

Calvary Christian Family Orphanage & Calvary Chapel Port-au-Prince *Earthquake Update*

February 4, 2010

A joint ministry of Calvary Chapel in the City – Boston and Calvary Chapel Port-au-Prince.

Earthquake Ravishes Port-au-Prince

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 earthquake ravished much of Haiti including the capital, Port-au-Prince (PAP). Over 30 aftershocks followed the earthquake ranging from 4.2 to 5.9. Mortality rates have been estimated to approach 200,000 individuals.

We at Calvary Chapel in the City - Boston had just returned from PAP after a short term mission trip on January 4, 2010. We had

the privilege of celebrating New Years and the Haitian Independence Day with Calvary Chapel PAP and the staff and children of Calvary Christian Family (CCF).

Within a week of our return, we were faced with the news of the earthquake and left to pray and fast as we waited to hear the outcome of the orphanage and the church we so dearly love in PAP.

Many thanksgivings were given to God as the reports came in that no one in the church or the orphanage was killed and only a few had suffered serious injuries. In addition, both the church and the orphanage buildings were standing after the earthquake and aftershocks that followed.

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Churches in the United States Respond

After the earthquake, there was an immediate desire among the American churches to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Given that Pastor Serge had limited communication from PAP, he asked that Calvary Chapel in the City – Boston and Calvary Chapel Melbourne coordinate the state side relief efforts. Funds have been raised through charitable donations received through the CCF orphanage account.

On January 19, we received word from Pastor Serge that he was in need of funds and non-perishable food supplies. The next evening, 3 members from Calvary Chapel in the City – Boston traveled to PAP via the Dominican Republic, arriving in PAP on January 21 to meet this request.

The team consisted of a doctor, operating room technician, and a carpenter. They stayed in

PAP with the church from January 21 – 28. This newsletter documents their observations and the current plan moving forward regarding Calvary Chapel PAP and Calvary Christian Family Orphanage.

Calvary Chapel Port-au-Prince



Sunday morning service at CCPAP. The congregation spills into the street behind the church building.

We are very thankful that no regular member of CCPAP was killed in the earthquake. The building is standing but its walls were cracked by the earthquake and therefore services must be held outside.

On January 17, Pastor Serge advised that everyone who had family outside of PAP should evacuate immediately.

The following Sunday,

January 24, Pastor Serge was expecting only about 15 people for Sunday morning service. Much to his surprise, the entire back yard of the church was overflowing into the streets with people. The believers had come together to worship, pray, and strengthen themselves in the teaching of the Word of God.

Many who had little brought what they had to

share with their brothers and sisters who were in greater need than themselves. Pastor Serge began documenting the needs of the people in the church. Many were living on the streets often without food, water, or sufficient funds to acquire them. The church quickly set into motion plans to help the believers and to prepare themselves to minister to the community they serve in.

Taking Comfort in Loss

In spite of the fact the no one died from the church, believing and non-believing family members did die. Many of the people I spoke with during the mission trip had experienced the loss of a loved one.

One young man I spoke with told me that his mother had died in the earthquake. Though he missed her, he was comforted that she was

with Jesus now since she was a born-again Christian.

We read together the words from the Bible:

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him

those who sleep in Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 3:13-14.

Unfortunately, many died during the earthquake in Haiti who did not have this hope.



Young man from CCPAP whose mother died in the earthquake.

The Gospel Goes Forth

After Sunday morning service, many of the young men in the church went out to the streets and parks of PAP where people are now living to share the good news of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Twenty-four people made a profession of faith that afternoon as they understood the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on their behalf which allows for the forgiveness of sins.

Wherever they go, Pastor

Serge asks them to share the following scripture:

“For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

Calvary Christian Family Orphanage

We are also pleased to report that none of the children in the orphanage or the workers were killed or seriously injured. The orphanage building did suffer damage but is standing and appears to be repairable.

In particular, one of the supporting walls is cracked, with smaller cracks extending into the walls of a bedroom one story above. We believe

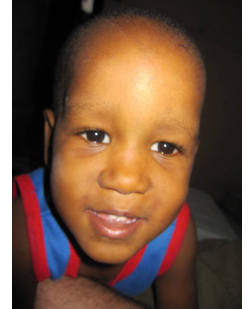
the structure can be repaired with the placement of additional iron reinforced concrete pillars around the outside of these walls. We have already acquired the materials for this repair but we are following the advice of experts who say to delay all construction until 30 days after the earthquake. The aftershocks can apparently weaken new construction.



Letchino & Loveson



Jimmy



Alexandre "San-San"



Damaged supporting wall at CCF

Living Outdoors at CCF

Given the damage to the buildings in Haiti and the frequent after-shocks, it is not safe to stay indoors. As such, the children, staff and many leaders of the church including Pastor Serge are living in the backyard of the orphanage.

While in PAP, we had the privilege of staying with them in these humble conditions. About 30 people live in the small area show in the picture to the right.

3 connected single story storage units (about 12' x 12' each) serve as a place to sleep at night and play rooms for the kids during the day. Eight guys (including Pastor Serge) slept in one room, 5 women and 8 children in the other, while the

remaining room and a few tents housed the married couples.

