

Mark 16:15
And He said unto
them, "Go ye into
all the world, and
preach the Gospel
to every creature.

Sharing The Vision

Jim & Teresa White - Missionaries for Jesus



2003

From Prison to Praise!

Praise God for His everlasting mercy and grace! As many of you already know I spent 60 days in a Haitian prison in Port Au Prince, Haiti. What the devil had intended for evil, God worked out for good. He always works on our behalf for the good of all and His Glory. **Romans 8:28** *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."* We have received many inquiries about the prison ordeal in Haiti. Therefore, we want to take this opportunity to give you the facts surrounding my arrest and imprisonment. We will try to share as many details as we can in this newsletter, without writing a book. God was mighty and faithful in delivering me and in Glorifying Himself!

Although this was a terrible ordeal, the mighty works of God which were accomplished were amazing. It is only because of the prayers of God's people that I am able to share with you as a free man. We thank all of you who diligently petitioned the throne room of God with your prayers. God's Word was manifested in the lives of men and women in the Haitian prison.

Philippians 1:12-14, 19 *"But I want you to know brethren that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the Gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ..."*

We would like to thank all of you who were persistent in e-mailing your State Representatives. We also want to thank all the U.S. Congress persons, Senators, and Representatives that sought my release. I want to thank all who e-mailed and wrote letters of encouragement. We received e-mails and letters from all over the world! I was so moved by the pictures and letters sent by the little children from all over the United States. **From my heart, "THANK YOU!"**

The Reason for the Arrest

The reason for my imprisonment was due to items being illegally shipped to Haiti by a couple who were coming to work with our mission. The couple had been recommended by one of STV's supporting churches, which is also their home church. They had sold their home and most of their possessions intending to spend the rest of their lives in Haiti. They believed the Lord had called them to Haiti and that He was telling them to begin their missionary work with Sharing The Vision. On three separate occasions they came to Haiti to see first hand what life is like on the mission field. We discussed all the detailed instructions they needed to follow as they started planning their move.

The young man wanted to bring two guns that he wasn't able to sell from his gun collection. We told him that we did not believe it was necessary for him to have guns in Cap Haitien, but if the Haitian law allowed it they could do as they wanted. After four separate inquiries to the police authorities in Cap Haitien where we lived, we obtained what we were told was the proper authorization to bring the guns into the country. We presented all the legal paperwork for his two guns, which the police had told us we would need. Unknowingly at the time, we were being deceived by the authorities. The U.S. Consulate told us that they believed the whole thing was a setup!

The couple coming to work with STV had been given explicit instructions on how to ship their belongings to Haiti. They were told to send a manifest of all items coming. They had also been told to ask the shipping company if the guns would be allowed on the ship. We found out later that the couple didn't ask the shipping company if they could ship the two guns and never told anyone about the other incriminating items they had sent. They did not provide the shipping company nor us with a manifest as instructed. When asked by the shipping company what they were shipping, the couple told them household items. Unfortunately, there was much more than just household items.



Bound in handcuffs, Jim receives encouragement from Teresa while waiting on the court proceedings to start.

By not following our instructions, sending items without our knowledge, and not telling the shipping company about the unlawful things they were shipping I became a political pawn for the Haitian government.

Some of the items sent in consisted of 2000 rounds of live ammunition, 1000 rounds of spent shell casings, a reloading press, three large containers of gun powder, a military survival manual, and a military manual on how to make pipe bombs and other small explosives. It was the large container of gun powder, the spent shell casings, and the box of primers that didn't match either one of the guns along with the manual on how to make pipe bombs that gave credence to the Haitian government's claim that I was a terrorist.

The Arrest

On May 9, 2003 I went to Gonaives to pick up this couple's shipment which contained their belongings. The police in Gonaives searched the shipment and found many incriminating items which the couple had not been given permission to ship to Haiti. I was arrested because my name was on the Bill of Lading as the one receiving the shipment. It was because of these unlawful items that I spent time in prison from May 9th to July 7th. That morning I had told Ben & Carrie that I would be back around 5:00 PM, in time for dinner. It was more than two months later before we had dinner together again! The day before, the Lord had told me to start a long fast. I didn't know why, but I obeyed and began the fast. Little did I know what was soon to happen!



