2 Kings 18, the King of Assyria had already invaded much of what we now consider the Middle East and had conquered the fortified cities of Judah. His army stood on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Hezekiah, King of Judah, knew he did not have the army or the resources to win against this mighty foe, so instead he prayed to God for deliverance. The Lord responded, "Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib, king of Assyria, I have heard *you*... For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake." That night the angel of the Lord struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. By the morning there was no one to fight against Jerusalem (2 Kings 19:32-35).

Around 60 years ago, an 18-year-old Haitian man and his mentor felt God calling them to evangelize in the small *vodou*-infested area known as Caïman. Every week they spoke with the people about God and how He was so much greater than following the lies of the witch doctor. Every week they held prayer services under an avocado tree. They did this for over 2 years, but there wasn't a single convert. The Bible promises that the prayers of righteous people are effective in God's timing. Fifty years later, a Christian university—a seemingly impossible feat in this rural, primitive community—was founded with that avocado tree in the middle of the campus. That 18-year-old young man, Lanyo Felix, is a board member of UCI. His prayers are powerful.

Prayer Focus: *Praise God that He hears our prayers. Praise Him for his power to act on our behalf. Thank God for hearing all the prayers that have been and will be lifted up on UCI's behalf. Pray that over the next 39 days, Healing for Haiti prayer warriors will be faithful to pray, trusting that God wants to do a mighty work among us. Pray that God's people at UCI will pray more than ever before and that everything we do as a mission will be labored over in prayer.*

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Don't Let The Fire Go Out!

A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. Isaiah 42:3

For every Olympics, a flame is lit from the eternal Olympic flame in Greece and carried to the site of the games. This flame made its way to Atlanta in 1996 for the opening ceremonies by traveling across the country in the hands of volunteers and heroes from all over the US. Harley Sheffield had the honor of carrying it on his bicycle. As he was crossing the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, his bike tire blew out, the torch popped out of its holder, fell onto the bridge, and broke into pieces. The Olympic flame was extinguished. Sheffield was horrified that he would go down in history as the man who allowed the flame to go out! His panic was unnecessary because a "mother flame" was present in a trailing van, along with a replacement torch. Thus he could resume his duty, and the Olympic flame traveled onward.

Sometimes our torch goes out too. We lose our passion for God and get distracted by the cares of this world. Sometimes the flames go out because tragedy strikes and we cannot understand how a good God can allow such a thing. So we distance ourselves from God.

The Lord says in Matthew 12:20, "A bruised reed He will not break and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out until He leads justice to victory. In his name nations will put their hope." God is both for you and compassionate toward you. He desires for you to know His goodness (Psalm 27:13). He longs for you to come to Him to rekindle your flame and renew your passion for Him.

Early in UCI's ministry, JeanJean was feeling overwhelmed. There was so much work to be done and there were no funds to do it. There were so many needs—what should he do? He and Dabou, an evangelist of UCI, went to Terre Glisse, a neighboring community that was started by an influential witch doctor. Presently, Nelson was the most influential witch doctor. JeanJean and Dabou went door-to-door talking to people about Jesus. Many told them that they were afraid to displease Nelson, so JeanJean and Dabou went directly to Nelson. They talked with him about God's love and mercy, but Nelson remained uninterested and even tried cursing them. Yet, God's messengers kept coming back. They left a Bible with Nelson and that night he dreamt of a Man telling him to open that book. Nelson tried to ignore this but couldn't sleep because of this recurring dream. He tried to drink himself into a stupor to drown out the voice, but couldn't get drunk no matter how much he drank. Finally, he opened the Bible to Galatians 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." This verse, to Nelson, was the call to give up his life of mocking God and to follow Him. The next day he went to JeanJean to tell him the good news. JeanJean, who felt bruised and his flame about to be extinguished, realized that God's flame will ever burn brightly!

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI will always be on fire for the Lord, passionate to build His Kingdom. Pray that those who feel like a "smoldering wick" would have a renewed trust in God and renewed zeal for God's work.*

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Blessings Beyond Measure

Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb. Genesis 30:22

Rachel was Jacob's dream wife. They were very much in love. Like most married couples, they desired to have a child. God listened to Rachel's prayer for a child, and in time He answered her prayer by giving them a son. Their dream became a reality named Joseph, who went on to influence the entire nation of Egypt and his family

Dreams have brought us athletic achievements, lifesaving medical breakthroughs, and soul-stirring revival movements. The United States of America is the result of a dream of real democratic government. Martin Luther King changed the course of the nation because he had a dream of racial equality. Our world can be changed because of the dreams God gives us.

These dreams are our vision, our hopes, our aspirations, and our desires to impact the rural Central Plateau going out to all parts of Haiti and beyond for Christ. This is our vision:

1. Teach the Word of God in all contexts. We have seen over and over how God's words will transform lives.
2. Equip National Leaders to take God's Word to all of Haiti. How can a poor, politically corrupt, socially unstable country change? Sustainable change will occur when people are equipped with education, training, and skills and have the Christian motivation to serve others with their God-given talents and gifts.
3. Unite Christians Around the World. John 17:22-23 tells us, "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

We believe that God wants to use all of us at UCI to have a powerful impact for Christ in our community. It will take each one of us, doing our part by God's grace, to make this a reality.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI's vision through Healing for Haiti will become a reality in God's perfect timing. Pray that all of us participating in Healing for Haiti will eagerly desire for this vision to come about. Ask God to reveal or clarify the role He has for you personally to make this vision come about.*

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Absurd Dreams

He said to them, ‘Listen to this dream I had.’ Genesis 37:6

In Genesis 6, God told Noah about his plans to destroy the world and save only Noah’s family, and representative animals on an ark that Noah was to build. This building project seemed absurd to Noah’s friends and neighbors, but wisdom was revealed when water began flooding the earth.

In Genesis 37, teenage Joseph was given preposterous dreams that indicated that his parents and older brothers would bow down to him. No one in his family believed the dream, and jealousy caused some of the brothers to sell him into slavery. However, more than 20 years later a severe famine caused Joseph’s brothers to travel to Egypt for grain and bow before him.

In Judges 7, Gideon follows God’s impossible plan to use 300 Israelite soldiers, armed with jars, trumpets, and torches, to defeat over 130,000 Midianites. This must have seemed ill-advised, but God’s power was displayed when the Midianite army self-destructed before Gideon’s eyes.

It may have seemed irrational to leave the U.S. with no money and two little girls to live in a remote and primitive area where people in *vodou* were worshipping Satan. But God said to go and to declare His name and He took care of the rest.

It may have seemed absurd to start feeding children in the community who were eating ashes when we didn’t even have money to last the month. But God told us to “feed my sheep”, and He took care of the rest. Through those nutrition centers, we have been able to keep families together and have a platform to share about God’s love.

It may have seemed impossible when the earthquake of 2010 brought thousands to our doorstep and we saw the need for Christian education. Our little school started with preschool - 1st grade and has grown through the grace of God to cover all grades with an enrollment of over 2000.

It may have seemed preposterous to start a university in a rural community that wasn’t even on the map. But God said to build it and He brought students from each corner of Haiti. This Christian university has one of the top medical programs in the country and produces doctors serving God all over the country of Haiti.

It may seem to be a little absurd to build a teaching hospital, but God is guiding the way. We need to listen to God’s voice! We need to be willing to do something radical if He asks us.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that we will be good stewards of the ministries that God has given us. Pray that those making decisions regarding UCI and the Teaching Hospital will hear God’s voice clearly and follow His lead. Pray that ultimately God would build His kingdom through Healing for Haiti and that professors, students, and families utilizing the surgical center would come to know Him. Pray that we would be willing to do God-ordained, radical things for His glory.*

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When Your Dream Seems Impossible

'Here comes that dreamer!' they said to each other. 'Come now, let's kill him ... Then we'll see what comes of his dreams.' **Genesis 37:19-20**

Joseph discovered that not everyone is happy about the dream God gives you. It may seem like your dream will never be fully realized. People will envy your dream, conspire against it, speak against it, and even attack your God-given dream. Joseph's brothers put him in a pit before selling him as a slave. Joseph must have wondered what in the world God was doing. Dreams from God often come to a place where it is impossible to accomplish in human ability alone.

The Teaching Hospital is an impossible dream that started many years ago. The university opened in 2012 and the medical program became the fastest growing degree. God sent students with the desire to address the health needs of their communities. They grew up seeing how desperately people suffered because of the lack of health care. For every 10,000 people in Haiti, there was only one healthcare worker—and that was not necessarily a doctor.

God provided quality professors and He opened the way for our med students to gain experiences in different hospitals. However, these clinical rotations are very difficult. The hospitals require us to pay to send our students there and the cost is more than what we charge for tuition. These hospitals are located far away, so our students spend hours traveling on poor-quality roads. It has become dangerous to send students to gang-controlled areas. The Ministry of Health approved our medical program and praised it, but stated that we need our own teaching hospital. The many barriers made the medical program seem to be futile.

Look at what God is doing with this impossible dream! The medical clinic provides care for the community. A local man came back to start a dental clinic. We began a nutrition clinic to address the increasing malnutrition occurring due to food shortages. The Ministry of Health raised our status to a health center. We built a laboratory to not only help our doctors but to bless other hospitals in need of good diagnostics. Now we are building 4 surgical suites.

