

# SERVING THE UNDER SERVED

The Official Newsletter of Path to Salvation

WINTER / SPRING 2025



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## FAITH RENEWED: PATH TO SALVATION CONTINUES TO SERVE

Although last year was marked by hardship and uncertainty, Path to Salvation Church remained a beacon of hope for the people of Titanyen, Haiti. Despite ongoing violence, economic hardship, and uncertainty, the church remained steadfast in its mission—sharing the gospel, caring for the community, and strengthening believers in their walk with Christ.

Since the beginning of this year, **three more people have accepted Christ**, stepping into the promise of a new life with Him. The church family has also expanded in leadership, with **Venor Wickedly, Paul Sonata, and Daguerre Robenson ordained as deacons**, answering the call to serve.

Pastor Wesley has been blessed with opportunities to share the gospel beyond Path to Salvation walls, preaching in churches across **Lagonave, Titanyen, and Akaye, spreading the message of salvation.**

(**FAITH RENEWED** cont. on pg 5)

# SOUP JOUMOU: A TASTE OF HAITIAN TRADITION

A beloved Haitian dish, Soup Joumou is a rich and flavorful pumpkin soup made with calabaza squash, beef, vegetables, pasta, and dumplings, traditionally enjoyed on New Year's Day as a symbol of resilience and togetherness. Now, you can bring this cherished tradition into your own home—try the recipe below and experience the warmth, history, and community that every bowl of Soup Joumou brings!

## INGREDIENTS YIELD: 6 TO 10 SERVINGS

### For the Epis Seasoning:

1 large green bell pepper, stemmed and chopped  
1 medium red bell pepper, stemmed and chopped  
½ white onion, chopped  
¼ cup white vinegar  
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil  
1 celery stalk, chopped  
2 scallions, trimmed and chopped  
1 fresh parsley sprig  
5 garlic cloves, peeled  
1 chicken bouillon cube  
½ teaspoon fresh or dried thyme leaves  
1½ teaspoons kosher salt

### For the Dumplings:

1¼ cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil  
¼ teaspoon kosher salt  
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

### For the Soup:

1 pound boneless beef chuck, cut into ½-inch pieces  
½ cup fresh lime juice (from about 3 limes)  
5 tablespoons epis seasoning  
2 pounds calabaza squash, peeled and roughly chopped  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
2 tablespoons tomato paste  
1 chicken bouillon cube  
5 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into ¾-inch cubes  
½ small head green cabbage, shredded (about 3 cups)  
4 medium carrots, peeled and sliced  
1 large white onion, finely chopped  
2 celery stalks, cut into ½-inch pieces  
2 scallions, trimmed and sliced  
3 fresh parsley sprigs  
1 Scotch Bonnet pepper  
¼ teaspoon fresh or dried thyme leaves  
2 teaspoons kosher salt  
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
½ cup vermicelli

**Step 1:** Prepare the epis seasoning: Combine all of the ingredients in a blender and purée. Use epis or transfer to a large jar and refrigerate for up to 6 weeks. (Similar to sofrito, epis is versatile and adds extra kick and flavor. It can be used to marinate beef, fish or chicken, or stirred into rice or soup.)

**Step 2:** Prepare the soup: Rinse the beef with lukewarm water, then transfer the meat to a large bowl. Add the lime juice and rub it into the meat until coated. Add 5 tablespoons epis seasoning and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate to marinate, ideally overnight or for at least 30 minutes.

**Step 3:** When ready to cook, purée the calabaza squash with 1 cup water in a blender; set aside.

**Step 4:** In a large pot, heat the oil over medium. Add the meat with its marinade, the tomato paste and bouillon cube, crushing it between your fingertips. Cook the meat, stirring occasionally, until the mixture caramelizes and darkens, about 10 minutes. Transfer the meat to a bowl to set aside.

**Step 5:** Add 6 cups water to the pot and bring to a boil over high heat. Stir in the squash purée, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, onion, celery, scallions, parsley, Scotch Bonnet pepper, thyme, salt and pepper, and bring to a boil again. Stir in the meat with its juices.

**Step 6:** Once the mixture comes to a boil, cover the pot, reduce the heat to simmer over low, and cook for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

**Step 7:** Remove and discard the Scotch bonnet pepper. (Do not let it burst. If it does, your soup will be very spicy!) Stir in the vermicelli. Cook, stirring occasionally, for another 10 minutes.