Jim waiting on the pre-arranged judgment

When I arrived at the wharf, the police were searching containers, box trucks, and vehicles that were coming off the ship. I had been told that they were searching because of protests that occurred the day before. We found out later they were searching for "a large shipment of guns" that the Cap Haitien police had told the Gonaives police would be coming in under the name of Pastor James White. We don't know why the Cap Haitien police did this, but it has been speculated that they were trying to find favor with President Aristide. One reason we believe this is because during the entire ordeal the Haitian government would never address the fact that we had done everything according to the instructions of the Cap Haitien police to bring the young man's two guns into the country.

When I found out the young man wanted to bring his two collector's guns, I called Pastor Luc, the national we have worked with the last eight years, and told him that the police in Gonaives would have to be informed ahead of time. When I arrived in

Gonaives, Luc had not told the police yet. Before I went to the wharf I told Luc and his friend, who was helping us, that they needed to make sure they showed the paperwork to the police. They said that they would and we left for the wharf. I had also reminded them again when we reached the wharf.

The four pallets wrapped in black shrink-wrap were brought to the gates of the wharf. I watched from a distance as Pastor Luc and his friend worked with the customs inspector to clear the shipment. After the shipment was cleared, a policeman came and wanted to look inside the couple's upright freezer. I could see Pastor Luc and his friend talking with the policeman and then I saw Luc back up into the crowd. I went to the policeman and asked if there was a problem. He wouldn't acknowledge me, perhaps because he didn't know who I was at the time. I then went to Luc and asked if he had shown the paperwork to the police. He told me that he hadn't. I asked Luc who had the paperwork and he told me that he had the papers in his backpack. I then took the paperwork from him and went to the policeman in charge and presented it to him.

The paperwork consisted of the receipts for the guns, gun permit, and a photo of the guns. We were not able to go to the capital, Port Au Prince and clear the guns in the normal way because the couple had sent us the young man's drivers license instead of the gun permit, which looked similar in appearance. We had asked the Cap Haitien police what we should do about this because now the ship was in route to Haiti. They told us that it was not a problem and that when the ship arrived with the guns in Gonaives to take the paperwork to the police and they would take his U.S. gun permit and then issue him a Haitian gun permit. The special policeman I presented the paperwork to was like our S.W.A.T. team. By this time there were about five policemen standing around asking Luc's friend to remove the shrink-wrap from the pallet with the freezer that contained the two guns.

As the special policeman was looking at the paperwork, another regular policeman had broken the bands on the pallet and opened the freezer containing the guns. He then took out the gun case and opened it in front of all who were standing by. This caused much commotion among the Haitians. I was then placed in a trailer at the wharf while they searched the rest of the shipment. I was told nothing! Three hours later I was taken to the Gonaives prison. While leaving the wharf some people surrounded the police vehicle and began beating on it and spitting. They were upset because of what they had seen and had concluded, with the help of some of the police, that foreigners had come to make trouble for Haiti. At this point I was still unaware of all the ammunition, gun powder, the pipe bomb book, and other incriminating items.

During the long interrogation by the police after my arrest, a Haitian special affairs officer told me that the two guns really weren't the big issue. He said that if it had just been the two guns, they would have let me go after a few days. The problem I faced was that the couple coming to work in Haiti with us had sent items that gave the Haitian government the occasion to claim that I was the head of a large terrorist organization and that I was planning to overthrow the Haitian government and kill the president of Haiti. The couple's intentions were not evil just not wise!

