



## God on the Move

by Rick Ireland, Haiti

*"For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)*

I was scheduled to preach at the closing session of the North Annual Conference in Port-de-Paix. It was a long drive from Port-au-Prince so I drove halfway and stayed with Superintendent Delamy at his house outside Gonaives. I am generally someone who is asleep before my head hits the pillow, but not that night. Every few hours I woke up to the chanting and drums of an all-night voodoo ceremony off in the distance. In Haiti, one is very aware of the reality of spiritual warfare.

But one doesn't just see the spiritual battle in voodoo. Haiti is a land of extreme poverty and social injustice. Families are under attack. By Haitian government figures, 80 percent of children in orphanages are not orphans. Desperate families have dropped their children off at the orphanages, hoping they will experience something better than they can at home. A war is raging for the soul of a people.

Morning rolled around ... finally. Up at 5:30 a.m., a quick but delicious breakfast was followed by a three-hour-drive to Port-de-Paix. This is not the first time I have been to this location. Back in June 2011 I was there for a visit. The three voodoo temples that had surrounded the church in 2011 are now gone. So was the temporary tin church/school building I had preached in. A new school had been built. A new church building was there as well. It was filled with people from all over the North Conference area. The service was powerful and full of hope as pastors (both men and women) looked back and looked ahead. Clearly God is on the move in Port-de-Paix.

In 1 John 3:8b (NIV) we read, "***The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.***" It gives me hope, not just for Haiti but for my country as well, that as we work to bring His light into the darkness, that darkness disappears. The outcome of spiritual warfare is already assured by the work of Jesus.



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