



## Together - Transforming Tomorrow



### **REAL TIME.....REAL LIFE.....REAL NEED**

A now firmly entrenched part of our modern jargon is the expression *'real time- it's happening right now as we speak.'* The articles accompanying this newsletter describe events happening right now. These events are of titanic scope. A most apt phrase, as without intervention we may be witnessing an entire country – Haiti – slipping away and “going under.”

To those of us who know even a smidgen about Haiti, it is incomprehensible that a catastrophic, horrid situation could get any worse. And yet, Haiti's President Aristide and his policies are facing an increasing tumult of protest. People are crying out, “Where are the promised reforms? Where is the action? Where is anything?”

Imagine yourself without a source of potable water, no medical services, no road repair, no food, no employment, surrounded by a swirl of dissent, tension and danger. Magnify that horror times ten and you have Haiti today.

Let's be blunt – government backed thugs are shooting and killing with no questions asked. A corrupt, totally ineffectual government does not even minutely control them. **Government has become the public's enemy!** Stop and consider what that means!

When devil worship is supported, and if we can use this term in this context, *'blessed'* by the government. When babies and adults are stolen for human sacrifice. When the people spend all their energy seeking many days without success for even the bare essentials of life. What is this...What is it? **A hellish, ghoulish carnival of 'real life' that has far surpassed the most sordid imagination.**

Why even bother trying? Because God's word says, “Go out into all the world, preaching the gospel.” Because we can be vessels of hope. Because sitting back in self-contented inertia or in immobilized despair are not options. A response is indicated. If a person has any faith in God at all, turning your back and looking away cannot be considered.

The fire, determination and passion burns bright inside Partners With Purpose. Our confidence in the vision God has placed in our hearts for women and mothers in Haiti is unshakable. We must take steps forward with wisdom, divine guidance and boldness. We're saying “No more to the chaos in Haiti!” and “Yes to life. Yes to hope. Yes to long-term change. Yes to reversal of realities and yes to progress! Yes! Yes! Yes!”

Liberty School For Women is urgently needed to not only play its role in stemming the ongoing tide of destruction but to reverse it. We are totally emboldened and urgent in our appeal to you to partner with us in this work. We implore you to join hands with us and be an integral part of changing history and fanning the flame that will light the darkness! It is easily within your reach, your grasp, and your power. Make single donations, buy many square feet in the Liberty School project, engage in P.W.P. fundraising and be counted among the *'Partners'* in Partners With Purpose!

Most of all light a candle of hope for destitute boys and girls by empowering their mothers to be able to nurture and give them some sense that tomorrow will be worth living! Why not you? Why not now? Why not make a *'forever difference'* in your world? As you read the articles, ponder them in your heart and then act gracefully, boldly and with love.

Russell Gammon

### **Voodoo's spell over Haiti**

**By Nick Caistor**

BBC News Port au Prince, Haiti.  
Monday, 4 August, 2003.

The drumming and chanting goes on hour after

hour. A goat and a small black pig have their throats cut, and the blood is sprinkled over the worshippers.



Some of the believers jump into the mud

## Disturbing Revelations of Human Sacrifice

The Observer 58, August 18, 2003.

By Raymond A. Joseph

In the wake of several defections from the embattled Haitian regime, some disturbing revelations about alleged human sacrifice have thrown a new light on the ruling authorities in Haiti.

Various executions early in the year 2000, prior to the fraudulent elections of that summer and fall were intended to ensure the comeback of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the presidency he had reluctantly relinquished in February 1996. So said Johnny Occilius, a member of the mayoralty of Cite Soleil, who defected last month.

Among the most scandalous of his disclosures was the gruesome sacrifice of the first baby of a young mother, Nanoune Myrthil. The date was important, Mr. Occilius said, in an interview. It was February 29, the last day in a month that will recur in four years. And "the lamb" must have been a first born baby. Thus, the Myrthil baby was "at the right place at the wrong time," Mr. Occilius said. The administrator of the State University Hospital in Port-au-Prince, also known as General Hospital, Marie-Antoinette Gauthier, made possible the snatching of the baby only 72 hours after birth.

Somewhere in the countryside north of the capital, the sacrifice took place that same night. The live baby was crushed in a mortar with a heavy pestle. Officiating was Voodoo sorcerer Henri Antoine from St. Marc, the same thug who founded the pro-Aristide so-called popular organization "*Bale Wouze*," or "*Clean Sweep*" in English.