That night I was taken upstairs to a room and interrogated by several government officials. No one would tell me if I was under arrest and why I was being held. I was never allowed an official phone call, although one prison guard allowed me to use his cell phone. He was transferred when the prison director found out. During the interrogation, several items were brought in one at a time. I was asked what they were and why I had brought them to Haiti. I reminded them the items weren't mine, but belonged to the couple coming to work in Haiti and that I could not speak for them. One man, which I discovered later was the Haitian police chief of the country at that time, was the one accusing me of being a "terrorist plot." He told me he believed I wanted to torture the Haitian people with a crown of thorns the couple had sent in and that I was going to hunt them, like Americans hunt rabbits.

After being interrogated for several hours I was put on national television and the government of Haiti declared they had captured an American terrorist, leader of a large terrorist organization. They claimed I had come to Haiti to overthrow the government and kill the president. I was asked questions by the journalists. I had begun to tell them that I had been in Haiti for eight years preaching the Gospel of Jesus, teaching the Truth of God's Word and helping the poor people; but the police chief stopped the interview and would not allow me to continue speaking.

After being interrogated all night I was taken to different places in the prison and forced to sign documents which I was not allowed to read. I was then taken outside to a waiting convoy of six unmarked SUV police vehicles. It was now 6:00 AM, Saturday morning. I was transported to the Port Au Prince prison in handcuffs where I spent the remainder of my time. I am now praying for healing to regain full mobility in my left shoulder. It was injured as a result of being banged against a metal frame for 3 1/2 hours in the back of a small SUV while being transported to the Port Au Prince prison.

The Port Au Prince Prison

I was put into an 8' X 10' cell with six other men. I spent approximately 10 days in this cell before being moved to the next cell with a man named Captain Castra, a political prisoner. In this first cell we usually averaged sixteen men. One night there were twenty-three in this small cell. I had to sleep on a concrete bench with my legs curled up under me because this was all the room I had.

At two different times during this ordeal the Haitian government had plans of killing me. I knew this because of information I had been receiving from political prisoners. These political prisoners were the ex-military of Haiti and had been put in prison by Aristide when he was restored to power by our former President Clinton. They received information from men working for Aristide that were still loyal to them.

The first plan to kill me was to be shortly after my arrest. This was the reason for putting me on national television the night I was arrested and proclaiming that Haiti had arrested the head of a large terrorist organization. With me eliminated, it would be hard to dispute the facts being put forth because nobody else knew about the other items that had been shipped except for the couple, and they hadn't told anyone. Their initial plan could not succeed because my son, Ben, had immediately called God's people to start praying and the U.S. Embassy. Christians around the world were contacted!

The second attempt was when an order came down from the top to have all the political prisoners killed. This plan failed because the new police chief Aristide had put into power (at the request of the Organization of American States) decided to flee Haiti and claim political asylum. It was reported that the new police chief did not want to be responsible for killing an American missionary. We heard this on the radio in prison during an interview he was giving in Miami.

Many people want to know what the prison was like. The prison was infested with rats, mice, and cockroaches. At night the rats would come out and go outside to eat the garbage. The mice would try getting into our cell to eat our food. After being there about a month there were two rats that kept trying to come into our cell. I realized they were new and hadn't learned the routine yet. It took about a week to train them to go outside with the other rats. I slept on a thin mat on the floor. I'll spare you the details about the bathroom facilities.

About two years ago a program was started to feed the prisoners in the Port Au Prince prison. Before this, a prisoner had to have food brought in by family members or he didn't eat. It is still this way in all the other prisons in Haiti. After fasting for the first two weeks, Teresa came everyday and brought me food. It's not safe to eat the food in the prison. One day, one of the men who had been saved told me that he saw another prisoner urinating in one of the big pots they used to cook the prison food. Its understandable why many of the men were complaining of stomach pain and diarrhea. Teresa had to bring in drinking water, soap, toilet tissue, food, and anything else I needed.

I was told that before I came into the prison three to four men died each week from being beaten to death. While I was there only one man died. He had been beaten by the police for two days and died at the infirmary on the third day.

