

# Haiti News: January - April 2010



As you know, Haiti was devastated with a 7.3 earthquake on January 12, 2010.

There is not a person here in Haiti that was not affected by the destruction and the loss. Homes and lives were taken in a matter of 40 seconds. Over 200,000 bodies were buried in a mass grave with no identification. You could hear on the radio people being asked to pick up the mass bodies off the streets. The stench of death from piles of bodies on one side of the rubble filled streets as people took up residence on the opposite side of the road afraid to go back into any building that remained standing.



I spoke with Mayor Santos Alexi of Leogane (the epicenter of the earthquake) over 80% of the town was destroyed; 10,000 lives were taken – that was 1 in every 5 residence of Leogane.



Pr. Etienne and I went up to General Hospital in Les Cayes as the first of the medi-vacs started coming in from PAP and the surrounding areas the day after the earthquake, to see what we could do to help. One of the patients brought in was his niece who was playing out in the yard when the blocks from the neighbor's house fell down on her. Her leg was going to have to be amputated.

Haiti's Children, Inc (HCI) was one of the first responders with supplies (food, water, and clothing) to PAP after the earthquake. We thankfully had food from our last container from FMSC (Feed My Starving Children) we were able to distribute as well as purchase food from the generous donations that started pouring in. Trinity Lutheran Church – Pell Lake, WI had a team that was suppose to arrive the day after the earthquake, and generously donated the first \$2300 from the team – that immediately went to purchasing food and water.



As we neared the PAP area, I remember the devastation; it was like a war zone. Buildings down, bodies everywhere, you could hear cries come from all directions. Helicopters circling above – bodies and wounded lined outside the hospitals. Road blocks being put up by protestors, “where is the help” they were shouting. I recall looking over at Pr. Etienne as we drove down the streets and seeing his tears as he sat there in total dismay and feeling the hopelessness of Haiti. “It’s going to take years to recover from this” he cried. We stayed in PAP that evening with family. The Haitians were afraid to go back into their homes, for fear of another earthquake, or the rest of the house

falling on them. We slept on cots out in the yard. At 3:30 in the morning you could feel another aftershock. People were up, screaming “get away from the buildings”. As you listened, you could hear choruses of “Amazing Grace” coming from all directions. We started in what they call “tent cities” with the food distribution (this was before any aide could get into the country with tents)



We asked for a police escort in each of the areas. The leaders in the “tent cities” were trying to keep order, as best as they could and help make sure that the food and supplies were distributed as evenly as possible. I remember handing food to one family and the gentleman looked at me and asked “where is everyone? Don’t they care? Isn’t anyone coming to help us?”



This was prior to the United States taking over control of the Haitian airport that was destroyed so planes could land with the aide that was trying to come in.



The people in PAP and the surrounding area had been without any drinking water since Tuesday, it was not Friday when we were able to bring in a second load of supplies.



Each of our trips back to Les Cayes, our vehicle was loaded with people wanting to get away from the PAP area. 1000's of people trying to get away from the area, migrating to the south.

We also managed to bring in supplies for the clinics and hospitals; the delay at the airport was affecting the much needed medicines and equipment and delaying

treatments causing infections to set in. We brought in what antibiotics we had on hand.



Many groups and medical personnel worked hard at finding their way into the country to help the understaffed and crowded hospitals. Some groups were turned away in the states at the airport. At this time Haiti needed trained Natural Disaster personnel and medical specialists.

A month and a half after the earthquake we were able to get a couple of Paramedics flown in from the Milwaukee area that helped with bandage and wound care at Citi Lumiere hospital in Les Cayes. Surgeries were delayed due to infections that had set in. Amputations were being done on a daily basis with minimal anesthetic.

Missionaries and organizations came together to help where needed. The Apostolic Church from Indiana missionaries worked hard to reopen a much needed hospital – bringing in group after group of specialists, nurses and equipment.