The bestial crime boggles the mind, and some people question the veracity of Mr. Occilius's revelations. But who would have thought that men infected with the AIDS virus in South Africa believe that they can be healed by having intercourse with a young virgin! Anyway, Mr. Occilius, now in exile in Miami, has gained credibility with the American authorities. When the young man described what happened at the government-sponsored attack on the civil society "Group 184" at Cite Soleil on July 12, American Ambassador Brian Dean Curran said his information concurred with that of the embassy's own investigation.

Meanwhile, Jean Michel Mercier, assistant mayor of Port-au-Prince, from 1995 to 2000, confirmed the disclosures of Mr. Occilius and added that the execution last year of a powerful leader of a "popular organization" was connected to the baby crime. Felix Bien-Aime disappeared after he had threatened to spill the beans on the sacrifice of the baby. At one time, Mr. Bien-Aime controlled the major cemetery in Port-au-Prince, a source of cash that he lost following a fallout with the regime. When he tried to blackmail some of his former associates with information about the baby, Mr. Bien-Aime was invited with two aides to the main police station in Port-au-Prince. Only his partly burned car was found near *Ti Tanyen*, a killing field about 15 miles north of the Haitian capital.

Now in exile, Mr. Mercier also calls for the interrogation of Harold Severe, a former member of the mayor's office in Port-au-Prince, an ex-employee at the presidential palace and now an assistant to the contested new police chief. In writing, Mr. Mercier says he had seen Mr. Severe and at least three other men in a white pick-up near the crime scene of eminent journalist Jean Leopold Dominique on the morning of April 3, 2000. The "murderous bent" of Harold Severe, he contends, was a determining factor in his flight from Haiti. He adds that he was pressured to join the government again, but he couldn't take it anymore.

Mr. Mercier provides a list of key individuals who attended meetings at Mr. Aristide's Voodoo medium, Annette Auguste, a naturalized American citizen nicknamed "Sister Anne." Usually the meetings dealt with activities aimed at consolidating the regime's power. Two of the characters at the sessions -- Jocelerme Privert and Bell Angelot -- are now Nos. 1 and 2 respectively at the Ministry of the Interior, in charge of internal security. Others, like former police chief Jean-Robert Faveur, police spokesman Jean Dady Simeon and judiciary police chief Jeannot Francois, are now in exile in America or in Canada.

The latest defection, Charles Jean Panel of the Delmas 33 police precinct in Port-au-Prince, prepared a cassette that has been widely used by radio stations in and out of Haiti. He accuses the regime of infiltrating the police with armed civilian thugs that have been issued identification cards by Minister of the Interior Privert. The new version of the old "attaches" and the gestapo-like "Tontons Macoute" of yore operate at the precinct with the consent of the police commander, Emmanuel Mompremier. This corrupt officer lives in a \$400,000 mansion, although his official monthly salary is about \$300.

The "attaches" operate mostly at night, from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. They are empowered to use the "zero tolerance" doctrine -- or execution on the spot -- publicly expounded by President Aristide. Mr. Panel said the armed civilians "torture people in a special cell at the precinct before leading some to the Place Cazeau [north of the capital] where they are executed."

Judie Roy, a former Aristide loyalist who has turned opponent, was recently arrested and tortured at the

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# Environmental Summit Urgently Needed to Deal with Haiti

*Haitian Times Editorial October 2003.*

It seems that a great majority of folks in and outside of Haiti worry about a Lavalas Party political monopoly. Now the talk is that Jean Bertrand Aristide is jostling to ensure that his wife Mildred succeeds him as President, ensuring another six years of Lavalas domination. Whether such a scenario is true, what is clear to millions in Haiti is that the more ominous Lavalas threat is indeed a lavalas, or flashflood.

In the last month, almost every evening in Port-au-Prince has been besieged by rain, heavy or light. The damage created by these downpours has been devastating. Government officials put the number of dead at around 20, if they are to be believed. Clearly visible are the makeshift houses that have been swept down from the mountains by water. Recently, Prime Minister Yvon Neptune spoke about the need to stop haphazard, or rather chaotic, building of houses that seem to sprout like mushrooms across Haiti. We hope the government is serious about that statement because it would be simply the first of many steps necessary to save thousands of people from dying.

The government should enforce the laws regarding illegal building of houses and take measures to slowly destroy the myriad of shantytowns perched above the hills, while finding a way to provide some sort of shelter for these people, preferably in the countryside where they came from in the first place.

Of equal importance is reinforcing the horrid deforestation that has been ravaging this country in the last 40 years. We are calling on the so-called friends of Haiti to provide affordable alternative cooking fuel so that people won't have to rely on wood-based charcoal to prepare food. We believe that the ecological damage well underway in Haiti could undermine the country more than any other political curve ball that anyone can throw at us. We can expect a mountain of death and destruction from rain in Haiti. The soil is so devoid that it can't absorb the slightest downpour.