The leaders of UCI have a dream that our ministries and our university medical program will be used for kingdom-building purposes. We know this dream cannot happen unless God steps in. Then God alone will get the glory when the dream is accomplished.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI friends and supporters will give of their resources to meet the needs of the Teaching Hospital. Pray we will be more like Christ and a light in our community, lavishly serving our community through our Teaching Hospital. Pray that God will move us to be generous now so that many generations in the future can build on what God provides through us.*

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Don't Stop Short

The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered. Genesis 39:2a

At a young age, God gave Joseph a dream that he would rule over his brothers and his brothers would bow down to him. His brothers hated this dream! Eventually, they threw him into a pit and then sold him into slavery. Joseph could have lived, filled with self-pity. But he chose another path. Joseph knew that the Lord was with him, and Joseph continued to act faithfully and responsibly. His master Potiphar soon put him in charge of his entire household. But a false claim by Potiphar's wife landed Joseph in jail. Instead of giving up, Joseph made himself useful in prison, knowing God was with him. God brought him success, and Joseph was put in charge of the entire prison. Years later, Joseph was called upon to interpret Pharaoh's disturbing dream. Joseph, giving full credit to God, interpreted the dream and showed great wisdom. Pharaoh made Joseph second in command in all of Egypt. Eventually, there was a severe famine in the land; his brothers came for grain, and they bowed to Joseph, just as Joseph had dreamed.

Joseph is a role model for all who need to persevere under difficult circumstances. Genesis 39 holds important lessons for all who have God-given dreams. Some lessons in this chapter can keep us from giving up on the dreams God gives us:

- Know that God is with us (verses 2, 21, & 23).
- Know that God is sovereign and nothing can thwart His plans.
- Know that God can prosper us and grant us favor amid difficult circumstances.

When the earthquake hit in 2010, it seemed as if God had turned His back on Haiti. Even though our area is 90 km from the quake, our community lost many loved ones, especially young people who had gone to the capital for schooling. When God put on the hearts of the Haitian board to start a university to train up leaders to help Haiti, it seemed impossible. How could we raise the money? How could we find good professors willing to come to our rural area? Would students even come to an untested school? God brought the money in through people willing to believe in this vision. God placed on the hearts of many people and churches that had been helped by UCI to give their time and effort to help with construction. God called many great Christian professors who believed that education could transform their country to drive hours on difficult roads to teach. And God prospered the university in ways we never could have imagined.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI will pursue our God-given dream to the fullest potential. Pray that the Lord will be with us and we will be fully dependent on Him to accomplish that dream. Pray that God will grant us favor and give us success as we move forward. Pray that through the achievement of this dream, many will become fully devoted Christ followers. Ask God to show you ways in which you have stopped short of His best for you. Ask Him to help you persevere through hard times, fully aware of His presence.*

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Can You Trust God?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

There are two ways people live their lives as they pass through this world: remembering God or forgetting Him. They acknowledge His presence and live their lives in dependence on Him, or they pay no attention to His claims on them and live a life based on their own understanding and abilities. The worst tragedy and cruelest deception is the man who says feebly with his lips, "I trust God," but an examination of his heart, his calendar, and bank account shows no difference between him and the man who does not even make that claim.

We have an opportunity today to ask ourselves, "Do I trust God?" The very nature of this question produces two possible meanings: First, "Can you 'trust' God?" That is, is He trustworthy? Can He handle the decisions and the problems in your life? Secondly, "can 'you' trust God?" That is, do you have the ability to trust Him?

Notice how in Proverbs the command to trust precedes the promise. Blessing comes after trust. The promise is conditional. Unlike many of the unconditional promises in the Bible, this promise of direction is given only to those who exercise trust in God.

When God asked us to go to Haiti without any funding and with 2 little girls to an area that was filled with *vodou*, we didn't know if our faith was strong enough. But, our faith is never strong enough—it is only by God's grace that we can leap out into the unknown. When we trust that God would provide the guidance and the means, then the results would be the proof that our God provides. Because we had to depend on God for every step, we are now able to say to the poorest widow and to the richest businessman that God is what we all need.

Prayer Focus: *Praise God for He is trustworthy! Pray that UCI's faith and trust in God will grow. Pray that we will allow God to be in control and that we will utterly depend on Him and desire that His will be done. Pray that the fruits of our deepened trust in Him will result in guidance from Him. Ask God to identify an area of your life where you need to yield to Him. Give it to Him and then look for His direction.*

A God You Can Trust

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

God wants His people to trust Him, for He is a trustworthy God! We were created to live our lives in dependence upon Him. Our knowledge is incomplete, our wisdom is inadequate, and our power is ineffective; thus, we need our Creator. Sin in its very essence is failing to trust God. These verses in Proverbs tell us how we are to trust Him.

We are to trust Him **entirely** (verse 5). God wants us to trust Him "with all of our heart." That means everything from our salvation to physical, mental, and social needs. That includes trusting Him with our families, marriages, jobs, relationships, finances, abilities, weaknesses, health, accomplishments, and failures. I think of our university students. Some from houses built of sticks and a dirt floor, many with a *vodou* background. More and more leaving the chaos of the South to try to find a life in a community that they never heard of before. Very few have the financial means to pay tuition but are trusting in God entirely.

We are to trust him **exclusively** (verse 5). God commands us not to depend on our own understanding. Why? Because our understanding is fundamentally flawed by the infection of sin. God is truly omniscient. He knows everything from beginning to end. He even knows your every thought and the inclinations of your heart. Many students of the university came to our doors with a desire to learn, but with no idea how it would be possible to afford tuition, dormitory, cafeteria, books, and the practicum. We hear stories after stories of students coming on faith alone. They believed that God wanted them to be trained to do His will in Haiti. We have seen how He provided for these students. It is not unusual for people to be ostracized from their families due to their new or strong faith in God. We see that in the US, but also in Haiti where one member of a family chooses to trust God completely, even in the face of anger and danger from their family who continue to be steeped in *vodou*.

We are to trust Him **uniformly** (verse 6). In all we do, in every decision we make, we are to trust His wisdom, not just with big things, but also with the little things. These students who came to UCCC on faith or who have followed the Lord even to the point of being misunderstood by their families have learned an invaluable lesson that will help them for the rest of their lives. God wants us to put our faith in Him. God wants us to taste and see that the Lord is good! (Ps. 34: 8) So follow His leading from His Word, prayer, and Godly counsel. He loves you deeply. He is on your side!

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI friends will know we serve a trustworthy God. Pray that we will trust Him with our families, marriages, jobs, relationships, finances, abilities, weaknesses, health, accomplishments, and failures. Ask Him to reveal to you areas of your life where you do not trust Him. Then ask Him to help you trust Him more in those areas. Pray that we will trust God to provide for every need for the teaching hospital through this Healing for Haiti campaign.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

The Privilege of Giving

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

In 2005, we returned to Jean Jean's hometown with our two young children to Caïman, Haiti to serve as missionaries. God had given us the dreams that were mentioned on Day 5 of this journal; we will go a little more in-depth here. We arrived with three months of support from Kristie's mother, but that was all we had. God had given us a clear vision for Jean Jean to train leaders and pastors in God's Word so that the gospel could spread in this impoverished region of Haiti. We quickly learned that many of the children were eating ashes and dirt cookies and were literally starving. Not able to ignore this great need, we used our limited money and bought food for these children. Soon after that, God led us to establish the first nutrition center where we provided three meals a week and taught the word of God.

God blessed this sacrifice with many people who understood the privilege of giving and partnering alongside UCI. Local people caught the vision and generously joined in the efforts. People in N. America found out what was happening and joyfully started sending funds. God continues to bless UCI with His generous hand. Not only has God provided for our family, but He has also given UCI the privilege to start several churches, train many pastors and leaders, build a Christian school and university, and rescue many from the horrors of *vodou*. There is now a thriving Christian population in this part of Haiti; they genuinely love the Lord and want to take the gospel to other parts of Haiti. Together we serve a big God who is able to do mighty works.

Please join us in praying how you can generously become part of the Healing for Haiti campaign. We invite you to experience the privilege of giving, just like the brothers and sisters in the churches in Macedonia.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that God will show us the pressing needs of our community. Pray that He will enable us to meet those needs through the generous giving of our time, treasure and talents. Pray that, ultimately, those acts of service and faith will lead many to know and understand the love of Jesus.*

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A Prayer For Direction

Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me. Psalm 119:133

There are at least two essentials to the Spirit-filled life: prayer and the Word of God. These are the two activities the disciples focused on after Jesus ascended to heaven and they began their own ministry (Acts 6:4).

Prayer finds its very foundation in Scripture. You cannot pray with purpose, conviction, or direction without the revelation of God that you find in the Bible. Therefore, to enjoy the blessings of a Spirit-filled life, you must spend time with God by reading the Bible and being a person of prayer. In Psalm 119, almost every verse refers to the importance of reading the Scriptures. Verse 133 is a prayer for direction. The Psalmist here pleads for guidance from the Word of God.

When UCI began in rural Haiti, the only ministry possible was to teach the Word. JeanJean had the privilege of being able to go to seminary in the U.S. He knew that there were many churches in Haiti being led by lay pastors who didn't have that advantage because seminary schools were few and far away. Many were unable to afford tuition and unable to take the time it took from working to feed their families. Yet, these shepherds felt God's call to lead people to know their Creator. Therefore, UCI started with 12 men who walked great distances to our home, sat on hand-made chairs on the dirt floor, and ate simple food made over the fire to learn more about the Bible and how to teach others. This hunger for the Word is what cemented the desire for UCI to stay in rural Haiti despite the many challenges. UCI still teaches the Word to lay pastors and now to theological students with the passion to help people seek guidance from the Holy Spirit to live their lives.

Have you ever considered that God desires to guide every step you take? He desires to guide not only the big steps in your life but even the mundane steps you take every day at home or your workplace. He will guide you to be more loving, patient, and kind with your family members. He will help you trust Him with the difficult circumstances of life. He will also guide you to the friend who needs encouragement, the neighbor who needs Jesus, and the co-worker who needs a witness of God's love. He will guide you through prayer and His Word.