#### **Words from a Special Friend:**

We were also blessed to have a PA from Milwaukee come in and help us with

mobile clinics in the Les Cayes area. Here is what Pam had to say after her visit in November 2009:



November 10, 2009

I left Haiti this year with tears in my eyes. Not tears of sadness, but tears of joy for all the good that happened during my 12 days in Haiti and tears of sorrow because I would have to leave behind the friends I had become so close to. There is still so much work to do.

Our seven one day clinics were a success. We endured the heat, the long days, and the repeated complaints of abdominal pain. Abdominal pain related to hunger, acid reflux from all the daily stressors, or worms? Eight hundred forty three men, women, and children were cared for by a small team of 6 people. Each day we would pack the land rover with our supplies and set out to rural areas surrounding Les Cayes. The clinic was setup each day in a different church. We started and ended each day with God by our side. There were times I could almost feel his presence. These times were most obvious to me when I wasn't sure exactly what to do for someone. I would sit for a minute and somehow God would provide the answers to my questions. I truly believe we saved lives

at several of these clinics. For others just listening to their concerns and offering empathy and hope was about all I could do. The problem of not enough medications for hypertension and diabetes continues. The problem of not enough food continues. The problem of lack of running water and poor sanitary conditions continues, but what also continues is the appreciation I saw in the eyes of every patient I spoke to.

As I sit and write this today I reflected on what I had written when I returned from Haiti in 2008. At that time I questioned if I could ever go back to Haiti. Did I have the strength? Would things work out better or worse with such a small team? Would I leave questioning all over again why God allows the people in Haiti to suffer? The answers to these questions have become somewhat clearer to me after this trip. Yes, I had the strength. God gave me the strength. Yes, our team was a force to behold. We worked together tirelessly. Even after the clinics were over Gladys and I would count pills till we both thought we would continue to count pills in our dreams. The number thirty was magic. Thirty vitamins, 30 acetaminophen, 30 ibuprofen, 30 naprosyn, 30 famotidine, 30 tums, 30,30,30!! We got so good at counting pills we could carry on serious conversations and count. Such talent was a wonder to behold. The last question I still struggle with. I know there is no resolution to the problems in Haiti coming soon, but where I fit in is clear. God has given me the gift of knowledge, compassion, and love. A love for all people. Whether I am working in a high tech clinic in the states or a church that has been temporarily constructed using a tarp for a roof I can share my gifts with those in need. God has always told his

people to help those in need, to serve the poor. That is why I go to Haiti. I remember Gladys once told me that every time she left Haiti she would leave a piece of her heart behind. I am so grateful for the opportunity to go to Haiti and as I left this time a piece of my heart stayed in Haiti.

-Pam Scott

We are thankful for all the time and gifts that Pam has given to HCI. She has taught us that it's not just a matter of giving out medicines, but making sure they understand the medicines they are given and they know how to use them, such as an inhaler, or simply showing them and having them show you back that they know how to change and clean a wound dressing. Pam takes time with each patient, to get to know them, hold their hand, listen to them; it is not about how many we can get through the clinic that day.

### **College students shake up Simon:**

HCI also hosted a group of young adults and leaders from the UW – Milwaukee/Madison area on a tremendous God filled, on fire for Christ week of Evangelizing.



Each person in this group gave their personal testimony on their struggles and

journey/walk with Christ that they shared with their Haitians friends. They brought music, God's grace and love, and healing in the name of Jesus to 100's that attended the Crusades. They opened up the hearts of many to receive Christ. During the week, they helped build/restore a home for a widow in the community in very close quarters.



The group spent an afternoon at the orphanage playing with the children. The children enjoyed the fellowship and the toys that the team brought with them.



Many young people in the community hung around with the group for the week, just wanting the opportunity to build relationships and see why they were so on fire for Christ.

I remember sitting out on my balcony one morning after they left and listening

to a couple of children singing the songs the teams sang at the Crusades. They really touched so many lives.



A few of the young people spoke at ‘Conversation Club’ at the American University of the Caribbean and prayed with the students.