The women woke up early every morning and spent most of their day cooking over a coal burning fire in the back yard. Clothes were washed by hand in a bucket. Most evenings, we turned on the generator just long enough to recharge our cell phones and to let the kids watch a few minutes of the same episode of "Sesame Street".

We were able to use the bathrooms in the orphanage, but those who experienced the earthquake went in with much anxiety. In fact, one worker asked for prayer that she could use the bathroom without fearing that the building would fall.



Backyard at CCF houses about 30 people



Sleeping in close quarters at CCF

The Earthquake Could Just be the Beginning



Now that the earthquake is over and the aftershocks are beginning to subside, what is next?

The widespread devastation to the houses and buildings of PAP has lead many to take shelter in the streets and parks. Many have only a bed-sheet to shield them from the heat of the sun.

The problem is there is no access to bathrooms. People are forced to use the streets as their toilet. The stench of the raw sewage hangs in the air in these camps.

With time, such unsanitary conditions and the impending rainy season will likely give way to wide spread disease such as

dysentery, cholera, and malaria. These diseases have the potential to cause many more deaths.

Building a Tent City



Dr. Winnie and Dr. Chilove

Dr. Winnie (OB/GYN) and Dr. Chilove (surgeon) are married and are among several young leaders in Calvary Chapel PAP. During the earthquake, their hospital was demolished.

Rather than remorse over the loss, they realized that the property was perfect

for a tent city for the church and for the orphanage.

In particular, there is at least 5 acres of open land within the property boundaries, there is a fresh water well, there are 2 generators to produce power, and a latrine (Haitian type of septic

tank) already in place for the installation of toilets.

During the week we were in PAP, this land was transformed by the hard-working Haitians into a sanitary tent city which is already being inhabited by the homeless members of the church.



Demolished hospital from earthquake



Newly installed toilets (5 total)



Building converted into showers



Electricity & lights



Newly built kitchen



Building converted into food storage



The first of many more tents to be inhabited

Future Direction

The purpose of the tent city is to provide a short-term (4-6 months) safe haven to seek the Lord about the future direction for the church in PAP. During that time it should become clear what the Haitian government as well as the international community is going to do with regard to rebuilding PAP.

Pastor Serge feels a strong calling to the city of PAP and wants to continue services within the city and to evangelize through education (computer classes, English classes, and driving classes). He is currently looking for land

and building opportunities within the city as the lease for the damaged church building is up in March of 2010.

Just as the Lord used the persecution in Jerusalem to disperse the believers and spread the gospel throughout the countryside, we believe that this may be one purpose in the earthquake. Many of the church members may choose to settle in the more rural communities outside of PAP, such as the location of the tent city.

CCPAP would eagerly support the beginning of a

new church in this location. Currently Dr. Chilove is teaching several Bible studies a day to those living at the tent city. Church services are being held both in PAP and at the tent city on Sunday mornings.

As the dust settles in Haiti, many will no doubt seek to fulfill their calling within PAP again. In the months to follow, we expect to see rebuilding of homes and the communities of the believers within PAP. God willing, this will provide further opportunity for US based churches to assist and get to know the church in PAP.



Medical Missions

Pastor Serge's cousin has returned to Haiti. Luke went to nursing school in the US and has made a career in Florida as a nurse practitioner. Since the earthquake, he has left his job to come to Haiti to provide medical care to those who have been injured from the earthquake.

Like Serge, Luke grew up in Haiti and knows the ins and outs of the Haitian medical system and the existing infrastructure. Unlike the larger medical mission organizations, Luke has connections to

get trained medical professionals seeking short-term missions opportunities into the center of need.

During our recent trip, Luke took us to Saint Francois de Sales, which contains the oldest operating room in Haiti. In addition to ourselves, there were several foreign groups of surgeons providing medical care, however there were many unmet needs.

I, though I am trained as a pathologist, was used as the triage doctor for this

hospital. Our surgical technician assisted several days with the surgeons who were already there. Even the carpenter from our group was asked to assist in surgery.

The needs continue but one has to know where to go. Luke has agreed to coordinate US based medical professionals who want to serve in Haiti over the coming months. In addition to St. Francois de Sales, he also has access to a clinic in City Soleil, which is one of the poorest areas of Haiti.



Pastor Serge and his cousin Luke

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How to Help

The amount of interest to date has been encouraging and at the same time overwhelming for Pastor Serge. As such, he has asked that the relief efforts be coordinated through Calvary Chapel in the City – Boston and Calvary Chapel Melbourne.

At the moment, only medical personnel are able to be hosted for short-term mission trips. For further information please contact us by email or phone using the contact information provided at the left of this page.

Financial contributions may be made by check to the address in the upper left of this page or online using a credit card via PayPal. Our web address is listed in the box to the left of this article.

Within the next several months, we hope to have a clearer understanding of how church groups might sponsor or take part in

rebuilding homes and repairing the facilities of Calvary Chapel PAP.

We will continue to use our website to post updates.

Most importantly, our brothers and sisters need your prayers.

Hosting several hundred believers in tents in a confined space for several months has the

opportunity for tremendous growth, unity, and love. At the same time, there is the potential for discouragement and complacency. Please pray that the believers would take encouragement and go deep in the word of God. Please also pray for unity among the leaders and all the saints in PAP.



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