Prayer Focus: *Thank God for His guidance of your steps. Ask Him to continue to guide you by making the Scripture you read come alive and personal to you. Thank God for guiding UCI through Scripture and prayer to make the new surgical center a place of impact for God's kingdom. Ask the Lord to continue to give the medical staff, administration, and UCI boards the wisdom and discernment needed to accomplish everything He has placed before us.*

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Honor God ... Like Abraham

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Genesis 14:20b

Chapter 14 of Genesis records for us a significant event in the pilgrimage of Abraham. Four kings united to defeat the five kings of the valley. The four kings took all the food and possessions and people of their foes as spoils of war. Lot, Abraham's nephew, is among those taken into captivity. When Abram learns of his nephew's plight, this godly man becomes a warrior and takes 318 of his men to pursue the four kings. Abraham and his men were victorious and returned home with Lot, all of the goods, and the people who were taken captive. Abraham returned as a conquering hero.

He was then faced with a significant choice. This choice was a spiritual battle, and it was a greater battle than the physical one he just fought. Would he become greedy with all these material possessions, or would he honor God by giving back to Him? When Abraham received a blessing from Melchizedek, priest of the God Most High, Abraham gave him a tenth of all as a way to honor God.

In this Bible passage, Melchizedek is a picture of Jesus Christ, our great high priest (Hebrews 4:14). Abraham, knowing that God was the one who gave him the victory and the spoils, gave back to God a tenth of what God had given him. When we also recognize that everything we have is a gracious gift from the Lord, we want to be like Abraham and give back. As we do, we put our faith in Him that He will provide what we need in the future.

This capital campaign invites both our Haitian and North American brothers and sisters to unite and participate in praying and giving. That is why we have decided to present this prayer journal in Kreyol and English. All of us need to give. It is not just a commandment, but it comes with great blessings. (Acts 20:35: Malachi 3:10-12: Proverbs 28:27: Luke 6:38) And when we give, God will show He will give us far more than we can imagine.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI is burdened with a desire to rescue the captives and set them free—those lost in vodou and those lost in worldly pursuits. Abraham first gave his time and his resources (318 men) when he went to rescue Lot. Pray that we would be willing to do the same. When God provided Abraham with material wealth, he eagerly gave a tenth back to God. Pray that we, too, would offer the first fruits of any financial resources that God provides. Pray that we will reach beyond ourselves to impact the world with God's love through our talents, time, and treasures. Ask God to reveal ways that we can grow in our giving. Pray about your personal giving and how you can become more generous.*

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A Serving Heart ... Like Rebekah

'Drink, my Lord,' she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. After she had given him a drink, she said, 'I'll draw water for your camels too ... '
Genesis 24:18-19

Chapter 24 of Genesis tells the story of Abraham's servant, who seeks out a bride for Isaac. This unnamed servant, when looking for a bride for the father's son, had one characteristic in mind that she must possess. It was not a natural beauty, even though Rebekah was naturally beautiful. It was not strength, even though she was strong. The servant was looking for a person who was willing to serve, for a giving person would bless the son, Isaac. When Rebekah gave him a drink and then offered to water his camels (which might take hours, by the way!), he knew that he had found the one for Isaac.

Rebekah was willing to give. She was going to the well to take care of her needs. But she is willing to meet others' needs at a cost to herself. Rebekah was willing to go beyond the ordinary.

Our example has gone far beyond Rachel's giving. Jesus our king came to earth, but instead of appearing as a conquering hero, He came as a suffering servant, giving everything for us, who considered Him our enemy. Now we have a new life in Jesus, and it is a life in which we share Christ's sufferings and comfort (2 Corinthians 1:5). In turn, we give our lives to serve others (2 Corinthians 1:6-7).

This is the vision for UCI. It is not that we replicate little UCI's campuses across Haiti. It is about equipping more leaders to live a life serving others. The deep-rooted problems of fear, superstition, and selfishness that grow when *vodou* is spread can be eradicated with Christ-centered service. This is also how the corruption of the government, the gang violence, and the great socio-economic divide can be addressed. We see this in our university students who have graduated and are going out to serve their communities with their education, skills, and passion for Christ. Each student, no matter what degree they are studying, attends Bible courses, goes to chapel, and participates in Bible studies and prayer services. Dr. Isaac has started a prison ministry. Pastor Luckson moved his family to the mountains to preach the good news in this *vodou* area. Luigens started a vocational agricultural school at the border between Haiti and the D.R. These students serving with their time and talents are fulfilling the long-term vision of UCI - teaching the Word of God all over Haiti.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI possesses a spirit of serving and giving above the ordinary. Ask God to bless us with a desire to meet all kinds of needs and a willing heart to serve others. Pray that God will show each of us ways we can be generous with our time, talents, and money.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Surely the Lord is in this Place

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it...and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth. Genesis 28:16,22

Today's passage finds Jacob running from the consequences of his actions and falling asleep at a place called Bethel. God revealed Himself to Jacob in a personal way and became his personal God. God often reveals Himself when we are at the end of ourselves. Jacob's scheming and trickery brought division in his family and fear of his brother's hatred. He ended up with nothing. It is often when we are at the end of our rope that God reveals Himself to us in a personal way.

When God revealed Himself to Jacob as the One who would be with Jacob forever, the One who would provide for his every need, and the One who would give him purpose and direction in life, Jacob was forever changed. When Jacob realized that God would take care of him, he immediately vowed to give God a tenth of everything that God gave to him. This personal encounter with God changed Jacob from a taker in life to a giver. Personal encounters with God result in changed lives and changed hearts.

One night in the early days of UCI, the *vodou* drums were especially loud. It was not the noise that kept us all awake; it was the feeling of oppression. This was not a new experience as the area God called us to was mostly populated by people worshipping in *vodou*. On this night, however, Jeanjean felt a strong push to go and share. Yet, *vodou* ceremonies are done in the middle of the night to hide the evil things that are happening. Participants get drunk to lower their natural inhibitions to do unnatural acts. They were calling on dark spirits and it is often dangerous. Despite knowing all this, Jeanjean needed to go. When he went he found that God was already there. The men were surprised to see the local man who went to the U.S. and returned as a pastor. They asked if he wanted to stop the ceremony. JeanJean only said that he wanted to share something that was on his heart. He shared John 3:16 and asked, 'What has *vodou* given you? Do you have the hope of a Father that loves you so much that He wants to give you the assurance of eternal life with Him?' Then he prepared to leave. Miraculously, everyone had sobered up in the 5-minute message and all packed up to go home as well.

The next day, the primary witch doctor came to our yard and asked, "You know what I have done in my life as a witch doctor. Could the God that you talked about last night want me?" A personal encounter with God resulted in this witch doctor seeking Him and wanting to serve Him.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that everyone at UCI and those touched by UCI will experience a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that we would trust God to meet our needs. Pray that we would earnestly desire to give back to God out of gratitude for what He has given us. If you don't know God in a personal way, pray and ask Him to make Himself known to you.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Live by God's Promises ... Like Jacob

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it ... and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth. Genesis 28:16,22

In Genesis 25 and 27 we see Jacob bribing his brother, Esau, out of his birthright and then scheming with his mother, Rebekah, to steal Isaac's blessing through lies and deceit. Because of Jacob's encounter with God shown in today's passage, he went from being characterized as a cheater and a taker, to being known as a giver. That was due to meeting the living God personally. Look at the God he met:

God of Promise (Genesis 28:12). God promised that He would be with Jacob and watch over him. God promised Jacob that he would return to that place and give Jacob the land. God promised Jacob the same promise that He made to Abraham; that all families on earth would be blessed through him and his descendants. God promises to be our protector and provider (1 John 5:18, Philippians 4:19). God promises that He has good works for us to do which He prepared in advance (Ephesians 2:10).

God is a Promise-Keeper (Genesis 28:13). God reveals Himself not with just a generic name for God, but the covenant name of Yahweh. God is a God who makes promises and keeps them. He does what He says He will do. God promised to be Jehovah Jireh, God who provides, and at UCI we have seen how He has provided for His people.

God is a Purpose-Giver (Genesis 28:13). Jacob had been stumbling around wandering until he heard the voice of God. While Jacob didn't know all the details of the plan, he was sure that God had a big plan for his life. Likewise, UCI didn't start with a grand plan in place. Instead, God revealed His will to transform the community of Caiman with the gospel and then use this tiny place as a stepping stone for many to be trained to do the same to the ends of Haiti and beyond.

Living God (Genesis 28:13). God does not identify Himself as "I was the God of your father Abraham." But rather He says, "I **am** the God of your father Abraham." God is in charge of the vision of UCI right now and specifically in this campaign. Let us watch what the Living God will do with this teaching hospital!

Prayer Focus: *Take time in prayer to praise and worship God. Meditate on His promises. Praise Him for the ways He has watched over you and cared for you. Praise Him for the ways He has watched over UCI and cared for the people of Haiti. Let us love Him back in a real and personal way today. Ask God to show you how to do this personally and how UCI can accomplish this. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you in a deeper way. If you feel like you are wandering, ask God to give you vision and purpose for your life.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

The Gift of Giving

But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents...Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”- Mark 12:42–44

God often asks His people to give sacrificially, often not knowing how things will work out.

When God called us to go back to Haiti, the call was so urgent that we left against the advice of many and before raising pledges. We didn't know what God wanted us to do in the community of Caïman. The girls were very young. We needed to homeschool. Our home didn't have a cement floor, furniture, electricity, or running water. There was no communication. It didn't make sense, yet God said, ‘Go!’ So we went with enough to stay for 3 months.

JeanJean started teaching lay pastors. Their hunger for the Word of God gave us our reason for coming to Haiti. We persevered, believing that we would have to return stateside to raise funds. Then we found kids in the neighborhood eating ashes. God said, ‘Feed my sheep, do I not love these children as much as I love your daughters? Did I not place you here for this reason?’ We started feeding 42 malnourished children out of our dwindling funds. In a few weeks, someone had donated enough money so we could stay another month. Then JeanJean had the midnight encounter at the *vodou* ceremony and many accepted Jesus as their Savior. We started discipling people under the palm leaf structure that we used when feeding the kids. Someone else in the U.S. heard about what we were doing and sacrificially sent funds.