We are once again calling on The United States, France, Canada and the other "friends of Haiti" to summon an environmental summit to decide how best to tackle and reverse this erosion. If we don't do anything about this, Haiti will become the real "no man's land" that the world seems to think it is right now.

## Associated Press

Thu Oct 16, 10:39 PM ET

Dania Georges and her daughter sit next to empty dishes in Cite Soleil, Haiti, one of the capital's worst slums, on World Food Day, Thursday, Oct. 16, 2003. Haiti is the hungriest nation in the Americas, with 3.8 million people - nearly half the nation's population - suffering from hunger according to the United Nations (news - web sites) Food and Agriculture Organization (news - web sites) (FAO) and living what



the organization calls a 'silent' food crisis in conditions of worsening poverty and a 'vicious cycle of marginalization' which is 'eroding social, economic, infrastructural and environmental assets.' Haiti's agricultural sector, whose productivity has been steadily falling, only produces about one-half of its food needs. (AP Photo/Daniel Morel)

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Delmas 33 police inferno. Despite worldwide entreaties, even from Amnesty International, regarding Mrs. Roy, she has not been released. She is accused of being sympathetic to rebels operating in Haiti's central highlands.

How can the Bush administration ignore such barbarism so close to America, while it dispatches soldiers to far away places like Afghanistan, Iraq and Liberia to oust murderous dictators? Must the savagery spill in the streets and cause thousands of refugees to southern Florida before causing a stir in Washington?

Perhaps we are getting there. On Wednesday there was an ugly confrontation between heavily armed policemen, technically under the command of Hermione Leonard, and the palace police detail that accompanied the president's two young daughters. The ugly scene took place near the Port-au-Prince airport, prompting all kinds of rumors. Is it true that the girls were going to visit their grandparents in Miami? Who ordered their car blocked? Is it true that President Aristide opposed the trip of the children, although his American wife is adamant that the children leave? Who ordered the jailing at the palace of about a dozen policemen of the Western Department involved in the confrontation Wednesday? Who summoned Commander Leonard of the Western Department to the palace for interrogation?

Whatever the answers, it's clear that a breakdown exists at the higher echelons of the "criminal enterprise" that passes for government in Haiti. It behooves the authorities in Washington to attend to the Haitian crisis expeditiously.

Posted on Thu, May. 08, 2003. Miami Herald

## As resources dwindle, search for clean water is costly daily struggle for most households

By Marika Lynch

PORT-AU-PRINCE -- At daybreak a trickle begins, and then a stream of people head down from the hills around Haiti's capital in search of clean water.

Gina Baptiste grabs her son Dano, two neighborhood kids and 10 empty one-gallon vegetable oil jugs. Together they walk for two hours to reach the neighborhood of Tete de L'Eau, or literally the fountainhead, to fill up at a government-run pump.

"There is a river near my house, but the water is salty," Baptiste said. "It gave me stomach pains when I drank it, so I stopped. Some people still drink it."

In Haiti, where just a fifth of the households have running water -- a small percentage even for developing countries -- getting clean water is a daily struggle. It's also increasingly costly. With Haiti's economy shrinking -- the national currency has plummeted and gas prices keep rising -- a human necessity is taking a bigger chunk out of families' small budgets.

The situation recently earned the country of eight million a dire distinction: in a newly released water-poverty index of 147 countries, Haiti ranked last. British researchers developed the study to examine water access and environmental and living conditions.

Even drought-stricken Ethiopia edged out the Caribbean nation, according to the findings of the Center for Ecology and Hydrology in Wallingford, England. The Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola, ranked significantly higher at 64.

Meanwhile, millions in international loans that could bring water to thousands are stuck in the pipeline -- \$54 million from the Inter-American Development Bank alone -- blocked since international leaders cut off aid to Haiti after the country's flawed 2000 legislative elections.

### NO CLEAN CLOTHES

On a recent morning, Lolo Francoise woke up in her home, only steps from the bay of Port-au-Prince. Her hair was braided tightly, clipped with white barrettes, and she said she wanted to be in her first-grade classroom.

"I like to learn," she said shyly. But she stayed home.

"My uniform isn't washed yet. It's dirty," Lolo said. Her family can't afford two gourdes -- or five cents -- to buy a pail of water to wash it, the girl explained.

To Haiti's poor, the lack of clean water is not only an environmental problem, but one with grave human consequences. It can be a matter of life or death.



