*“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”* (John 3:20) *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* (1 John 1:7)

One of my workers recently told me that members of the 400 Mawozo gang have been seen in the St. Raphaël and Pignon areas, and that crime has increased in both places. This is the same gang that kidnapped the group of missionaries two years ago in Croix-des-Bouquets. That town sits on the interior road to northern Haiti and is controlled by this gang. Their movement north is sad, but not unexpected. At this time, they are operating mainly at night, possibly because of lack of numbers. The neighborhood night security people around the clinic have increased their vigilance, and we recently cleared the property of brush so it would be harder for someone to hide.

I have prayed for some young men I knew that they would not be pulled into gang activity. They have all heard the Gospel, but God knows if their love is for Him or themselves. I remember during the unrest in 2004 when God made it clear I needed to meet the MFI plane in Pignon to get a last shipment of medications. As I was headed through town, I encountered a pick-up truckload of armed men, and God gave grace to deal with them and go on to the airport. I learned the next day that the leader had been killed, but that he was also someone who had heard the Gospel from missionaries. He chose darkness rather than light.

September was a busy month. I went through hundreds of negatives, slides, photos and jpg pictures to prepare an overview presentation of my time in Haiti. That video was finished by the end of the month, and I was able to give copies to my home church missions pastor and my field administrator. The three of us wrote letters for my planned retirement at the end of this year.

The Baptist World Mission Annual Meeting was in Decatur, Alabama, in October. I visited a church on the way, and then headed to the meeting. There was sweet fellowship at both places as I saw people I knew from the past. I had opportunities at the meeting to get to know people better and meet new people. I showed my presentation to my committee, we reviewed preparations for retirement, and discussed possible opportunities for service after that. I told the men I would like to visit my supporting churches in 2024 and express my gratitude for their faithful support and encouragement. I have been blessed to serve with BWM, and plan to keep in touch with people from the board.

**Praise** God gave safe travels to Alabama, to Michigan to see my sister, and then back to South Carolina.

 The clinic workers are safe. We are rejoicing that all the obligations were settled when it was still possible, truly one of God’s many kindnesses.

 I sent a letter to supporting pastors, and promptly started receiving requests for a visit. I will be busy!

**Prayer** Please pray that all the preparations for retirement will be in place by mid-December.

 Please pray for Haiti and for the many who are choosing the way of darkness that will lead to their ruin.

God has sent His light into the world, and every person must choose to come into that light or stubbornly remain in their own darkness. Let us pray that those who are in darkness will turn in faith to the Light of the world, Jesus Christ, and join Him and us in the fellowship of His body.

In our Lord’s service,