The sacrifices that we have seen from others have motivated us to keep serving. We have seen widows limping their way to church to give a sacrifice of praise. Students who have found saving grace in Jesus at school have been kicked out of their homes, yet felt that Jesus was worth this price. Witch doctors gave up their livelihoods because the peace and love of God is greater than any material security. Our university professors risk unsafe conditions to drive to class at UCCC, because they do not count that cost as too much for the chance to transform Haiti's next generation. Over and over people have given or lived beyond their own means to follow Him

The Lord required great sacrifices during the development of UCI. We needed to lay down our desires, personal funds, comfort, and safety. Sacrifice is not a bad word. It is to give more than human sense would dictate so we can see how God abundantly blesses. None of us can outgive Jesus Christ. Sacrifice is joining in with our Lord's beautiful plan. We know that if God asks us to do something beyond our means, He will also provide a way for it to be accomplished.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that we will seek God and give what He puts on our hearts. Whether this is money, our time or talents, or a renewed commitment to trust God to bring order out of our chaotic lives. Pray that we won't miss out on one of the great gifts of giving - a stronger faith in our loving Lord.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

How Much Is Too Much?

While he [Jesus] was in Bethany..., a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume.... She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold...and the money given to the poor." "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "... She has done a beautiful thing to me. Mark 14:3-7

The story of the Bethany anointing is one of the few stories of Jesus' life that is told in all four of the gospels. So impressive was this event that it was indelibly written upon the disciples' hearts so that they never, ever forgot this act of devotion. Mark uses it as a prelude to the passion events to contrast the hatred and rejection that Jesus was receiving. This act of worship and devotion stood out as an act of love that the Lord deserved from all but was only given by a few.

May this deed be received as a call to worship for us today. May this deed make us ask ourselves the question, "How much is too much?" This woman's act set a standard of sacrifice, which none can better, but all can match. That alabaster bottle was very valuable. It was worth a year's wages. Plus, it was to be saved for the most important occasion of one's life. What is the most extravagant thing you have done for the Lord? What can we learn from this Scripture?

The first donor to this campaign is Mme. Edelle Jasmin Sainval. She is a lady who grew up near UCI and lives in Pignon. She and her pastor husband have a church and school in Pignon that they work tirelessly to support. She started to work as *Secrétaire général* which means she oversees every aspect of the day-to-day running of the university. She loves the students and is well-respected by them even though she is often strict with them. She requires the students to follow the Christian code of conduct and to invest in their education. Mme Edelle works with the students each day. She believes in them and what God can do through them for the country of Haiti. She has seen how difficult it is for the university to find hospitals willing to host our students for clinical rotations and how much they ask us to pay for this. She knows how many hours the students spend traveling to and from their clinical rotations and how much of a drain this is. She works with the Minister of Health as they push our medical program to have its own teaching hospital.

Mme Edelle believes so much in this teaching hospital that she donated 3 months of her salary to this campaign. Mme Edelle and her husband live simply. Their lives revolve around doing God's will in their community and I know they live sacrificially to meet the needs of others. How apt it is that the first extravagant donation comes from this godly couple.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that the people connected to UCI will love Jesus so much that they will be extravagant with their giving of their time, talents, and treasures. Ask the Lord to put on your heart specific ways you can love Jesus extravagantly.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Power to Save!

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God” Revelation 19:1

One of the greatest needs in the church today is power: not political power; not manipulative power; not fleshly power; but heaven-sent, Holy Spirit-anointed power. Paul tells us in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Paul also says in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

If the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, why are there not more people flooding in to follow Jesus? Romans 10:14-15 says, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” God doesn’t just send pastors, but all of us to share the good news with those who don’t know. When we go to share the good news, the power of God is with us to save those who believe.

Dabou had started a church in the mountains where no car or motorcycle could go. It took hours to reach. For a couple of years, the church was open to all who wanted to learn about God. But the *vodou* community was strong in the area and persecution of the people going to church caused many to stay away. Dabou’s health wouldn’t permit him to continue to make the arduous trek and we didn’t have anyone else willing. The church was slowly dying. Then Pastor Luckson and his wife felt God calling them to move to this remote area with their family. They felt the pressure from the *vodou* community, but they counter-attacked with the powerful Word of the Lord. Preaching from the Bible, Pastor Luckson taught people about God’s love and His provision. He talked of God’s light that overcomes the darkness. He taught there is no fear since greater is He that is within us! People started coming to the church. Witch doctors stopped believing the lies of Satan and left that hopeless life behind to follow Jesus. Several times, the church held a ‘burning celebration’ to burn the fetishes and objects used in *vodou*. People became a new creation letting the old pass away. The church expanded so we had to build an addition. A school was started in the church building as more and more believed that God was mightier than anything of this world. This revival reflected the power to save of our Risen Lord!

Prayer Focus: *Pray that the people of UCI will be sent to many to share the good news. Pray that God would be sending more and more people to UCI for that purpose. And pray that God would open doors for the gospel and that many would believe. Ask the Lord to send you to someone who needs to hear the good news. Pray that God will give you the eyes to see the opportunity and the love, wisdom, and boldness to speak. Then pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will be there as you share God’s gracious plan of salvation.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Power to Move Forward

Moses answered the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.’ Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.’ Exodus 14:13-14

Often, God's power is not revealed until we move beyond the realm of our possibilities. As long as we can do it in our own strength, there is no need for God to display His power. We must move beyond our abilities if a watching world will ever see the power of God. This feat is seen clearly in our text as the recently freed Hebrew slaves found themselves surrounded by impossibilities.

Before them was a sea that could not be crossed. Beside them was a barren wasteland. Behind them was an enemy that desired to kill them or capture them and take them back to where they had been. In this difficult situation, they had three options:

- They could go back.
- They could remain where they were with the enemy approaching.
- They could go forward.

In this situation, God fought for them, but they needed to move forward. As God’s children, we too need to move forward, trusting He will fight for us along the way. We need to be careful how we move forward, as there are roads that can only lead to defeat and death. Deviation from God’s word, isolation, cowardly compromise, and divisions among us are to be avoided. We need to move forward under God's direction and by His power. Before us, there is a bright and powerful future, a land that flows with milk and honey.

It would have been easy to stay in the U.S. believing God wanted us to raise our children in the comfort of the States. It would have seemed smarter to wait to go until we had support raised. Was it wise for JeanJean to go evangelize at midnight to a group of drunk men who were known to do evil acts? Was it courageous or foolish to start the university without a 5-year or even 1-year plan of action finalized? Is it faith or foolishness to proceed in a ministry or project without knowing how the end can be achieved? God wants us to depend on Him. He wants us to know, without fear, that it is only He who can make these ministries possible. Pray that God will reveal His will and his power will move us forward in the assurance that He will make a way!

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI will not hesitate to move forward with God. Pray that we will move forward under His direction and by His power. Is there an area of your life where you are hesitating to move forward? Ask God to give you the clarity, the courage, and the trust to follow His lead. If God is telling you to move forward and join Healing for Haiti, see the link below. Praise him for inviting you to move forward with Him.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Powerful Jesus

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched my clothes?’ Mark 5:30

In Mark, chapter 5, we have three important incidents in the life of the Lord Jesus. Within the context of these events, Jesus revealed Himself as the powerful Son of God. In the first event, Jesus revealed Himself as more powerful than demons. He went along with His disciples to the most demon-possessed man in all the country. When Jesus showed up, the demons immediately began to beg for mercy. With one word the demons left this man, never to return.

We also see Jesus revealed as more powerful than death in this passage. When Jairus' daughter fell ill, he sought Jesus out to come and heal her. Before they could arrive, the girl had died. Jesus, nevertheless, restored her life by the power of His word.

In the middle of these two great revelations, there is a rather small incident where Jesus showed Himself more powerful than disease. It falls almost as parentheses to the greater event of the raising of Jairus' daughter from the dead, but there are still some important truths about the touch of faith. Jesus didn't just heal her physically. He also brought healing to her soul when he took the time to minister to her heart.

When people came into contact with Jesus their lives were changed. He had the power to bring freedom, life, and healing. Jesus says in John 10:10, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Jesus is still bringing freedom, life, and healing to those who come into contact with Him.

In UCI's 20 years in Haiti, we have seen how powerful our risen Lord is. We have seen hardened witch doctors change completely once they decided to follow the King of kings and Lord of lords. We have seen those possessed by evil spirits be freed by the Name of Jesus. We have seen spiritual battles fought as Satan fought to hold on to people through vodou worship, but lost because the Son can not be defeated. We have seen many people who reach out to God when they are physically sick. When we are confronted with how weak we are physically, we can see clearly how much we need a Saviour. Price, a witch doctor of 45 years, rejected the prayers of his family until he went blind from glaucoma. He later said, “I couldn't see how much I needed saving when my eyes were whole, but once I became blind, that is when I truly could see.” We are excited to see how God uses the teaching hospital to bring physical healing as well as spiritual healing to those who come seeking help.

Prayer Focus: *Ask God to bring freedom, healing, and life to all who come into contact with Jesus through UCI. Wherever we are or if we are in a crisis, Jesus understands and sympathizes with our dilemma. He is powerful enough to help us. Pray that we would have faith like Jairus and the bleeding woman to approach Jesus and ask for help.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Rescue from Darkness

For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son He loves. Colossians 1:13

One of our problems today is that we trivialize sin, Satan, salvation, and the Savior. We have reduced sin to what we call minor complexes and simple problems. Satan is a myth, a joke, a cartoon character. In reality, he is the very real god of this world, the chief of an innumerable company of demons, the father of all unbelievers, and the ruling monarch of darkness. Satan is the thief who came to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10) and many still live under his oppressive rule.