**Step 8:** Meanwhile, prepare the dumplings: Combine the flour, oil, salt, pepper and ½ cup water in a medium bowl and stir to combine. (You can knead slightly, if needed, to get the dough to come together.) Take about 1 tablespoon of dough and roll it between your palms into an elongated shape the width of your palm, about 4 inches long. Add the dumpling to the soup and continue to make dumplings with the remaining dough, dropping them into the soup as they are rolled. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until dumplings are softened and cooked through but still firm, 15 to 20 minutes.

**Step 9:** If the soup is too thick for your taste, stir in water, about 1 cup or as desired. Remove pot from heat and serve warm.



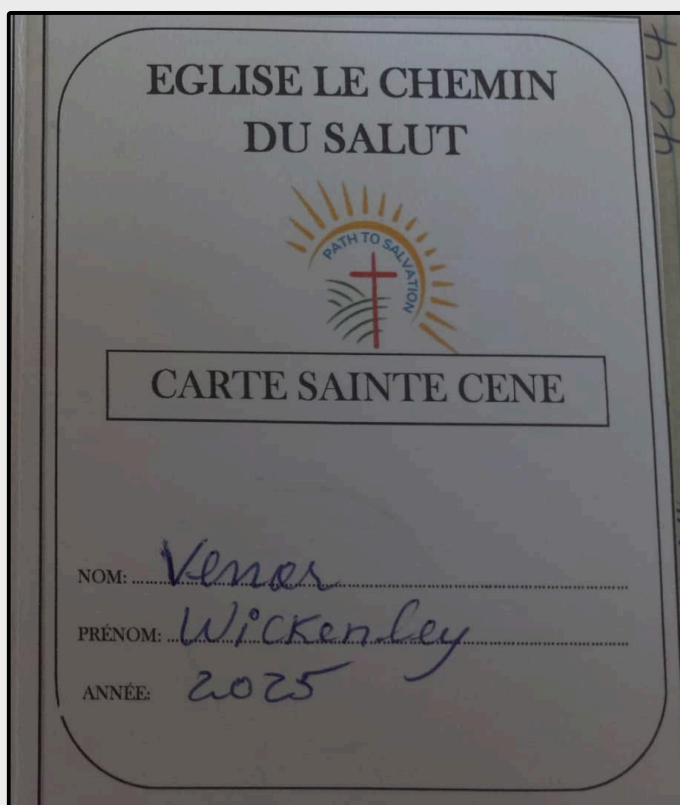
# A CARD OF FAITH: THE ROLE OF MEMBERSHIP CARDS IN HAITIAN CHURCHES

In Haiti, faith is more than just a personal belief—it is a way of life woven into the fabric of communities. For many churches, baptism marks not only a spiritual rebirth but also an official step into the church family. To recognize this commitment, newly baptized members receive a baptism membership card, a small but powerful symbol of belonging.

This card serves as an official record of one's baptism and membership in the congregation. It grants the individual certain privileges within the church, including the ability to partake in Holy Communion and to be married in the church. In many cases, this card also allows members to visit other churches and receive communion there as well. It is a sign of unity among believers and a way to identify those who have dedicated their lives to Christ.

At Path to Salvation Church, receiving a baptism card is a deeply meaningful moment. It is not just about membership—it is about committing to a life of faith and service. Pastor Wesley and the church leadership take great care in preparing new believers for baptism, ensuring they understand the significance of their decision. For these members, the card is a constant reminder of their faith journey and the church family that surrounds and supports them.