The prisoners told me the reason for the lack of deaths was because the Consulate officials were coming three times a week to see me. This made the prison directors and guards very nervous and cautious.

After just a short time in the prison God allowed me to find favor with the prisoners and guards. The propaganda Aristide was putting on the radio and TV was not believable. They all told me that they knew it was a lie and that I was serving God in Haiti to help the people. Many of the prisoners and prison guards were also praying for me and encouraging me to stay in Haiti after my release.

The Release From Prison

After being in prison for about three weeks, I was told an agreement had been reached and that I would be released. I was told to be ready because when it happened it would have to happen quickly. Unfortunately this plan never happened because some of the Haitian officials were trying to ascertain my release without Aristide's knowledge. This became an emotional roller coaster for all of us as almost everyday I would be told to be ready because I would be leaving the next day, but the next day never came. Our government began to put pressure on Aristide to release me. He finally agreed to release me, but when the day would come that I was to be released he would change his mind. Aristide always changing his mind became frustrating to everyone involved. He did this for several weeks. I realized very early on in this ordeal that God would be my only hope of freedom.

We were told that Colin Powell had made a phone call on my behalf, and shortly after this Aristide said that I would be given my day in court and released. I was not taken to court the day Aristide said I would be because he wanted to show the U.S. government that he was in control. We spent seven hours in court listening to the prosecutor and our lawyer argue back and forth. The ridiculous part of the court process was that the judgment had already been made before we entered the court room. The whole procedure was for the reporters, so they could tell the country how Haiti had brought an American terrorist to justice. I was fined \$1000 U.S., sentenced to 55 days in prison with time already served, and immediately expelled from the country. The judge told me that I would be released the next morning on July 4th. He told me that he was doing me a big favor because he was allowing me to celebrate my country's Independence Day in my own country.

I was not actually released and on a plane to the United States until four days later. The reason for this was because at the time Aristide had told the judge to release me, he had also sent an order to the director of the prison telling him that when the Consulate came to get me, not to release me. It was at this point that the U.S. Ambassador became directly involved.

I was finally released from the prison on Monday, July 7th at 12 noon. I was to be taken directly to the airport and put on a plane. When we arrived at the airport we purchased our tickets and were preparing to go through immigration to board the plane. One of the immigration officers then told the Consulate officer with us that he could not allow me to leave because we didn't have the correct signature on our paperwork. After much discussion we were sent to the immigration office to speak with the Director of Immigration. He told us we had to have the Minister of Interior's signature on the release document and that he could not allow me to leave without it.

The consulate officer, Teresa, and another immigration officer whom we had found favor with began making phone calls. After another hour I was allowed to leave without the Minister of Interior's signature.

While waiting for the plane, Aristide's reporters harassed us. For 1 1/2 hours they asked us ridiculous questions such as: "*Aren't you grateful for the justice you've received from the Haitian government?*" We told them continually we did not want to talk with them. They would put their microphones in our faces and when we pushed them away they would put them right back in our faces again. Finally the American Airlines co-pilot came to our rescue and took us out to the plane and we were soon on our way back to the United States. **THANK YOU JESUS!**

WHAT THE DEVIL INTENDED FOR EVIL, GOD WORKED OUT FOR GOOD AND HIS GLORY!



Arriving at the airport with police, consulate official, and missionary friends.



First hug without restrictions in six weeks. Thankful to have gotten this far!



Saying good-bye to missionary friends and preparing to go through Immigration ???

As you can see God was working on my behalf from the very beginning of this ordeal. God did some miraculous things in the prison. Our God is a God of love, mercy and grace. God showed everyone in the prison, everyone who had been involved, and everyone who ever heard about this ordeal, that He is in control of the lives of those who love Him and have committed their lives to Him.