Oxford Languages defines *vodou* as, “a religion practiced in parts of the Caribbean (especially Haiti) ... [with] elements of ... traditional African magical and religious rites, and characterized by sorcery and spirit possession.” “In Haiti, we see evidence of Satan working every day through fear and superstition. We talk to people who can not bathe for a month because of the command of evil spirits. People believe a piece of cactus, a stick, an old doll, or a bone from the cemetery can be used by the witch doctor to provide safety for a family if buried under the house or hung from the rafters. Of course, the witch doctor has to be paid often to renew the contract with the spirit. Zombification is a real process that uses the neurotoxin of the puffer fish to induce chemical changes in the brain and allows others to control that person. Zombies are not what Hollywood would portray them; it is a living murder and a tool of the Evil One. Satan wants people to believe that God does not care about our daily lives, but the spirits do. That is a lie.

Salvation has been reduced to a mere intellectual decision rather than a transformation of life. Our Savior has been trivialized to simply another religious leader. Jesus stands alone as the "only begotten of the Father." "He and the Father are one." He is the only way to heaven. We may trivialize these things, but in light of eternity, it is not a trivial pursuit. The very word salvation stands for all God the Father has done to rescue us from our fallen condition and Satan's rule. Salvation is not a mere decision, but a miraculous, supernatural deliverance. Colossians 1:13 tells us that when we are saved we are transferred from a dominion of darkness to the kingdom of the beloved Son. Jesus gave up his life for this. Never trivialize what it took to save you.

This transformation is the ‘new creation’ that God promises us in 2 Corinthians 5:17. Over and over again we see when the old things of a life lived without Christ have passed away—the lies of Satan, the fear, the superstition, the materialism, the self-absorption—then all things become new.

Prayer Focus: *Today is the halfway point in our 40 days of prayer. Take time to praise God that you have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and transferred into God's loving kingdom. Then pray for all the people who will walk through the doors of UCI's health center and surgical center who still live under the power of sin and Satan. Pray that God would rescue many of them and bring them into His kingdom. Pray that we at UCI would be willing to lay down our lives, our time, our talents, and our money so we can partner with God in this effort.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Power of Love

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

The best of us have wrecked our lives at times. We have made a mess. We have loved darkness rather than light. But the cross is God's statement to us that no matter how much we have wrecked our lives and disappointed Him, He says, "Remember, it is you I love."

JeanJean became fatherless at age 13 when his hardworking father died mysteriously at age 54. Unknown to the family at the time, his cousin Andre, consumed by jealousy and bitterness over a land dispute, turned to *vodou*. Believing he was justified, Andre conspired with witch doctors, who encouraged him to curse his uncle. He enlisted a neighbor to poison JeanJean's father by slipping a deadly substance into the herbal tea commonly used in Haiti. The otherwise healthy man died suddenly, leaving behind suspicions but no proof.

JeanJean's widowed mother, Mme Tobisco, refused help from witch doctors, who sought payment for their "services," and instead relied on sheer determination to care for her seven children. Though uneducated herself, she worked tirelessly to send her children to school. Mme Tobisco was known for her generosity, always helping neighbors in need. Ironically, she even fed the neighbor who had helped Andre poison her husband. Years later, as he lay dying, this neighbor confessed his crime to her, revealing the truth. Though the family now knew who was responsible, they had no recourse for justice and shunned Andre whenever they saw him.

Years passed until Dabou, an evangelist and prophet, shared recurring dreams with JeanJean. He told JeanJean that God was calling him to share the gospel with Andre. JeanJean was appalled and resisted, likening himself to Jonah, and said, "No way!". Then Dabou had a vision that Andre would soon end up in prison. JeanJean dismissed it, convinced Andre deserved the punishment. Not long after, a police officer in Pignon called saying there was a man in custody who had specifically asked to speak with a pastor. While there were many pastors in the area, the officer reached out to JeanJean. When the officer said the man was Andre, JeanJean felt as if lightning had struck him. This was unmistakably God's call to extend grace.

When Andre saw JeanJean, he was visibly shocked. "Do you know what I did? Do you know I killed your father?" JeanJean replied that what mattered now was Andre's opportunity to turn his life around by accepting Christ. Humbled and broken, Andre repented and embraced the gospel.

Andre had wrecked his life, but was given a chance to hear God's message: **"Remember, it is you that I love."**

Prayer Focus: *Spend time in prayer adoring God for His love, even when we have wrecked our lives. Pray that as we move forward as a mission, we will always cultivate a loving relationship with God and each other. Ask the Lord who you can reach out to today, to express His love. Ask Him to help you love the people He puts in your path today.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ Matthew 25:21

In 1759 William Wilberforce was born into a prosperous merchant family in England. Wilberforce’s family, being a part of the social elite, despised the evangelicals or “Methodists” in England who were passionate for God. William journeyed through the early part of his life living a life of ease, going to parties and playing cards. He had a good mind and a quick wit and became a member of Parliament when he was 21. Five years later, he had a life-changing encounter with Jesus and became a Christian. He was struck with horror by his flaws and vices and felt great sorrow his ambivalence toward the African slave trade., but Wilberforce knew God didn’t mean to end there. If he dared face the worst things about himself, God would help him overcome his faults and do great things, the very things for which He had created him.

God had given Wilberforce three great gifts. Wilberforce was a captivating speaker. He had a seat in the British Parliament. He also had a passion to end the slave trade and bring about justice for the oppressed. Despite persecution, hardship, and failing health, Wilberforce spent the next twenty years of his life powerfully advocating for the end of the slave trade. Finally, in 1807, in an historical vote, the British decided to end the slave trade. In 1833, three days before Wilberforce’s death, they agreed to abolish slavery throughout most of the British Empire.

In Matthew 25 we learn that God gives all of his children talents, as he gave to Wilberforce. He expects His children to invest those talents for His purposes.

The corruption of the government, lack of elected officials, use of gangs to lobby for power, the prevalence of uncontrolled gang violence, the under-resourced police force, natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes, food shortages due to closed borders, and the erosion and deforestation of the land are some of the overwhelming obstacles that confront Haiti today. What can be done? How can there ever be a stable Haiti? God’s ways are the best ways. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us how to transform a society—even one that is struggling as much as Haiti. “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” Do you see it? If a new generation is trained and educated, and they use their gifts and talents to find ways to serve their neighbors, then the country will improve. It takes a ‘love thy neighbor as thyself’ mentality to change a country riddled with corruption to become a nation that stands secure.

What talents, gifts, and passions has God given you? How are you using them to serve God and others?

Prayer Focus: *Pray that we, like Wilberforce, will know that we serve a God who can help us overcome our faults and weaknesses to do great things. Ask God to show you the gifts and resources He has given you to invest in His kingdom. Pray that God will help you to give and serve wherever God calls. In the end, may we all hear, “Well done good and faithful servant!”*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

All Power

Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:18

At the time of Jesus, the Roman Empire had tremendous influence. The borders of the empire were larger than ever before. Their system of governance was in full operation.

If it were possible for the leader of this great empire, Tiberius Caesar, to have looked from his palace in Rome all the way to a distant remote mountain somewhere in Galilee where eleven men were gathered around their leader, and if he were able to hear what this leader was saying to these eleven men, there is little doubt that he would have laughed out loud. The leader said to His disciples, "I have been given complete authority...."

However, if Caesar could have seen about 350 years into the future, he would have been aghast to see a distant successor naming Christianity as the official state religion. It took less than 400 years for Christianity to spread across the great Roman Empire. It is significant to see how such a modest group of eleven impacted the entire known world in such a short time.

How were they able to achieve this feat? It was through God-given power, through the Holy Spirit. This same Holy Spirit who empowered simple men and women to spread the gospel across the Mediterranean world, dwells in us.

At the university, there is a strong emphasis on going out and teaching others about Jesus through their various disciplines. The theological students are returning to home churches that sent them to college or to planting churches in *vodou*-infested areas, and making disciples. The agronomy students are planting gardens and teaching how God commands us to work with our hands so we may eat. Nursing students are caring for their patients as God washed the feet of His disciples to show that it is love that will cause the world to know we are Christians. Teachers are training students in Christian education to produce leaders who have a heart to help others. Doctors are starting prison ministries and clinics in the mountains and delivering babies in the streets so that people will know there is a God who provides for them. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven," Matthew 5:16.

Our light can shine and show others the power of God.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI will impact the world for Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that God's kingdom will expand as the Spirit gives us the boldness to witness Christ's work in our lives. Pray that many who walk through the doors of UCI's health center and surgical center will know the love of Jesus and receive the gift of His salvation. Ask God to send you to someone who needs to hear the good news. Pray that you would have the courage to be obedient, the grace to know what to say, and the love of Jesus to minister to that person.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Unity that Brings God Glory

**How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head... For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.
Psalm 133**

The history of Israel in the land God provided for them was not a peaceful one. Opponents swept through periodically, defeating Israel and requiring tribute payments or worse. Even when there was no trouble from outside Israel, there was often trouble inside Israel, with tribes, factions, or individuals fighting with one another. Unity, when it was possible, was truly a blessing.

The days of unity for Israel under David, and later under his son Solomon, were without question the most glorious days of Israel's history. Even those days turned sour, with civil war during David's reign, and the beginnings of the dissolution of the nation during Solomon's. Israel will know no greater glory until Jesus returns to earth and rules from His throne in Jerusalem.

There is a message in these verses for the church. For as the people of God united under one king in the Old Testament, so the people of God must unite today under the King of Kings. We will experience the glory of His victory over His enemies, and His rule over the earth.

The name 'United Christians International' was given to us before we returned to Haiti. One thing was clear - unity in Christ is what was needed if Haiti would ever change. Unity needed to be at all levels. That is why we placed a high emphasis on having both Haitian and American boards that would work together. The boards are different in roles, in their personalities, in how they run things and in how they accomplish their goals and that is OK. Both are committed to serving the Lord, to praying and supporting each other, and to meeting together to discern God's will for the ministries that He has set before us. Though different, the boards love and respect each other. Though separated physically from each other most of the time, they are united in their purpose. It is a beautiful thing when the body of Christ works together.

