

Southwest Church of Christ
505 West 17th Street
Ada, Oklahoma 74820

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H E A L , R E B U I L D , G R O W

J U N E 1 , 2 0 1 0 U P D A T E

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Cash donations may be forwarded to
Earthquake Relief Fund
Southwest church of Christ
505 W 17th
Ada, OK 74820
- Spread the word about our effort
- Pray for the people of Haiti, all relief efforts and for our effort
- Monitor the website (www.swcocada.com/HaitiRelief.html)
- For additional information contact C. J. Vires (charv@cablone.net) or the church of office at 580.332.3240



... THINGS TOO WONDERFUL FOR US TO KNOW

Dear Friends,

Since our last newsletter, we have diligently moved forward with distribution of funds to various individuals and congregations in Port au Prince. Our Haiti Relief Team has continued to meet regularly to discuss and consider opportunities as well as to commit funds in support of specific projects. Additionally, two members of our team, David Dirrim and C. J. Vires, visited Haiti on April 1-6 and then again on May 3-6. While the primary purpose of these trips was to work at the Cap Haitien Children's Home in northern Haiti, C. J. and David spent several days in Port au Prince distributing funds, monitoring progress on projects and identifying additional needs. A similar trip is planned for June.

During the April and May visits funds were distributed to assist with four projects. First, funds were provided to help clear rubble and to rebuild a house for a local minister and his family. Second, funds were provided to purchase land and to clear rubble on the site where the Varreux congregation and school were located. Funds were also provided to the Varreux congregation to assist with purchasing temporary seating and supplies needed to restart the school. Third, the Relief Effort provided funds to rent a temporary location, purchase supplies, and pay teachers' salaries necessary to restart a school in the Santo community. Finally, funds were provided to help construct a fence around a piece of property that has been acquired to start a new congregation at Blue Hill, a suburb of Cap Haitien. During April and May, we also helped with various individual needs such as school expenses, help for food, transportation, medical expenses and even funds to help purchase seed for families to plant their gardens.

David Dirrim will take another trip to Port au Prince the first of June and will be distribute additional funds to support the rebuilding of the school at Varreux, to purchase land on which to construct the Sarthe church building, to rent a facility for the Carrefour congregation for the next year, and to construct a new church building and school for the congregation at Lemonade.

Additionally, our coordinating team has committed to provide \$186,000 to support future projects. These projects include: finishing construction of the school at Varreux, purchasing land and constructing a church building for the Carrefour and Fontana Mara congregations; constructing a church building for the Sarthe congregation, providing scholarships for children of church members to attend school in 2010-11; and supporting a medical team to provide long-term diabetes and hypertension care.

In summary, the Haiti Relief Project continues to positively impact the lives of individuals and congregations in Port au Prince and other areas of Haiti where the effects of the January earthquake have been felt. **To date, the Haiti Relief Effort has distributed \$234,849 in assistance and has committed another \$186,000. In total, 86% of the \$487,000 contributed to this effort has been expended or committed.** With God's blessing, it is our hope that the majority of the Haiti Earthquake Relief Effort funds will be distributed by September 1.

We will continue to provide timely updates on the various activities through our newsletter, website (www.swcocada.com/HaitiRelief.html) and the Haitian Christian Supporters group on facebook. If congregations want to schedule a member of our team to make a report, please contact C. J. Vires (charv@cablone.net).

Thank you for your continued prayers, support and encouragement.

RELIEF EFFORT HELPS VARREUX CONGREGATION

The Varreux community is located about two miles from the center of Port au Prince and the epicenter of the devastating January 12 earthquake. The Varreux community is located on highway international #1 in Port au Prince just a few minutes from the airport. Varreux was greatly devastated by the earthquake with loss of many structures and many lives.

It is within this community that members of the Haiti Earthquake Relief team first found a congregation of the Lord's church and met Felix St. Hubert. Felix is a man in his 50s who has a wife and 4 children. He has served as a minister in the church of Christ for about 25 years. Felix is a soft-spoken and humble man. During his first meeting with our team, he spent an hour explaining the impact of the earthquake and the needs of the congregation. The structure in which the church met and the adjacent school buildings were destroyed as were the homes of many members of the church. His story was heart breaking, but not once did he ask for help for himself or his family. His focus was on helping others.