**Associated Press** Tue Oct 14, 8:52 PM ET

A boy carries a bucket of water past a burnt-out car used as a barricade earlier in the day prior to a march of thousands which demanded the resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and was organized by several citizens groups and opposition political parties in St. Marc, Haiti, on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2003. Unrest has rocked several cities recently, with a march in St. Marc Monday, protests and strikes in Cap-Haitien and marches and burning barricades shutting down Gonaives. (AP Photo/Daniel Morel)

In the United States, diarrhea is an inconvenience. In Haiti, it's one of the three leading killers of toddlers and infants, the Pan-American Health Organization says.

Typhoid fever, spread through ingesting the fecal bacteria of an infected person, also ravages the nation, said Dr. Paul Farmer, a Harvard-trained physician who founded and runs a health clinic in Haiti's Central Plateau. Though typhoid can be spread through food, it is mostly a waterborne illness in Haiti, Farmer said.

Farmer recounted the story of young Isaac Alfred, who arrived at his clinic one Thursday in February. Isaac had a raging fever and swollen belly. He appeared to be 10 years old, but actually was 15. Doctors immediately started operating and found bacteria had eaten holes in his small intestine.

"The surgeon said, 'Oh God, this looks really bad,'" Farmer said.

Isaac was appreciative for the care, thanking doctors every time they visited him. But three days later, the clinic's staff had to build a coffin for him. Since the Sunday afternoon Isaac died, two others have succumbed to typhoid at that clinic.

In the countryside where Isaac lived, many Haitians get water by finding fresh springs. But the island nation's freshwater supply has been doomed by both deforestation and haphazard development, Haitian officials said.

First French colonists looking for prime export wood, then peasant farmers trying to heat food and homes,

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plucked the Haitian hills of their trees, denuding the tropical isle so that less than 3 percent has green cover.

### FEW RESERVOIRS

Now rainwater -- instead of getting trapped in a tree's roots and staying in the soil -- flushes into the ocean, leaving many lakes and rivers parched. Of 30 of Haiti's original natural reservoirs, only two remain, Haitian Environmental Minister Webster Pierre said. The remaining bodies of water are thick with silt and pollutants after rainstorms.

Though Pierre says he doesn't expect Haiti to run out of water -- the majority of the nation's supply flows over in rivers from the lush Dominican Republic -- people can't get fresh water from streams and springs as they used to.

In Port-au-Prince the situation is acute. Water managers have dug deep wells on the outskirts of the city, but pirate water sellers already have pumped out so much that salt water creeps into the supply. The city has one natural mountain source, but it's now buried beneath squatters' homes and mansions -- even though the area is supposed to be set aside as a natural preserve. Sewage has seeped in, too.

"When I was a kid we would have a picnic near the wells," Yves-Andre Wainright, a former environmental minister under President Rene Preval, recalled of his trips to the mountains. "Most of the wells are so contaminated now, you can use it only for washing clothes."

Lack of planning and bad governance is how he explained the reasons for the problems.

In Peace Village, a neighborhood on the Jeremie Wharf precariously tied together by nails and tin slats, the five cisterns recently were dry for a week. A pipe broke, the government explained. So the 35,000 residents have to buy water from a neighbor with a cistern -- at six times the government's price.

Marianne Jean-Baptiste, eight months' pregnant, had to cut back to three buckets a day from 10.

"It's enough -- if I don't wash," Jean-Baptiste said.

School kids, their tiny fingers wrapped around gallon jugs, wind up the highway to communal pumps, then home. Older teens grab five-gallon buckets that once held paint, cleaning agents, or "Red Rooster detergent," as Jessica Germaine's pail says.

Jessica fills it and places the pail on her head. Then she starts the 20-minute journey home, with 40 pounds of water on her 16-year-old frame.

The water still won't be enough for her family. So she'll start back for another round, plastic sandals squishing in the mud-filled road.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MUSIC NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 31, 2004 at 7:30 pm. P.W.P. will present **"LIFT EVERY VOICE"** an evening of contemporary, Christian music at the Fergus Grand Theatre. We will showcase local worship bands and be featuring 'The Covenant House Band' in the second half. Our local youth centre, **"The Door"** will be working the concession stand. All proceeds from ticket sales will be allocated for our Liberty School For Women project in Cap-Haitien, Haiti.

### ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

Many thanks to all who walked and supported our walk-a-thon this year. We had a great day and \$2530 was raised! We praise God for the continued success of this event.

#### HAITIAN PROVERB

*"Bourik chaje pa kanpe."*

*"A donkey overloaded cannot stand."*

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