A few of the things that God did in the Haitian prison:

- * Six men came to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I had the privilege of seeing God literally transform these men from a life of despair to a life of hope and encouragement. Three of these men, right after receiving their salvation went, out and immediately started preaching the Gospel!
- * One man was miraculously healed. This man was not a Christian, but after God had healed him and after hearing the Gospel, he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. This man's salvation even moved the prison guards.
- * Two marriages were restored by the power of God's love! One man was going to divorce his wife because he didn't want to be married to her anymore. This man was confessing to be a Christian. After being given God's Word on the matter, he repented and wrote his wife. God had put a new love in his heart for her.
- * Four men who after believing the promises in God's Word were miraculously freed from prison early! God showed them and others that His promises are true and that He is in control. After their miraculous release many prisoners that were going to court would come by our cell asking for prayer. This was a great opportunity to share with others the power and glory of God. Our Father was showing Himself mighty to all in the prison. No-body could deny that God was moving in the hearts of the prisoners and the prison guards.
- * After witnessing the power of God a boldness came upon the Christians that were in the prison Those that had been too afraid to proclaim the name of Jesus began to tell others that they too, needed the Gift of Salvation.

A few things that God did in the lives of people who were praying:

- * A friend wrote while I was in prison and told me that as a result of praying for me, God had revealed to him that he needed to be more deeply committed to Him and His desires for him.
- * Another person had written and said that after diligently praying for my release his relationship with God had been renewed.
- * One woman told me when I returned that her faith had been increased after seeing what God had accomplished in the prison.
- * Another person told me that they now had the courage to witness to their friends and family after praying for me and hearing the reports of what God had done in the prison.

We have received several testimonies from people of how their lives were changed by praying for me while in prison. I truly believe that it was all the prayers going up before God that caused the hearts of men and women to be changed. I had several people tell me that they hadn't been praying for my release, but that God's will would be done while I was there. I believe we all knew that I would be released. We just didn't know when!

Oh! That I might know the exceeding riches of His Glory!

Testimonies

I would like to share a few testimonies with you of the men in the prison who's lives were changed by the love and power of God. These men's testimonies have touched the hearts of many not only in the prison but outside as well.

Louie-Jean was an ex-policeman. He came into the prison about the same time as me and he was scared. Louie-Jean told me that he had been put into prison because his neighbor was wanted by the police for kidnapping and that they had accused him of being associated with the kidnapers. Being in the Port Au Prince prison was a fearful thing for Louie-Jean because some of the men were put there by him when he was a policeman.

On my first Sunday in the PAP prison I was sharing with the other six men in the cell the simplicity of the Gospel. In Haiti many of the pastors and church leaders teach salvation by religious works. I was sharing with them that Jesus' desire for us is "relationship not religion" and that it is not difficult to become a Christian. Jesus only requires that we surrender all, trust Him with everything including our very lives, and obey His commandments.

As I was sharing with the men Louie-Jean had many questions. He had been raised in church, but under a religious spirit. When he realized that Jesus loved him and that he could walk in a close personal love relationship with Him he surrendered his life and became a follower of Jesus. At that very moment Jesus not only saved him, but He also delivered Louie-Jean from the desire of smoking cigarettes and gave him a boldness to preach the Gospel. The very next morning Louie-Jean was out in the prison yard preaching the gospel to about fifteen men. His fear was gone!

Jean Vernet Thony came to the prison four days prior to my arrival. He was very quiet and barely spoke to anyone. Vernet had accidentally hit and killed a person with his taptap. A taptap is a small pickup truck used for public transportation. They put as many as 25 to 30 people in the back of them.

Vernet was very depressed because he knew that he would be in prison for a long time. He had a wife and baby that he was worried about. Vernet had no money and this is why he knew he'd be there a long time. In the Haitian prison system the only way out is to buy your way out. We learned there is absolutely no judicial system in Haiti. Most everyone in power is corrupt and demands payment (bribes) before they will do their duty.