Each of us has different dreams and purposes. Only an all-wise, all-powerful Father could unite us in the kingdom of his Son through the power of the Holy Spirit. But this is what He promises: to cause unity among us, which will testify to God's power and plan (John 17:22-23).

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI will experience and demonstrate true unity of purpose. Pray that we will be one so that the world will be won. Ask God how you can help UCI be unified. Ask God to show you any areas of bitterness, resentment, or unforgiveness, especially in your church. Take time to repent and ask God to help you to forgive and pursue peace and unity.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

The Unity that Brings Blessing

Therefore I ... implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6

The old television show M*A*S*H was loosely based on a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital unit in the Korean War. The cast was composed of some very different personalities who were always playing jokes on one another and arguing over different political views. But there was always one thing that brought these characters together. When they heard the sound of the helicopters bringing in wounded, they united to get their work done, saving lives in the operating room.

In our day of hurting and wounded people, we cannot be people who argue over things that will not matter in the light of eternity. We must bring our differences together and allow the Lord to merge them in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

UCI's founding vision is the Ephesians passage above. The Bible teaches that the unity and love of the body of Christ will make people come to know Jesus as Lord. Wilner Fleurival came to our youth camp in 2012. He was from Laguamithe, a small community in the mountains. During a camp challenge, Wilner recited Isaiah 41 in Kreyol, French, and English. While giving him the prize, we asked him about his life. Wilner had graduated high school several years earlier but was unable to afford college. He lived with his mom and siblings in a small house with a dirt floor. We asked him to come to our university. We didn't have a scholarship for him, but we believed God would provide a way.

Wilner worked hard in school and did well. He heard the story of how Jeanjean had felt God calling him back to his hometown. He talked many times about his desire to help his community. In the 8 years of medical school, he never lost sight of this goal. He went home on breaks and did what he could to help. He worked towards unity with leaders in planning how to improve the schools, the sanitation, the water supply, and what was needed for better health care. He had no money when he started medical school and that didn't change when he graduated, yet he felt God telling him to start a clinic. With the unity of the Spirit and the support of his community, several classmates, and friends, he started construction. What was impossible for him alone, was possible through the unity of body working together.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that, throughout the Healing for Haiti Campaign and beyond, we will experience genuine harmony resulting from the Holy Spirit's presence among us. Pray that we would be able to set aside our differences so that we can reach a lost and hurting world for Christ. Ask God to show you specific ways that you, together with other believers, can contribute toward this unity at UCI and reach out to the lost and hurting.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

From Defeat to Victory

**I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.
Joshua 1:3**

After 400 years of slavery and 40 years of wandering through the desert, the first chapter of Joshua tells the story of God's people who escaped that cycle of defeat and moved into a new day of victory. God brought them into the "land of milk and honey" where God promised them victory over the land and people.

Many of God's people have a discouraging track record, too. We have failures and defeats. The enemy of our soul comes to us after repeated defeats and whispers in our ears, "You're a failure," or "You are trapped forever where you are." But God sees our potential, makes us adequate for service, and promises to lead us into victory.

In 2010 a major earthquake struck Haiti and it is estimated that 300,000 people lost their lives. The damage to the many poorly constructed buildings was astronomical. As the capital of Haiti was at the epicenter and contained the majority of the universities of the country, many students lost their lives and many centers of higher learning were destroyed. Many students came to our university with stories of being trapped in the rubble, of not knowing if they could escape or survive. When they did escape with their lives, they had nowhere to go. Their homes were gone, their school destroyed, their lives in limbo. Many were asking, "What next?" Many believed their lives and dreams had been defeated.

These students were able to come to UCCC and start over. Many were traumatized, but moving forward to the best of their abilities. God had saved them for a reason. In 2021, another earthquake struck the South of Haiti. The southern peninsula was cut off by damage and gangs that were targeting relief workers. The only way in was by air. We issued a call to our graduated doctors. Immediately we got an overwhelming response and had to choose 10 doctors to fly in the MAF plane. Those 10 young doctors - men and women- worked tirelessly for weeks to give health care and coordinate the supplies that we sent in. They hiked into the areas where no car could travel. They evaluated the needs and told us what we needed to send. They carried boxes of supplies by themselves to people in need. They slept on cement floors and ate sparingly. And they told hopeless people about the Hope we have in Christ—God had not forsaken them! Most of the 10 that went had their own stories of earthquake tragedies but they knew God was victorious and had saved them for such a time as this. They were God's chosen first responders—brought out of the rubble and defeat to help others see victory with Jesus.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI, like Joshua and the Israelites, will not give up when we experience setbacks and defeats. Pray that UCI, like our young doctors, will have the courage to pursue our God-given vision for its ministry and for the health center. Pray Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Are You Dangerous?

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Jesus Christ our Savior has called us out of sin and bondage to a life full of promise. We follow Him as our king and leader and along the way, God will stretch us and put us at odds with the world. He will take us out of our comfort zone and enlarge our vision for the future.

If we are honest with ourselves, we may find comfort in being utterly ordinary and commonplace. Through salvation, we profess to know a power the world cannot reckon with, yet we may be content to be sideliners. Jim Elliot, the great missionary who gave his life trying to reach the Auca Indians recognized this. "The world cannot hate us, we are too much like its own. Oh that God would make us dangerous!"

How do we become dangerous? Joshua 1:9 gives guidance: 1) to choose to be strong in the Lord, 2) to choose to be courageous because God is with you, and 3) to choose to not give in to fear or discouragement, but to be obedient.

Dabou grew up in vodou. He was taken to vodou ceremonies at a young age to help his witch doctor uncle. He grew up cursing people that got in his way. He was known for putting *pwa grate* that gave a horrendous, painful rash on people and much worse things. He didn't go to school because his family was poor and wanted him to become a witch doctor.

Then God called him through a dream. God brought him out of that dark life and into the light of His presence. Dabou was a changed man. But, Dabou was an ordinary man. He couldn't read or write. His occupation was growing food for his family in any spare corner he could find. God told Dabou that He would use his life for His glory. Dabou started evangelizing in the streets, through towns and marketplaces, in gardens, in the mountains, telling people about the God of the universe, despite discouragement from others. Dabou felt weak because he couldn't read the Bible. He asked God to help him and in his dreams, a messenger came and took him through his Bible from Genesis to Revelation. To this day, Dabou can read the Bible and only his Bible. He started a church in the mountains. He courageously helped many former witch doctors find their way to God. He became UCI's first national missionary. He took over the Terre Glissee church in a *vodou* community. He was obedient and God "made him dangerous" by giving him strength and courage to defeat the fears and discouragements of this world. Dabou is a man used by God.

Read Joshua 1. Think about how these commands compare to what the Lord is calling **you** to do.

Prayer Focus: *Pray 2 Chronicles 15:7 for yourself and for UCI, "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." Ask the Lord to embolden us with strength, courage, and submission to Him to follow the path He has placed before us. Pray these traits for yourself as well.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

We Have Never Seen Anything Like This!

He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!' Mark 2:12

Sailors have often recorded that amid a coming storm, the top of their ship's mast would be circled with a mysterious circle of light. Many times their hair would begin to stand straight out from their heads as this light appeared. They called it St. Elmo's Fire. Any experienced sailor knew it was then time to take cover because the air was so electrically charged that a lightning strike was imminent.

The air must have been so charged in Capernaum at the time this Scripture passage took place. There was a crowd, curious about the ministry of Jesus. Scribes surely were scowling as they watched this new Rabbi closely, hoping that they could catch Him in an error. The room was charged with excitement. Everyone knew that something dramatic was about to take place. It was not St. Elmo's Fire; it was the King of King's Fire.

When Jesus was present, amazing things happened. Sure enough, excitement mounted as four men began to tear up the roof to let a friend down in the presence of Jesus to be healed. They "took off the roof," because they were so sure that Jesus could help them. Jesus not only healed this paralytic so he could walk, but He also forgave this man for all of his sins.

We all know people who need the life-giving power of Jesus. Do we have the faith, like those four friends, to bring our friends to Jesus? For some of us that may mean we pray for them. For others, we may invite them to church. To another, we may share our testimony. To others, we may just express the kindness of our Lord through acts of service. We ought to be willing to "take off the roof," so that people could experience Jesus. And when we do, may people say, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

We desire the surgical center to be a place where people can bring their loved ones who are sick and hurting to find healing—physical as well as spiritual healing. We pray that God shows us how He wants us to "peel back the roof" to bring healing to Haiti. May our teaching hospital be a place where people find the Lord. Would you join in with us to be part of this? Will you prayerfully and financially partner with us so we can say together, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI will be filled with people of faith like these four roof removers, for they did everything possible to bring their friend to Jesus. Ask the Lord to make you like one of these four.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Can Jesus Do A Mighty Work Here?

**He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.
Mark 6:5**

What a sad picture! Jesus came to his hometown but could do no mighty work because of their lack of faith. It was not a good first year of ministry for Jesus as far as His reputation among the hometown people of Nazareth was concerned. He experienced a tremendous amount of rejection. Nazareth was where the Scriptures say, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). It started out well enough when He took the pulpit on a Sabbath and read from the prophet Isaiah, the 61st chapter. This event (recorded in Luke 4:16-30), tells how they "were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips" (verse 22). But when He implied that few miracles could be done there, they became enraged (verse 28). They ran Him completely out of town to a cliff where they wanted to kill Him by casting Him off the edge. "But He walked right through the crowd and went on His way" (verse 30).

What a sad statement on the people who ought to have known him best. Instead, their familiarity with him – at least, what they thought they knew of him – bred contempt, and Jesus departed.

Are you willing to live by faith and ask Him to do in us what we cannot do for ourselves? He is ready, willing, and able to perform powerful works through us. But we do need to turn to our King and Lord and be willing vessels for His work.

