

Haiti Update
January 29, 2010

Dear Friends of Medical Benevolence Foundation,

As I write this on the 28th we hear news that a 17 year old girl has just been pulled alive from the rubble after 15 days. The human spirit and endurance is amazing!

We hope you have seen MBF's letters and news about the earthquake. If you have not, they can be seen on our web-site www.mbfoundation.org. As they note, MBF has established the Haiti Earthquake Response Fund.

The Haiti Earthquake Medical Response Fund #530-453 will support our partners as they respond both in the immediate and long-term to the devastating January 12 earthquake. Please send checks made out to the Medical Benevolence Foundation with a notation for this fund and send it to:

The Medical Benevolence Foundation
3100 S Gessner, Ste 210
Houston, TX 77063

Your donation to the Haiti Earthquake Medical Response Fund will go 100% to that cause. MBF also needs money to support our ministry, to cover urgent work elsewhere in the world, and to respond quickly in the future when unforeseen needs like Haiti strike in another part of the world. Therefore, we hope you will consider also giving 'where most needed' to help cover some of these expenses.

We are grateful for the donations received online and through the mail. We are also happy that so many individuals with medical and other skills are eager to go and help. If you are interested, please visit the MBF website to begin the process. If you have questions you may send an email to volunteer@mbfoundation.org.

John and Suzi Parker, who were serving as managers of the guest house at the Hospital Ste Croix and overseeing construction work, provided heroic efforts after the earthquake. Despite John having been trapped in the rubble of the collapsed guesthouse for some four hours, they stayed in Leogane to help get response efforts underway. The Parkers have just returned to their home base in Austin. MBF is grateful for them and all they did and asks your continued prayers for them.

Please note the link on our home page to the special Haiti Earthquake report page for news about what is happening. For example, the amazing witness of the work of the faculty and students of the FSIL nursing school in Leogane is something for which we are grateful. Within the hour after the earthquake hit, they began helping injured people and reaching out to several sites across Leogane. Dean Hilda Alcindor and the students have done and continue to do things far beyond what anyone could have reasonably expected.

Dr. Chip Lambert, MBF's Director of Mission Service and an emergency medicine physician, has been in Haiti since January the 18th. In addition to medical work, Chip has helped Dean Alcindor in organizing work, has facilitated shipments, expedited travel, arranged security, and supported our partners. Chip was joined on the 23rd by Jimmy Hite, a former MBF president and the architect who designed the Nursing School. Jimmy's primary mission was to evaluate the structural safety of the remaining buildings. He has also been an encouragement and help to our partners. Jimmy is returning today to the USA to work on finalizing structural analysis reports. Chip plans to return in another couple of days. Dick Stuber, a retired mechanical and building contractor, arrived in Leogane yesterday to continue the MBF presence on the ground.

Worldwide Villages is deploying a 50 bed modular hospital which will be set up on the FSIL Nursing School grounds. This temporary hospital will provide a much safer setting for medical help for the immediate future.

Please continue to pray for the people of Haiti and for our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti. The Bishop lost his own home, the main Cathedral, and many institutions especially those in Port-au-Prince. He has chosen to live in a tent city with his people, even as his wife remains in the hospital recovering from multiple injuries. Wherever the church is across Haiti, it is serving a people devastated and traumatized by the earthquake and its aftermath.

MBF remains in constant touch with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), and we are happy that they have given a grant to the Nursing School and Hospital to aid their emergency response. PDA refers those who wish to give medical service in Haiti to MBF's mission service program. As soon as our partners indicate readiness, we will begin to rotate in teams to give help on the ground.

Yours in Christ's service,

Will Browne, Executive Director