That Sunday night after I finished sharing with the men in our cell we all prepared for sleep. Vernet had laid down next to me on the floor. He rolled over and whispered to me, "I need Jesus but I don't know how. Will you help me?" Several years ago God had instructed me not to lead people in a "sinner's prayer," where the sinner repeats the words of the saved person praying. The reason was that I would then know people are truly sincere about receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

I told Vernet that if he was truly broken in spirit and if he truly had a repentant heart then he didn't need me to pray and then him repeat what I prayed. I told him that if he was sincere then the words of repentance were already in his heart and all he had to do was allow them to come forth. I reminded him that salvation is simple and that we are the ones who make it hard by our religious traditions. I told him that when a person has been broken by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit then becoming a child of God is as simple as **Romans 10: 9, 10** "...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Vernet began to pray and his prayers were that of a broken man crying out to God. He had truly received salvation and when he finished praying his whole countenance had completely changed! His face shown with the joy of the Lord and for the first time I saw a smile on his face.

Awhile later, a sad look came upon Vernet's face and I asked him why he was sad. He said that he missed his family and that he knew he would be in prison a long time. I told him to have faith in God because God could deliver him. I told him with the same faith in the Blood of Jesus that gave him salvation, that same faith in God's delivering power could liberate him from this prison. He asked if I would help him and I told him I would. I prayed a simple prayer asking God to deliver Vernet from prison for His Glory, and as a witness to all in the prison that we serve a mighty God who cares for those who belong to Him.

That night after Vernet and I prayed together there was a great sense of peace in the cell. The next morning everyone saw the joy of the Lord on Vernet's face and began asking him what had happened. He told everyone that he had made Jesus Lord of his life. Vernet was a new creature in Christ, a child of God!

Vernet had received Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior on Sunday night and on Wednesday afternoon they released him from the prison. **PRAISE GOD!**

Venold Ravix was a prisoner and worked in the prison for the guards. He wasn't saved. One afternoon, Venold was sitting in a chair outside our cell. As I was on my way back from the bathroom I stopped and asked him what was his problem. He had a bath towel around his shoulders. Haitians do this when they're sick. He said, "I'm sick." I laid my hands on his head. He was burning up with fever! I asked him, "Do you believe Jesus can heal you?" He said, "Yes." I said, "In the name of Jesus be healed!" I then walked back into my cell. We were locked up for the night and Venold went to his cell block.

The next morning Venold came to our cell block proclaiming to everyone as he came, "Jesus healed me! Jesus healed me!" That night when Venold got back to his cell Jesus touched him and healed him instantly! For the next two days Venold went around all over the prison telling everyone how Jesus had healed him.

Now I was troubled in my spirit about this guy running all over the prison telling everyone how Jesus had healed him and I felt bad about it because I should have been feeling the same joy as he. I went to the Lord about it and He reminded me of what I am always preaching, "**God never does anything without a purpose.**" Then I knew why I was not at peace. I sent a message for Venold to come to my cell. I had him sit in the same chair he had been sitting in when I had prayed for him. I asked him, "Do you know why Jesus healed you? He told me he didn't know why Jesus had healed him. I told him that Jesus had healed because He loved him and wanted him to witness His power. I told him that Jesus wanted him to be saved from his sins by accepting Him as his Lord and Savior. I asked Venold if he wanted to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior and he said, "Yes."

This took place in our little cell block where the police guards processed all prisoners coming and going from the prison. It was the busiest part of the day. Captain Castra shouted and told everyone to be quiet. Everyone stopped what they were doing, even the police guards. You could have heard a pin drop! Venold prayed from his heart and was saved!

Castera Cénafils (Captain Castera) is the political prisoner who requested that I be put in his cell after he heard me preaching to the men in my cell and hearing the story of what had happened. He knew I would not be safe and wanted me in his cell where he could better control the situation. Castera and General Avril have many ex-military personnel that served under them and are still loyal to them. General Avril was president of Haiti for two years from 1988 to 1990. These men helped keep me safe in prison and kept me informed of Aristide's plans for me.