You may see the theme here of problems and projects at UCI seeming impossible, only to have God deliver exactly what and who was needed at that moment:

- when we left the safety of the U.S. to live in a community full of people practicing *vodou*
- when God told us to feed His children when we had only enough money to feed our family
- when God said to go preach to a bunch of drunk and dangerous witch doctors at midnight
- when God tasked us with the overwhelming job of helping the thousands of people who escaped the earthquake to try to find refuge in our area
- when God said to build a church, start a school, a university, a medical program, to feed tens of thousands affected by the food shortages, to find places of safety for the masses leaving Port-au-Prince amid the violence
- when God said to build the teaching hospital so we can provide Healing for Haiti

In every single case above and many others not written, God was the One working. We were weak and foolish to prove that God is Almighty and His plan is perfect.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that our unbelief will not hinder God's work for UCI. Pray that God would make us a mission of strong faith so He can do mighty works among us. Pray that we, like the church at Thessalonica, would be remembered for our work produced by faith, our labor prompted by love, and our endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Ask God to show you if there is an area of unbelief in your life.*

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An End Time Church

The end of all things is near. Therefore, be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 1 Peter 4:7

The apostles and many in the first-century church believed that the end was near. They had bet it all on Jesus and believed they had a winner. But they were being severely persecuted for placing their faith in Him. They must have wondered if being taunted and persecuted by unbelievers every day was worth it. Since they knew the difference that Jesus had made in their lives, they answered yes, it was worth it. This affirmative answer still demands another question, however: "How do we live knowing that the end of all things is near?"

Not everyone wants to be a part of a church that acknowledges that the end will come. Many are content to be in a safe ministry that provides comfort for the comfortable and disturbs no one. Many would love, in these last days, to sit at the feet of those preachers who will tickle their ears with "sweet Jesus" sermons that tell them all is well with their sin-filled lives. But since we don't know if the end is tomorrow or 10,000 years from now, we ought to live like the early church. We ought to be a church that prays relentlessly, gives tremendously, witnesses powerfully, and worships constantly.

Our university is Christian in name **and** action. Chapel and Bible courses are required. Professors need to teach a Biblical worldview in their classes. Bible study, prayer services, and devotions are all offered. However, we do not refuse enrollment of a student if they don't profess to be a follower of Jesus. We hope that the university will be a witness to its students and many will find the Lord through their time at UCCC. We teach and live knowing there is an end-time for this world.

Many have given their lives to God and often we hear of the students going home and being ostracized. We have heard parents say this a lot, "We sent you to get an education, not to become a Christian!" Students from families in *vodou* can be kicked out of their homes. Students from atheist or nominal households are ridiculed. This is difficult and heart-breaking, but over and over the students say it is worth it. Many times, through their prayers and love they have even led their families into saving grace. Living through hardship, knowing they are making an eternal difference is worth it.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI be an organization that prays constantly, gives sacrificially, witnesses boldly, and worships always. Pray that God would sustain us and that we will joyfully endure remembering that our eternity is with Christ.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

God's Great Relocation Project

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.' Numbers 13:30

God is in the moving business. He is often in the process of moving His people. Although we may be content where we are, God loves us enough not to leave us there. Sometimes we can get a little stubborn about changes that He has in mind for us.

This happened to the children of Israel as they were moving from Egypt to the Promised Land. God sent miracle after miracle to rescue them and bring them to the new land. But when the Hebrew spies saw the "giants" there, they were afraid to go on in and possess the land that He intended for them. In fact, they said in Numbers 14:3, "...Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" It seems God could take His people out of Egypt, but His people couldn't leave Egypt behind. Pray that we are not held back by the same attitude!

To be honest, the university often seems too challenging to continue. We are in a small rural community that is difficult to get to. There is a knowledge vacuum in Haiti as the majority of people obtaining post-secondary education leave the country. This makes it difficult to find quality professors. Even though tuition is less than \$2,000/year, many students are unable to pay this, yet these are the students we want to help. The political insecurity makes it difficult to get the accreditation that we need each year. The violence in the country makes it risky to travel. Yet, for all these obstacles, God provides a way to go forward. He meets each challenge in ways that prove He is with us. God, in His love and grace, helps us not to turn back.

The old song says, "I have decided to follow Jesus - No turning back, no turning back." Paul says in Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." God has begun a spiritual project for His people. May we not be afraid to move forward under His care. May we be wise enough to realize that God began this great project, and He will continue this work until it is completed.

Prayer Focus: *Thank the Lord that He loves us enough to not leave us where we are. Pray that we would not be afraid of the giants in the land or the difficult obstacles that may be put in our path. Pray that we will move forward with confidence that God will provide all we need to do His work. Also, thank Him for the privilege of being a part of this church body of believers during this exciting time in our history. Thank the Lord for the impact it will make on His people in the future.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

You Make the Call

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Baseball umpire Durwood Merrill tells of his rookie year of umpiring in the major leagues of baseball. It was the first time he had called balls and strikes with the famous pitcher, Nolan Ryan. The second pitch of the game was so fast, that Merrill never saw it. He froze, unable to make the call. Finally, he yelled somewhat tentatively, "Strike!" The batter backed out of the box and said, "Ump, don't feel so bad, I didn't see it either!"

In our world, we have to make vital calls and daily decisions about important things, unsure if we are making the right ones. There has never been a time when we have needed a standard more in our lives than we do today. We need a fixed point, a true north, an unchanging standard on which we can base our decisions. God has communicated that standard to us in Scripture.

Some say the Bible is irrelevant and outdated. Believers know that "the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

Adelson was a 13 y/o boy who could pass for 7 due to malnutrition stunting his growth. His family was steeped in *vodou* and he grew up in that lifestyle. He was a lost little boy. Every Christmas UCI celebrates with a big 4-hour program that is packed with people from the church and the community. Over 200 kids prepare and perform and over a thousand are in the audience.

Adelson wasn't part of any church and just came because so many others were going. He thought it would be funny if he sat among all the kids with sugarcane alcohol he brought from home. Quickly, I had little kids tugging at my dress telling me that Adelson was giving alcohol to kids during the program. Since I had 200 kids to oversee, I made a quick decision and directed Adelson to sit next to Pastor JeanJean in the very front row. For 4 hours, with JeanJean's big hand on his knee, Adelson watched how the story of Christmas unfolded.

Those ancient words from Scripture took a grip on Adelson's life. He decided to attend our church by himself. He arrived early for 7 AM Sunday school, memorized the most Bible verses in AWANA club, and won the prize for Bible trivia contests at camp. He attended every youth group and choir practice. His life changed so much that his sisters begged him to take them to church. This was followed by other family members coming, as well. Adelson's decision for Christ and commitment to scripture has guided and transformed his life.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that those at UCI will read and study the Bible daily and that God's word will be living and active in our lives daily. Pray that His word will be the standard governing our decisions and helps us to determine the right call, day by day and moment by moment.*

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May Nothing Hinder Us

And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" Nehemiah 6:3

The Jews had returned from captivity! They were going to restore the walls of their beloved Jerusalem. Yet in chapter 6 of Nehemiah, enemies from all around and even from within tried to stop him from completing the dream that God placed on his heart. With all the opposition and the struggles, Nehemiah could have been tempted to ‘come down’ and leave this difficult task to someone else. But Nehemiah stayed focused. He completed his God-given dream in record time, to the praise of His glory. He is a role model for us today.

One of the advantages of coming to Haiti without funding is that we had a mindset from the beginning that the work couldn't depend on us. We thought that since God hadn't supplied us with pledges, that meant that He didn't mean for us to stay in Haiti. Our human understanding was that we would have to return to the U.S., get jobs, and support the ministry in Haiti in this way. That wasn't God's plan, but it did teach us a good lesson. The work needs to be sustainable. The mission can not be based on 1-2 people. God is the head of the church and gives diverse gifts and talents to the body so that it can grow, support, and nurture each other.

From day 1, we thought about who God was bringing to UCI and who could manage each ministry that God provided. If there were no funds and no one to lead, then we knew that it was not part of God's plan or His timing and we had peace to not pursue it. We stayed focused on where God was providing resources. The church has several leaders to shepherd the congregation, the school has principals and a superintendent, the university has an administration department, and the hospital has a director and many people to make sure that it will continue. Through all these ministries, we saw that it was only sustainable if God's Word was the foundation. It didn't matter if the project was agriculture, church, education, or community development, the project wouldn't succeed if it was built on the sand of human effort instead of on the Rock.

The teaching hospital is no exception. The focus is on where God is moving at UCI. The clinic staff have always started their days with Lanyo praying for their work. When his health declined, this time of prayer was taken over by the staff. We will be adding a chapel and chaplain to the teaching hospital with this campaign. We envision theological students being able to minister to spiritual burdens as the medical personnel minister to physical needs. The work will continue on when God is the focus of UCI and the work is for His glory.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that God will enable us to complete this vision that He gave us for the Health Center in such a way as to bring Him glory and expand His kingdom. Pray that He will thwart any enemies who try to hinder our efforts or prevent our progress. Ask the Lord how you can take ownership of this vision using the time, talents, and treasures that He has given you.*

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Not by Human Effort

Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Galatians 3:3

Our American culture encourages us to succeed through human effort, by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We see ourselves as independent, self-sufficient, and creators of our own destiny. We might begin something because of the promptings of the Holy Spirit but then try to complete the task by our own efforts. Somewhere in the middle, we take our eyes off God and stop depending on the only one who can bring about eternal results.

Our church at UCI began with small, humble steps, unplanned by us. JeanJean, an ordained pastor, returned from seminary intending to disciple lay pastors and support their ministries, however God had a bigger plan. Time and again, He brought people trapped in *vodou* into our lives—witch doctors, families without hope, and lost individuals who desperately needed to hear the message of salvation.

One day, we noticed local boys playing soccer on a bare patch of ground, using rocks as goalposts and a green orange as their ball. Their songs glorified *vodou*, revealing a new mission field. Led by the Holy Spirit, we invited them to join us before their games on Sunday afternoons to hear stories about God and how He was different from what they had learned. The boys listened, and soon others came—spectators, neighbors, and families drawn by curiosity and hope. All of this was led by the power of God.