## FRONT OF MEMBERSHIP CARD



## INSIDE MEMBERSHIP CARD

Ceci certifie que  
M. Vener Wickenley  
En raison de sa foi en Jésus-Christ et de son acceptation de la doctrine, des pratiques et enseignements de l'église, est reçu(e) comme Membre de l'église LE CHEMIN DU SALUT DE TITANYEN

Cette Carte, délivrée le 12-01-25  
Est valable jusqu'à Décembre 2025

PASTEUR WESLEY ALTIME  
PASTEUR

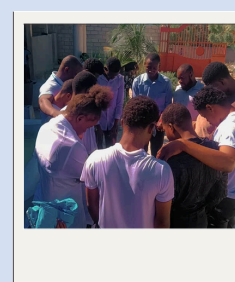
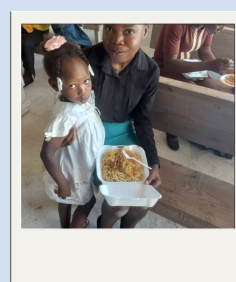
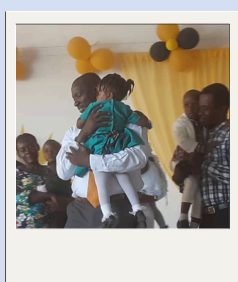
PRÉSENCE À LA SAINTE SCÈNE

ADRESSE: Titanyen

DATE

☒ Affilié(e).....  
☒ Baptisé(e).....

DATE		DATE	
JAN.	<u>12-01-25</u>	JUIL.	
FEV.		AOÛT	
MARS		SEPT.	
AVRIL		OCT.	
MAI		NOV.	
JUIN		DEC.	



# WHEN GOD PLACES A CALLING ON A CHURCH, EVEN AN OCEAN CANNOT STAND IN THE WAY OF HIS WORK BEING DONE

From the very beginning, Relevant Church has been a church built on mission. Long before its official launch in 2011, the vision was clear—to be the hands and feet of Jesus, both locally and around the world. Over the years, their reach has expanded, but one of their most cherished partnerships is with Path to Salvation Church in Haiti.

That connection began with a simple conversation. Jeff Slye, a member of Relevant Church, also a board member of Path to Salvation, Inc., felt led to introduce his church leadership to the man behind the ministry, Pastor Wesley. That first meeting, gathered in Jeff's home, was more than just an introduction—it was a moment of shared faith and calling. Pastor Wesley shared his story, his heart for Haiti, and his relentless commitment to serving despite overwhelming obstacles, and from that moment, a new partnership was formed.

Later, Relevant Church had the honor of welcoming Pastor Wesley to one of their services. He was introduced to the congregation and prayed over them. Though miles apart, a deep connection was built—one rooted in faith, trust, and a shared mission to bring hope to those in desperate need.

The realities of Haiti's ongoing struggles, from gang violence to economic hardship, have made physical visits nearly impossible. Yet, Relevant Church remains steadfast in their commitment. They know their financial contributions are more than just numbers on a spreadsheet; they are lifelines for a ministry that is feeding bodies and souls. When a season of unrest made it impossible to send money to Haiti, the church didn't stop giving.

Instead, they set aside their monthly donations, believing that God would provide the right moment. That moment came when Pastor Wesley needed a way to distribute food in his community. Because of Relevant Church's faithfulness, those funds were available at exactly the right time.

Supporting Path to Salvation has become more than a mission project—it is a calling that the entire church embraces. Their missions team faithfully prays for Pastor Wesley and his staff, standing in the gap when challenges arise. They long for the day when they can travel to Haiti, to worship together, to serve side by side, and to see firsthand the impact their support has made. Until that day comes, they continue to give, to pray, and to trust that God is working through Path to Salvation in ways they may never fully see.

For Relevant Church, supporting this ministry is not about charity—it's about obedience. It's about being part of something bigger than themselves, something eternal. As they encourage others to consider supporting Path to Salvation, they offer this heartfelt reflection: **"If you are looking to make a Kingdom impact that is truly representing Jesus, caring for His flock, feeding His sheep, and demonstrating His love, while preaching the Gospel; look no further than Path to Salvation in Haiti. We are humbled to be a small part of such an enormous Kingdom impact."**

*To learn more about Relevant Church, please visit [www.aboutrelevant.com](http://www.aboutrelevant.com).*



## FAITH RENEWED, cont. from pg 1

**Attendance has grown**, bringing the church back to the large gatherings it once experienced. This renewal is a powerful reflection of God's presence and the deep desire for His word.

Through every meal shared, every baptism performed, and every student supported, Path to Salvation continues its mission—proclaiming Christ, serving the community, and remaining steadfast in faith.



*"Attendance has grown, bringing the church back to the large gatherings it once experienced."*

## ABOUT THE BOARD

The Board of Directors of Path to Salvation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, meets on the first Monday of each month via Zoom, bringing together dedicated members from across the United States.