David and Felix meet to discuss efforts at Varreux

Initially, the Relief Effort worked with Felix to distribute tents and food to members of the Varreux congregation. When we next visited Felix in April, he had acquired a large tent for church meetings. He also shared that the land on which much of the school was located could be purchased – part of the land was owned by the congregation, but not all of it. At that time, the Relief Effort provided funds to purchase the land as well as to help with school expenses for his children.

By the time our team returned in May, Felix had purchased the land and had started clearing rubble. The large tent had been relocated to the cleared site, and Felix had started having school with about 75 students in attendance. He also shared that he had restarted a revolving loan program with some of the funds left over from the land purchase. He had provided about \$53 each to 15 ladies within the congregation to help them restart their small businesses. Many of these ladies will use the funds to purchase items at wholesale. They will then resale these items within their communities.



David and Yvon survey damage at Santo School

FUNDS HELP SCHOOL TO START

Yvon Innocent is a minister for a congregation that meets in the community of Sarthe. Like most ministers in Haiti, Yvon works outside of the church to provide for his family. In this case, Yvon operates a K-12 school in the nearby community of Santo that serves 250 students and employs 16 teachers, half of which are members of the Church. The school building at Santo was completely destroyed in the earthquake. The Earthquake Relief Effort provided funds to secure a temporary location for the school, purchase school supplies and to support teacher salaries for the last trimester of school. Eventually, \$75,000-\$100,000 will be needed to rebuild the school.



Earthquake damage at Varreux



Temporary meeting place for the congregation at Varreux

It is within the Varreux community that members of the Haiti Earthquake Relief team first found a congregation of the Lord's church and met Felix St. Hubert. Felix is a man in his 50s who has a wife and 4 children. He has served as a minister in the church of Christ for about 25 years.

FUNDS PROVIDE HOUSING FOR MINISTER



Temporary Home of Dérisse Alain

Dérisse Alain is a minister at the Christ Roi congregation in Port au Prince and is a graduate of the Center for Biblical Training. Alain's house was completely destroyed by the earthquake. In May, the Relief Effort provided funds to Alain to clear the rubble from his home site and to begin construction of a new home for him, his wife and 4 children.



Dérisse's children and other family members



DR. BRUCE DENNIS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT RENÉ PRÉVAL

Dr. Bruce Dennis, a member of the Haiti Earthquake Relief Team and elder at the Fittstown church of Christ, has learned that he will have an opportunity to meet with the President of Haiti, René Préval. Dr. Dennis will be part of a U.S. congressional team that will be traveling to Haiti in June. He hopes that the trip will provide an opportunity to share how the Haiti Earthquake Relief Effort and other church of Christ efforts are working with local congregations in Port au Prince to distribute aid and assistance.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Provided below is a summary of receipts and disbursements to the Haiti Disaster Relief fund for the period April 1–May 31, 2010.

Balance (3/31/2010)			\$ 332,722.60
Total Receipts (4/1/2010-5/31/2010)			\$ 19,067.85
Disbursements (4/1/2010-5/31/2010)			
Date	Vendor	Purpose	Amount
4/21/2010	HCF	Lodging in Haiti	\$ 100.00
4/27/2010	David Dirrim	Property purchase for school at Varreux school	\$ 8,240.00
5/1/2010	Alain Darrise	Remove rubble	\$ 1,500.00
5/1/2010	Alain Darrise	Rebuild house	\$ 10,000.00
5/1/2010	Felix Saint-Hubert	Chairs and clear school rubble	\$ 2,500.00
5/1/2010	Yvon Innocent	Rent, school, supplies and salaries temporary school	\$ 3,000.00
5/1/2010	Yvonn Innocent	Remove rubble from school site	\$ 1,800.00
5/1/2010	Bruce Dennis	Reimburse for medical supplies	\$ 2,413.45
5/26/2010	Felix Saint-Hubert	School construction at Varreux	\$ 12,500.00
5/26/2010	Demonthenes	Church building rental at Carrefour	\$ 1,250.00
5/26/2010	Yvonn Innocent	Property purchase for church building at Sarthe	\$ 20,000.00
5/26/2010		Church building construction at Lemonade	\$ 32,500.00
5/26/2010	David Dirrim	Benevolence distributions while in Port au Prince	\$ 3,000.00
Total Disbursements (4/1/2010-5/31/2010)			\$ (98,803.45)
Balance (5/31/2010)			\$ 252,987.00

As of May 31, the Haiti Relief Effort has distributed \$234,849 in assistance and has committed another \$186,600.

In total, 86% of the \$487,836 contributed to this effort has been expended or committed.