Captain Castera is a Christian and hungry for the truth of God's Word. He loves his country and is praying that God will intervene to help Haiti and its people. He was constantly asking questions about God's Word. We spent a lot of time praying for people's needs and witnessing to others that came through the prison. In the beginning Castera didn't witness to others but after seeing the power of God in the lives of these other men he began to seek the Lord in new ways. God gave him a boldness that was miraculous! He was bold as a lion at times and then at other times gentle as a lamb. Castera and I became very good friends during my time in prison and I will never forget his kindness and friendship.

I was able to do a lot of teaching in the prison and Castera was my best student. After I was released I sent him a study bible. He listened intently but never just believed what I told him without going to his bible to make sure that what I was telling him was in fact the Word of God. This is what I encouraged him and the other men to do always. I told them that God's Word will always bear witness with itself and that God's Word is in complete harmony with itself.

We tried to help the Haitian pastors in the prison to understand God's Word, but some would not listen because of religion and tradition they had been taught. I gave them this advice: *Someone who is teaching is someone who should always be learning.* **"A GOOD TEACHER IS ALSO A GOOD STUDENT!"**

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NO! We Are Not Defeated

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence may be of God and not of us. We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."*

Many people have called or written and expressed that they've heard or assumed we'll no longer be continuing our ministry. Some assumed we would no longer continue because of what happened to us in Haiti. This is not true! **God has not told us to give up and quit!** On the contrary, while I was in prison praying and fasting I asked Father if we were finished and He told me that we were not finished and that we would see and experience even greater things in the future. God has been confirming this word to us through others in the Body of Christ as we have been traveling and speaking in churches.

We are determined to serve God and others with all that is within us until **GOD SAYS, "WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT."** Teresa and I are very serious about our commitment in serving God with our lives. Our eyes are fixed on Jesus and His will for our lives and this ministry. We spend a lot of time seeking God in prayer about what He would have us to do. We're always willing to change directions when God is in control.

We're excited about what God is doing and He continues to bless Sharing The Vision. We have spent the last several months seeking the Lord's direction for STV and our lives. We are very thankful for the STV board members that God has sent to us. They are committed to serving God and others. Most of the nine currently serving on the STV Board have been involved with this ministry since the beginning in 1996. We're blessed to have three pastors serving as spiritual advisors on the board. We're very excited about what God is doing in STV.

We'll be going to the Dominican Republic to minister to the two million Haitians there. The living conditions for most of them is worse than in Haiti. Most are working in the sugar cane fields. Our vision is to plant a Haitian church and raise up strong Christian leaders that will be free from religious tradition. We want them committed to serving Jesus in a close personal love relationship. We believe after Aristide leaves many Haitians will return to Haiti. We want to send Haitian leaders back as missionaries to their own country teaching the Truth of God's Word which can set Haiti free from the religious traditions that have kept the churches in bondage for so long.

We'll also be working among the Dominicans evangelizing in the remote areas of the country. We've been told that the percentage of Evangelicals in the Dominican Republic is very low. We are committed to tearing down the devil's strongholds by battling the voodoo and witchcraft in the country. There is much idolatry in the DR as in Mexico and we want the Dominicans to be free in Jesus! We are asking for God's wisdom, that we may walk in the power of His might.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 *"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."*

Please continue to pray for the Whites as they continue working for God in the Dominican Republic. We would also love to have you be a part of the ministry if you are not already by supporting this ministry through your prayers and financial gifts. The Whites will also be hosting long & short term mission teams after they get established, as they did in Haiti. Please pray about going on a mission trip to the DR to help the Whites win souls for the Kingdom of God and make disciples for Jesus.

Family News



Thank you all for your prayers for our family during this ordeal and all the changes that have occurred. We are currently residing in Bradenton, FL living in a missionary house owned by a local church here. It has been a great a blessing. We are busy

each day with home schooling. Ben is almost finished with his senior year! He is also taking some health science courses at a local technical institute and is doing great! He will graduate from that program the end of January. He is also working part-time at Applebee's and is very involved in a youth group. Carrie enjoys taking tumbling classes for her P.E. credit and theatre training classes for her Fine Arts credit. She is also involved with a local youth group and is making new friends.

