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METHODIST
WORLD MISSIONS

Missions Hotline

Monday, January 25, 2010

Special Edition



Update from Team A

Port-au-Prince

Reported by Delia Nüesch-Olver on behalf of the second response team

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Standing in rubble Sunday morning, I had the honor of preaching at one of our Free Methodist churches. The church and school buildings were unsafe so we met under a tarp in the school's patio. Surrounded by unbelievable pain and destruction and odor and bugs and thirst and hunger, it was very moving to join with our Haitian sisters and brothers in singing, "For I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able ..."

We attempted to bring words of comfort and hope and arranged to have water delivered. A team from the Dominican Republic will continue to deliver water and food to people from the church and neighborhood we visited for the foreseeable future.

Some reflections from members of the team after visiting downtown Port-au-Prince this afternoon:

Flattened ... It looked like a nuclear bomb had gone off ... Total, breathtaking destruction beyond any kind of description. Overwhelming ... People burned, still alive. Sorrow ... Visible decaying bodies. Smell ... Hard to process the suffering. And finally: "The pictures you've seen in TV are not true; it is much worse."

There was an aftershock this afternoon. We fear unstable buildings may no longer be standing. Alice Judy had asked her husband, Larry, (one of our team members) to find out whether their friend Bill was alive. Larry asked around to anyone he thought might know. No one had heard from Bill since the earthquake, and Larry was increasingly concerned. Today as we returned from church Larry was sitting in the back of an open pick-up truck. Suddenly, Larry heard his name called out and saw his friend Bill waving at him animatedly. Bill and Larry hope to connect again tomorrow. In the midst of so much sadness, devastation and masses of people in this capital city, this felt like a wonderful moment to all of us.

On Monday the team will divide in three. We will start work again at 6 a.m. Ken LaBelle will continue doing building inspections. Dr. Dale Woods and I will meet for a third strategy

meeting with the Haitian leaders, after which I will visit schools and pastors with Andy Yardy. Meanwhile Dale will fix generators to make it possible for the ICCM central office to start functioning again.

Be wise in your giving toward Haiti. We have seen people from international organizations jumping out of cars for a quick photo shoot, and then speeding away with their media material. I recommend the Bishops Famine and Relief Fund and the [Help Haiti Heal fund](#).

Thank you for your prayers for Haiti and the Haitian people.



Help Haiti Heal

Give

Give online at: www.helphaitiheal.org

or send checks to:

Bishops Famine and Relief Fund
Free Methodist Church of North America
PO Box 535002
Indianapolis IN 46253-5002

Go

Click here <http://go.fmwm.org/go/haiti/haiti.php> to complete a response/registration form for volunteer service in Haiti.



Pray

Participate in the Day of Prayer and Fasting for Haiti, January 27, 2010.