

Their journey from Haiti was not an easy one. Delays in obtaining their Jamaican visas required airline tickets to be changed several times. Additional waiting meant unexpected expenses for food and lodging, and even their final flights through Cap-Haïtien and Providenciales were delayed. Yet through every setback, Pr. Livenson remained hopeful and deeply grateful for the prayers and support surrounding his family.

Late Tuesday evening (July 14), their long-awaited journey finally reached its destination. The family arrived in Kingston at close to midnight and then made their way through immigration and customs. Representatives of the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), Pr. Livenson's alma mater, helped coordinate their airport transportation to the seminary. In the early morning hours, we received the picture we had all been hoping and praying to see: Pr. Livenson and his family together and safely on Jamaican soil.



Their arrival marks the beginning of an important new chapter. Pr. Livenson will be continuing his studies at the United Theological College of the West Indies, where he will be pursuing a certificate in counseling. The seminary will provide his family with a place of safety and stability while he completes this work.

This process was not an easy one. The journey was made possible through the faithfulness and generosity of many people. With initial setbacks in bringing Pr. Livenson and his family to United States, a team from Emmanuel led by Harry Lukas and consisting of Pastors Will and Dan, Council President KC Farrell, Council Secretary and Emmanuel's Haiti Team Liaison Lynne Ross, and Deacon Scott Pinkerton worked with Bishop Pedro Suarez and Dr. Carlos Ham of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, Pr. Katie Carroll of the Synod's Global Mission Table, and Pr. Jaime Dubon of the Latin America and Caribbean desk of ELCA Churchwide to develop a plan to extract Pr. Livenson and his family out of Haiti and bring them safely to Jamaica via the UTCWI seminary.

A special thank you to Harry Lukas for his extraordinary persistence in communicating with immigration officials, changing travel arrangements, transferring funds, and remaining in close contact with Pr. Livenson throughout the process. Thanks be to God as well for Beverly Pereira and Karen Durant-McSweeney of the seminary for helping welcome the Livenson family upon their arrival and assisting with their immediate needs.

Thank you to all parties for their significant support for the family's travel and initial settlement. Many contributed financially, offered encouragement, and faithfully remembered the family in prayer. Every gift—whether financial, practical, or prayerful—became part of God's provision for this family.

There will still be challenges as Pr. Livenson and his family settle into life in Jamaica, but today we pause to rejoice. What began as a difficult and uncertain journey has become a testimony to perseverance, generosity, Christian fellowship, and the faithfulness of God.

Thank you to everyone who prayed, gave, encouraged, called, wrote, transported, coordinated, and refused to give up. Through your kindness, the Livenson family has been reminded that they are not alone. They are surrounded by a community of faith that cares for them and walks beside them.

Thanks be to God for their safe arrival. Please continue to keep Pr. Livenson, his wife, and their children in your prayers as they settle into their new home and begin this next season of life, study, and ministry. Stay tuned for ways that our congregation (and other congregations of our Synod and the ELCA) can continue to support Pr. Livenson and his family in Jamaica.