

Reaching the Nations for Christ through Training Leaders

The translated testimony of a Haitian seminary student

In Haiti, people always say, "If you are not an animal, then you are a Christian." I always believed that growing up until one day, one of my friends said to me, "You know, that is such a stupid belief. That makes no sense. If you are not an animal then Jesus did die for you, but you have to repent and *accept* Him in order to be a Christ follower." Well, that changed my life. He talked to me about salvation and I came to understand Acts 4:12 to be true, "For Salvation is found in no one else [but Jesus]. There is no other name under heaven given to men by which you must be saved." I asked Him to allow me to follow Him and I immediately began attending church. I was baptized in 2001. I love to work with children. I think God's made me in a way in which I love to share the gospel with children. I want to study the Bible so that I can teach what it REALLY says to the children of Haiti. That's why I'm here at EBS (Emmaus Biblical Seminary).

I am from Port-au-Prince. My mother and little sister live there now in a tent. They don't have anything and they are suffering. I have nothing to send them. I hope to have something to send them soon. If I can make a little money, I can send it to them instead of using it for food for myself because EBS is feeding me. On January 12th, I was in my house in Port-au-Prince. I needed to do an exam the next day for University. I was studying administration and I had sent someone out to buy me a pencil. I was waiting for him to return with the pencil and I felt the house shaking. Where I lived had so many houses badly built. I didn't even think, I just jumped off my bed and ran out of my house. It wasn't until I was outside that I realized I was badly hurt. Many concrete blocks had fallen on me before I ran and, when I reached the street, I saw blood pouring from my thighs, legs, knees and feet. I was shocked by all the blood and BOOM, another part of the house outside knocked me to the ground and pinned me down. I knew I was badly hurt but I couldn't get up. People started running over me, screaming, fleeing from their houses. They ran on top of me without stopping to help and without realizing that I was even there.

I was home alone and didn't know if my mom, my dad, my sister were okay. My mom was at the market, my dad was at work in a hotel where he was a busboy and my little sister was at school. All evening, I laid there and cried for help. Finally, right at dark, my aunt came to check on my family. She and my cousin pulled the blocks off of me and carried me to the street. I slept there all night and was still bleeding badly. We didn't know what to do. Everything was so chaotic and we had nowhere to go. The next morning, my mother was finally able to get home. The next day, my sister arrived. They were both safe. We heard that the hotel where my father worked had collapsed. We waited for him to come home. He never did.

For six days, my family tried to bandage my wounds because the hospitals were destroyed. All our money was gone. We knew that I was going to die because my wounds were infected and I could not walk. Finally, my grandfather, who lives in Cap-Haitien, was able to reach us. He didn't have much but he sent all the money he had to us. It was just enough to get me on a bus for Cap-Haitien. I did not want to leave my mom and sister, but knew I would die if I did not get medical help right away. I came to Cap-Haitien and finally got to a clinic. I am still healing. They didn't think I would walk but I

am walking. When I came to Cap-Haitien, I learned that it was my grandfather's pastor who gave him the money to send me to a clinic. As soon as I could walk, I went to his church. I spent as much time there as I could and helped Pastor Wiljean in every way that I could to repay him.

He counseled me not to return to Port-au-Prince because my school was gone. He said, "For weeks now, I have watched you and you have the Spirit of God in you. You only have one life and God saved it for a reason. You must spend it on God's work, not in administration." "But I have nothing," I told him, "I have no way to do that." "Emmaus Bible Seminary will take you in, feed and house you, and teach you God's Word," he said. I greatly want to know Him better. How can I know Him better but to study His Word and live among His children? All people are NOT Christians. But God sent His Son for them the same way He sent His Son for me. I want to live for Him and share Him in Haiti. I'm praying that Emmaus will teach me how to do this the best that I can.

--Jean-Marie Leme