Committed to supporting Path to Salvation Church in Titanyen, Haiti, the board provides leadership, resources, and strategic guidance to help further its mission. Members work to fundraise, address the church's needs, and plan for sustainable growth.

If you have a heart for this mission, we invite you to inquire about joining our Board of Directors.

## MEET SUE LENNARTSON



I live in Stillwater, Minnesota, where I raised my children and now continue to call home as a widow. I serve as the Director of Adult Ministry at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, overseeing small groups, volunteers, new members, and women's ministries. My heart for Haiti began years ago through mission trips, where I worked alongside pastors, teachers, and youth programs. It was during these trips that I met Pastor Wesley, who served as my translator and became a dear friend—a true brother in Christ. Now, as a board member for Path to Salvation, I am grateful to stay connected to Haiti and speak with Pastor Wesley almost monthly.

The Haitian people continue to inspire me with their faith, generosity, and resilience. In the midst of incredible hardship, Pastor Wesley remains steadfast in his calling, saying, "I could leave, but I will not. We all need each other." His unwavering commitment to serving his community is a powerful reflection of the Gospel in action.

There are many ways we can support our brothers and sisters in Haiti—through financial giving, prayer, and encouragement. We can pray for them as they gather for worship, send messages of support, and stay informed about the challenges they face. Even small acts, like cooking a Haitian meal or reading Scripture over the nation, keep Haiti close to our hearts. Above all, we trust that God holds Haiti in His hands, and we remain committed to standing with them.

# JESUS, OUR MASTER TEACHER

A DEVOTION PROVIDED BY PATH TO SALVATION, INC. BOARD MEMBER  
LINDA BLESENER

Do you ever think of Jesus as a teacher?

Other words may come to your mind more —*Lord, Savior, Master, and Redeemer*. But here's an amazing fact: of the 90 times Jesus was addressed directly in the gospels, **60 times** he was called *Teacher*. This was the word the multitudes used. This was how the disciples referred to him. Jesus himself used the term when he said, "You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am" (John 13:13). When Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, he said, "We know that you are a teacher who has come from God" (John 3:2).

History has echoed the truth of that verdict. Theologian and one of the greatest preachers of the 20th century, James Stuart states, "The teaching of Jesus has had a power and an effect with which the influence of no other teacher can even for a moment be compared."

When Jesus had finished giving the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew tells us the crowds were so amazed at his teaching because "he taught as one having authority, not as the teachers of the law" (Matthew 7:29). The rabbis quoted each other, but *Jesus spoke the true and authoritative words of God*.

He never entered a classroom as we know a classroom. He never had a degree as we understand an educational degree, yet all the world was his classroom. No degreed teacher did anything greater than what Jesus Christ did. He was truly and absolutely the Master Teacher and the greatest teacher of all time

The most beautiful and amazing thing, is over 2,000 years have passed and Jesus is still teaching us today. This is our purpose, to follow Him, to learn from Him, to glorify Him and last but not least, to tell the entire world about him! Amen?

No matter what rhythm of life we find our ourselves in, the Lord has assured us He will be with us always even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). He uses every opportunity to teach us so we can grow more and more like Him.

Friends, what is Jesus, our Master Teacher, tenderly teaching you?



## CONSIDER DONATING

Make checks payable to "Path to Salvation, Inc." and mail to 402 Reese Wilson Road, Belmont, NC 28012. Or give online at [pathtosalvationhaiti.org/donate](https://pathtosalvationhaiti.org/donate) (a small convenience fee will be added).

## WHAT IS PATH TO SALVATION, INC.?

Path to Salvation, Inc. is a nonprofit made up of volunteer board members from across the U.S. dedicated to supporting the ministry of Path to Salvation in Titanyen, Haiti, led by Pastor Wesley. Our board and donors have worked together to raise the funds necessary to establish and maintain the construction of an open-air sanctuary, establish a church feeding program, sponsor seven students to attend school 2024-25, and help provide salaries for church leadership, just to name a few.

If you'd like to get involved or learn more about joining the mission, email us at [pathtosalvationhaiti@gmail.com](mailto:pathtosalvationhaiti@gmail.com)!