

April 26, 2021

From Hollywood to Haiti

A week ago, I sent a *Journal* that introduced Gabens Preval to my readers. But before offering you his credentials and experience, I gave an overview of the current violence in Haiti. A reader was so moved by that summation of life in Haiti at this tense moment, that he suggested that I turn it into an essay and submit it for publication in leading newspapers in America, including *The New York Times*. I confess that initially I thought this was a waste of my time...and that may prove to be so. Still, I shared the idea with a member of the SCCC board and he too thought this was something I should do. Once I entered into the process, my enthusiasm steadily grew, especially when I had the idea to submit to a columnist at the *Los Angeles Times* whose writing I admired. I was hoping someone would actually submit it for me. It seemed self-serving for me to do so. I was told to not to focus on the *LA Times* but to submit it to the *NY Times*. My enthusiasm quickly waned, smothered by the demands of daily life in Haiti and the work of reorganizing the operation. Still, each day, I spent a little bit of time polishing the piece. Lemon Pledge was of no help.

On Saturday morning, I had this strong sensation I needed to send it Steve Lopez, the *LA Times* columnist who has a heart for the poor and marginalized. He writes with passion and conviction. I sent it at 7:49am.

I thought I would share the essay with the *Journal* readers today in place of the daily journal. My thought was that readers could forward the essay to family and friends who might consider offering us a helping hand as we approach the coming of June...when our current funding will run out without an inflow of NEW help.

The five-page essay, ***From Hollywood to Haiti***, is attached in a separate PDF file which can easily be shared. The focus of the essay is the dreadful state of life in Haiti at this time, rather than on the lives of the kids, their heartbreaking stories, or the services we offer.