We started in the palm-covered nutrition center where malnourished children were fed during the week, telling people to come as they were, no special clothes or literacy required. As God grew our attendance, we built a thatched gazebo with half walls for people to gather. Even that became too small, and we eventually constructed an open-air church to welcome everyone who wanted to hear about Jesus.

The message we shared was simple but powerful: God is worthy of all praise, deserves our complete devotion, and offers salvation to everyone. Not by human effort, but through the power of the Holy Spirit alone, the “Worship Center of Caiman” was born, a light in the darkness, proclaiming Christ’s love to all who seek Him.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that we will continue to live our Christian lives in the Spirit and not by our own human effort. Ask the God of grace to help you deepen your relationship with Him by filling you daily with His Holy Spirit. Pray that all of our decisions both now and in the future will be Spirit-led.*

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A Contribution or A Sacrifice?

...in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

A Pig and a Chicken are walking down the road. Chicken says, “Hey Pig, I have a great idea! We could open a restaurant!” Pig replies, “That would be different. What would we call it?” Chicken responds, “How about 'Ham-N-Eggs?’” Pig paused only for a moment before replying, “No thanks. I'd be completely committed, but you'd only be involved!”

In Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, he guides our response to the fact that God, in His mercy, has purchased our salvation and saved us from the wages of sin through Jesus Christ. In view of this mercy, Paul instructs us to lay everything on the altar for God in complete surrender.

There's nothing wrong with being involved like the chicken, but in God's kingdom, we are meant to be fully committed, like the pig.

Jemima, a UCCC student, loves the Lord. This busy medical student faithfully teaches Sunday school and helps with AWANA club, widows group, youth, and other activities at our church. When we needed people to help us identify malnourished children, we thought of Jemima. Haiti's food shortages were taking a toll on people and UCI's 9 nutrition centers were unable to keep up. We began giving out peanut butter as protein at our schools. We started a nutrition clinic to target moms and babies that were suffering. Jemima is one of the volunteers who helps the doctor evaluate the children, take height and weight measurements, package up the peanut butter or formula, and give vitamins. The number of patients at our nutrition clinic grew quickly as word spread about this program. Jemima is completely committed!

Jemima took it even further. Over and over, Jemima has ministered to hurting people from the community. She even stopped the bus taking our students to clinical rotations to help someone in need on the side of the road. Recently she helped a little boy who was blind due to malnutrition. We were able to get him the food that he needed. We were pleased to see his development progress, but we thought his blindness was a tragic loss. Jemima consulted physicians during her clinical rotations. She brought this little boy in for consultations with experts. Because of Jemima's commitment, this little boy is being treated to regain his sight in at least one of his eyes. Jemima shows how we can present our lives as living sacrifices to the Lord and then experience His good, pleasing, and perfect will for His children.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that UCI is a body of believers who are willing to totally surrender to God. Pray we might daily lay down our wants and comforts so that we can use our time, money, and talents for God's purposes. Pray that we would make loving God, loving our neighbor, and loving one another our highest priority.*

For donations, pledges or more information, go to <https://ucihaiti.org/healing-for-haiti>.

Don't Shrink Back

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. ..., but my righteous one shall live by faith; and if He shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in Him. Hebrews 10:35-36,38

Often we step out in obedience or faith and things get more difficult rather than easier. When Moses asked Pharaoh to let God's people go, Pharaoh refused and made the Hebrews' quotas nearly impossible to meet. Moses, tempted to shrink back, asked, "Why did You ever send me?" God reminded Moses of His promise to set the Israelites free from bondage. Moses persevered through all 10 plagues and an entire nation was freed to worship God as his chosen nation.

Haiti's history, reflected in the 20-year history of UCI, is a story of perseverance in the face of setbacks. Living in a primitive area, surrounded by people immersed in vodou and addressing the overwhelming need around us with no funding required perseverance. The 2010 earthquake, escalating demands for UCI, hurricanes, more earthquakes, political instability, the rise of gang violence turning into terrorism, food shortages, and internally displaced families continually felt like setbacks. Unseen spiritual battles were just as common as physical battles. God's promise of never leaving nor forsaking His children sustained us amid these battles. Repeatedly God provided.

The growing university faced a shortage of strong wise directors. Instead of shrinking back, UCI prayed for someone with a heart for this vision. Dr. Marie Guirlaine Raymond Charite, former head of Haiti's Ministry of Health, inspired UCCC students with a seminar on the importance of a Christian worldview in medicine. Her passion moved JeanJean to ask her to become a part of UCCC. She initially declined, feeling too busy, but after prayer, God worked in her heart, and 6 months later, she began teaching.

Seeing UCCC's impact and its role in shaping Haiti's future, she became Assistant Dean and eventually moved to Caiman to serve full-time. Dr. Guirlaine is dedicated to producing skilled, Christ-centered students who view their work as part of God's mission.

Her story is a testament to enduring faith: God is always with us and in control, even when we face setbacks or shortages. As followers of Christ, we too will experience hardships, setbacks, and defeats. Often the journey feels like a battle. It is very difficult to persevere in a battle. We will be tempted to give up. Thankfully we can follow Moses' examples. Let us take our fears and frustrations to the Lord. He will remind us of His promises and sustain us with His word.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that our congregation will not shrink back from God's call on our lives. Pray that all at UCI will persevere with what the Lord has entrusted to us. Pray that when we experience hardships, setbacks, or defeats we won't give up but rather seek the Lord who will encourage us and sustain us.*

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Conversion Equals A Changed Life

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 1 Timothy 1:12

In his first letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul encourages the young pastor's faith, urging him to cherish, protect, and preach the gospel. The good news of the gospel message changes lives. At UCI, we preach the gospel and teach God's word so that we learn what it means to walk in the dust of our master, Jesus Christ. As we follow Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, God will change us to be more and more like Jesus in thought, word, deed, and character.

One outreach model that God has embedded in our hearts is the model of Prayer, Care, and Share. We learned about it in the early days of UCI when there was no budget and yet we were called to join in the work that God was already doing in our small corner of Haiti. We first pray to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to God's will. It is opening our eyes to see who God puts in our path, what needs circle around to our attention, or an area that stays on our hearts. The next step is to offer the care to meet their needs including encouragement, friendship, and life-giving resources. Caring is loving people and putting yourself in their situation. People respond to this love and are open to the final step of sharing. Then the power of the gospel can take root. Jesus modeled this by His compassion and love of all.

One example of this model is our calling to pray for the people in the prisons. Dr. Isaac Brizard, the valedictorian of the 2nd class of medical students, was working in the Hinche hospital and saw many prisoners hand-cuffed to the beds and needing care. Haitian prisons do not provide food or clothing and prisoners face extreme malnourishment and illness. Dr. Isaac remembered a chapel message on serving the needs of the least of these in Matthew 25. "I was in prison and you came to visit me," kept repeating in his head. He prayed and God put on his heart to use his talents to care for the prisoners.

Dr. Isaac lacked funding, medications, food, and supplies, but he had a heart to serve. He saw prisoner after prisoner who was sick, hurting, and hopeless so he approached UCI to discuss and pray about this need. We were excited to walk alongside Dr. Isaac to care for those in need with several graduated doctors, medical students, pastors, and theological students. The prisoners felt the **prayers**, experienced the **care**, and then responded by listening when we **shared** about the God of the universe who loves them unconditionally. So often we met people who were ready to hear about God's saving grace.

Prayer, Care and Share leads to transformation.

Prayer Focus: *Pray that everyone at UCI will have a testimony of a changed life. Pray God would make us like Jesus in thought, word, deed, and character. And as such, pray we would go out into our community with the compassion of Jesus, surrendering all to love God, love our neighbor, and love one another.*

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Truth and Freedom

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:32

In a day before politicians decided the truth according to polls and partisanship, Abraham Lincoln made decisions based on principle. His most notable act was the Emancipation Proclamation to outlaw slavery, issued on New Year's Day, 1863. It would be almost two years later, after his death, that these convictions were made official in the Constitution. Lincoln took a stand without compromise that would nearly rip our nation apart and cause much bloodshed. He knew some things were worth standing for.

However, even official emancipation did not dramatically alter the lives of most former slaves who lived in the South. Further emancipation from “Black Codes” and “Jim Crow” laws was required and took many years to achieve.

How wonderful, then, is Jesus our King! Jesus Christ is the Great Emancipator who has paid the ultimate price for His people to be set free from the bondage of sin. No further sacrifice is needed; in Him we are free indeed.

Not so sure? Think about what Scripture says:

- "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1
- "For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been freed from sin." Romans 6:6-7
- "Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2

UCI will continue to persevere to teach the Word of God to set people free. It is worth the sacrifice, the difficulties, the hardships, and the work. We want to continue to see a community enslaved by Satan's lies radically transformed into people lifting up songs of praise to God. It is worth it to endure the food shortages, the homelessness, the instability, and the violence so that people can come to the life-saving knowledge of Jesus.

The work of God through the UCCC students is our hope and vision that makes the challenges of running a Christian university worth it. Jesus is worthy of it all. **Will you commit to supporting the Healing for Haiti campaign through your prayers and financial resources today?**

Prayer Focus: *Pray that people at UCI will live as people who have been freed from the harmful bondage of sin. Where we are deceived and sin seems enticing, pray that God would bring in His truth that will set us free. Since sin is often a distraction from God's purposes, pray that we would be free from sin to whole-heartedly serve the Lord.*

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He Is Faithful

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:23

God has given UCI a vision for the future. As we have explored 40 days of prayer and fasting in order to seek Him wholeheartedly, we have found Him to be a faithful promise keeper. Praise God for all He has done and for what He has laid on your heart during this campaign. Praise God for asking you to join Healing for Haiti!

Prayer Focus: Praise Him with the lyrics of this wonderful old hymn:

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Repeat Chorus

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Repeat Chorus

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