Things have finally slowed down since we have arrived here. We spent July through October speaking in churches, which required much traveling. Please keep us lifted in prayer as we begin our Spanish lessons and as we travel to the Dominican Republic setting up the ministry there.

Keep In Touch

Below are our contact addresses. We encourage everyone to write or e-mail. The Whites address where they are staying until they leave for the DR:

Jim & Teresa White
711 31st St. West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Addresses for receiving mail and care packages:

Jim & Teresa White
7990 15th St. East—SGO
Sarasota, FL 34206

Please send all tax-deductible donations to:

Sharing The Vision, Inc.
P.O. Box 618
Bradenton, FL 34206

E-mail Addresses:

STV Stateside: stvmanagement@hotmail.com

Whites on the field: sharingthevision@hotmail.com

Phone Numbers:

STV Stateside:

(Toll Free) 1-877-844-2514

Jim & Teresa while Stateside:

Jim's cell phone: (941) 400-1266
Mission house: (941) 746-4087

2003 WAS A YEAR OF ANSWERED PRAYER & BLESSINGS

We are in awe of God's goodness and grace toward this ministry. Even though we suffered a time of tribulation during Jim's time spent in a Haitian prison and the many other things that had to be endured because of it, God continues to show us that He wants to bless the work He is doing through Sharing The Vision.

God has answered many prayers in the year 2003. He provided the benches for the Drouin Church, the bathroom facility for the Bassin Church, the funds and help to put the new roof on the mission house in Cap Haitien, and bunk beds and mattresses for the mission house in Cap. God also gave us a great year of ministry by allowing us to host many missions teams.

The vision for STV besides evangelism, discipleship and leadership training is also to be a servant to all those who are working to further the Kingdom of God. Teresa and I have been preaching unity since the beginning of our ministry. We have been led to provide help to those in the mission field that need help facilitating what God has called them to do. We have been doing this by providing a place for mission teams to stay and also providing a tool depot that work teams can use to help save money which can be used for the poor and needy and work projects.

In 2003 we were busy with teams of all kinds. Last year we only had one week of which we did not have a team staying in the STV mission house.

Many people expressed how much they appreciated the service STV had provided for them which made their work for God and the people of Haiti easier and more efficient. We are blessed to have had the opportunity to be a part of so many people's lives. We look forward to being able to do the same in the Dominican Republic.

Prayers Answered

- ◆ Jim released from Haitian prison and his life spared.
- ◆ Salvations and God glorified in prison.
- ◆ Funds provided for legal fees in Haiti.
- ◆ Many projects completed in the year 2003.
- ◆ A testimony of unity among the missionaries in Haiti.



Prayer Needs

- ◆ Wisdom and strength for future ministry in the D.R.
- ◆ Safety for Pastor Luc, his family, and all the missionaries working in Haiti.
- ◆ Funds for relocating to the Dominican Republic and the purchase of a vehicle.
- ◆ House in D.R. that will be suitable for housing teams.
- ◆ Vehicle & Inverter w/ batteries for mission house in the D.R.

Available for Speaking

Jim & Teresa are available for speaking engagements up until the third week of July. They can come and minister in person what God did through them in Haiti by His mighty power and love. Teresa is also an anointed worship leader and blesses many through her ministry of worship. If you would like to have them come and minister at your church, Sunday school, or home group just call the STV toll free number and schedule an appointment.

Projects

1. **Plant a Haitian church in the DR and train Haitians to be missionaries to their own country.**
2. **Leadership training for both Haitians & Dominicans.**
3. **Raise funds for a vehicle in the Dominican Republic.**
4. **Raise funds for an inverter system and generator.**
5. **Find a house in the DR to rent by May.**
6. **Sell things in Haiti that will be hard to get across the border to the Dominican Republic.**