

What was life like when Jesus was born? Busy streets with people lining the roadways to sell or buy



Sitting outside in the heat on market day



Cows, pigs, goats and chickens wandering the street

things in busy market places. Animals wandering the streets. Ladies riding by on donkeys just as Mary did.



Lady taking her goods to market



Small house of rock and sticks and mud

Houses made of sticks, mud or stone. Houses lit by candles. Water pulled from wells. Small fishing boats and palm trees sway in the warm breeze.



Water well at the school/church



Fishing boats preparing to go out for the day

Why am I sharing this? Because in Haiti I always have a feeling of what life must have felt like for Mary and Joseph all those many years ago. There are no bright Christmas lights, no snow covered Christmas card scenes, no Christmas trees with presents stacked high in gay colored paper. Haitians go to Church and maybe spend the night there, singing, hearing the familiar story and playing games. Sometimes there is a piece of candy or a very small (McDonald type) toy given to the children. In really good years there is a meal of rice and beans served. The children come to church dressed in their best and perform, maybe put on a pageant or singing in the choir. It is a very exciting time. Just as tax time was in Bethlehem those many years ago.



Rioting and roadblocks are a daily occurrence



A little of the rice we have been able to purchase

Haiti has been in turmoil for many months now. They are protesting the high cost of food. The price of fuel has jumped from \$5 a gallon to \$15 at times. Because the government is shut down most of the time the containers of food have not been able to get through. People cannot go to work. Many people make only \$1 or \$2 a day and without being able to sit on the hot (98 degrees most days) roadside and sell their meager goods they have no money to buy food. Most schools have not been in session. Ours has, but with only half the students being able to attend. There are road blocks preventing people from traveling. Gun shots can be heard all the time now. We have been sending money for our key leaders to buy rice and beans to feed the most desperate in the neighborhoods.



Many children live on the streets begging



Children work from a very young age

We are asking during this holiday season that you take time to pray for Haiti. If you feel blessed and want to share please send a donation to the address above. We will either send money to buy more rice or will put it toward a food container we will schedule as soon as our Haitian leaders tell us it is safe to do so.



A typical homemade toy, we see many in Haiti



Instead of Christmas, Voodoo is being celebrated