

March 16, 2020 A.D.

Dear Friends of the Miami Valley Haiti Auction,

There's a reason that we should say with the Apostle James, "*If the Lord wills*, we will go to this city to buy and sell, and do this or that".

As you know, our scheduled Haiti Auction date is April 3 and 4, just 17 days away. However, you're probably also aware of the quickly-changing news updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.



- March 12, 2020: To limit the potential outbreak of a novel coronavirus in Ohio, Governor Mike DeWine banned the public gatherings of over 100 people.
- March 13: President Trump declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency.
- March 15, 2020: Governor Mike DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) had issued a Director's Order that will close all Ohio bars and restaurants to in-house patrons, staying open only for take-out and delivery options but closing all dining rooms.
- March 16: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine adjusted the ban on mass gathering to a limit of 50 people.
- March 16: President Trump recommends avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people.

In light of these developments, we are postponing the Auction until further notice. We have received many generous donations already and are expecting more to keep coming in, so our intention is to hold the auction once it is deemed acceptable to meet again in a large capacity.

The needs in Haiti are still as high as ever. As of today, thankfully there are no reported cases of the coronavirus in Haiti. They have closed the border to the Dominican Republic, and are conducting health screenings on all arriving passengers at the airports. The three Missions supported by the auction are still at work in the region. Our goal as those involved with this benefit auction is to love the LORD our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength....and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Our expectation was to be helping with needs 1700 miles south of us in Haiti; however, in this case, our goal is to love our at-risk next-door neighbors right here in the Miami Valley by keeping some social distancing in place by the postponing of this event.

You've got plenty to do while waiting, but in regards to the Miami Valley Haiti Auction, here's some ideas:

- Keep the high-quality donations coming! The items and services are being posted at www.haitiauction.org if you'd like to see what's available. Send a description and photos to donations@haitiauction.org or call Gilbert Slothour at (717)368-5634
- Spread the word about the auction. More time may mean more generous buyers on auction day.
- Pray for [International Faith Mission](#), [Redeemed Vocational School](#), and [International Fellowship Haven](#) in the coming days as travel and shipping restrictions may add to their already difficult ministries.
- Look for opportunities to proclaim Christ's gospel of peace into this hope-vacuum created by the news of this pandemic.

If the Lord wills, we will announce any further developments in the coming days when we know more.

In behalf of the auction board,

Reuben Huffman, *president*
Gilbert Slothour, *secretary*
Zac Rice, *treasurer*

Jesse Filbrun
Alex Brunk
Seth Angle
Conner Slothour

