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“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers... Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” (Romans 13:1a, 7)
“The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.” (Psalm 121:8)

It has been quite a while since I had to collect all my information for taxes. The mission dealt with that in the required monthly reports, assistance I greatly appreciated at tax time. But I enjoyed great blessings in the past few weeks while reviewing the mileage and expenses from last year as I remembered all the people, sweet fellowship, and times of sharing with those who supported the clinic ministry in Haiti. I also praised God for safety on the roads. That included alertness for nearly 13,000 miles of ministry travel, trips to help others, and protection from some very scary drivers.

I was called for jury duty the first week of February and was glad to have the opportunity since I was in Haiti on previous occasions. It was interesting to see our legal system at work in my county. Taxes and jury duty and the benefits those bring may seem ordinary to us, but in countries where there is little or no government or infrastructure and “justice” goes to the highest bidder, taxes that actually pay for things such as roads, water systems, etc., and fair trials are only dreams.

Having such dreams would be true for most Haitians. Gangs attacked Kenscoff, an area about 15 miles southeast of the capital, in late January, and took over a longstanding mission’s church and school, killed people, and burned homes. Last week, gangs in Port-au-Prince torched the university hospital. I recently saw a video of a tunnel dug by the gangs from somewhere in the Delmas area of Port-au-Prince to Croix des Bouquets, a great way to hide, move weapons, and travel unseen. God is in control of nations and individuals, and He will work even in the wickedness of men.

Praise I am grateful for God’s protection and provision for those I know in Haiti.

I prayed that God would make it possible for me to visit or contact all my supporters in 2024, and He made it happen. Those visits hold a special place in my memory and my heart.

Prayer It feels odd not having a travel schedule planned for this year. Among other things, that means having time to catch up on appointments and medical education, help a friend with computer problems, do much-needed yard work, serve as an alternate juror, and read. Please pray as I continue to adapt to a new “normal.” The door is open to visit the Bells in Dominican Republic. They are now located in Moca, a town southeast of Santiago, and working to establish a new church. They have learned that people prefer to meet in a church building rather than in a home. Please pray for them as they look into the possibility buying a building. I just learned yesterday that they are working on a contract for such a place. There will be many renovations needed. Please pray for the church in Wallondri Haiti. There has been a problem with pastoral leadership for at least the past couple of years. Please pray for the organization that is now in charge of the ministry.

New opportunities, familiar responsibilities, big and small adjustments in schedules. We all face changes on our journey Home, but we know that our Heavenly Father continually watches over us and guides us. May you know His leading in your life in coming days.

In our Lord’s service,

Dr. Anne

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)
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