**Thank you for your giving:**

It has been an incredibly long, heartfelt, tiring, yet God-filled four months. I have been so blessed by the support and just the incredible groups of people that have contacted me to help here in Haiti, not to mention all the prayers that have been lifted up.



A group of teachers, staff and students from the Pottsville school district sent us boxes (through Agape Flights) of clothing; sundresses they sewed; shorts and t-shirts, care packages; shoes, that they wrote notes on the bottom of the soles (the kids kept asking – “what does

it say, what does it say”); balls and toys. These were all given to the children at HCRM (Haiti’s Children Rescue Mission). The orphanages have been taking in children daily that are brought to them or just left at the gate. The orphanages are busting at the seams; not enough beds to house the number of children, or food. Tents and mattresses are set up in the playground area to help house the additional children taken in since the earthquake.



A group of volunteers from Go Missions put together back packs/duffel bags filled with household items, blankets, towels, hygiene products, and food, lots and lots of food and shipped them in through Agape Flights. HCI was able to distribute over 100 of these bags to people in the Refugee camps, community, and clinic and through church families.



A family from California shipped in clothes and shoes that went out to the Refugee camps and to the churches.

Agape flights located in Venice, Florida brings the mail and packages into Haiti for the missionaries. They keep the cost at a bare minimum to help us receive news/letters and care packages from our loved ones back home. After the earthquake they were using the mail plane to get a lot of earthquake relief into Haiti. Agape waived the fees of shipping Earthquake relief aide to us in Haiti for a couple of months so we could help get aide to people quicker. If you would like to make a donation to Agape Flights for all their GREAT efforts – please send a check to: Agape Flights 100 Airport Dr Venice, FL 34285. I know we here in Haiti appreciate what all the volunteers at Agape Flights do for us on a weekly basis. Thank You so much AGAPE.

We also received some great packages from a family in Arkansas; Calton, Anne & Trinity – they sent hygiene products – we were able to make up care packages for all the patients in the hospital and distribute, they sent in toys, coloring books, crayons and clothes for the children; medical supplies for the hospital and over the counter medicines.



I spent hours on the internet, contacting the top 13 International Organizations that CNN had listed for people to donate to help with the Earthquake relief in Haiti. Only one of those organizations returned my email and followed-up.

After many emails back and forth, they sent us a generous donation to purchase food locally to help with the 1000's of people that migrated from PAP to the South and the local businesses. We are forever thankful for the blessing and generosity of IR teams (International Relief teams) for the 1000's of people they helped us distribute food to through the community Magistrate, the local mayor Les Cayes, and the community churches.





Families in Les Cayes that already house 5 – 10 people are now housing 10 – 15 people or more. People who owned houses and rented them here in the south and lived in the PAP area; have put these people out because their homes were destroyed in the earthquake. The churches and schools are bursting at the seams. The need prior to the earthquake has only escalated since January 12. Families are financially strapped due to taking in family and friends. Jobs were destroyed when businesses went down. Prior to January 12 about 7% of the population in Haiti were employed; now there is less than 4% employed.

Hospitals took in patients and additional staff with no extra funding. The schools were closed for the month of January. In PAP they've just recently resumed classes – whether it is under a tarp, or in a tent in the courtyard. Administration at the schools has been asked to overlook the children coming in from PAP – what about the local children, whose family already couldn't afford to pay for an education? Missionaries are overwhelmed with helping to fulfill the needs.

The same question keeps coming up over and over – “where is the money and the aide that everyone donated to Haiti?”

Where these International Organizations and what are they doing?

When you talk to the local politicians, they claim that it is not coming in through the government.

Haiti is now dealing with a huge number of their population who is handicapped from all the amputations, from young to old; from impoverished to the rich. It's a time of learning and awareness that needs to take place. Businesses, schools and churches that need to know how to be handicapped accessible.

Dr June Hanks PhD – Advantage Haiti has opened a clinic in Cayes where they are doing fitted prosthesis, awareness and rehabilitation. The first group of people has received the first prosthesis and is on their way to a new beginning.



If you would like to help with this ministry – please contact Dr. June at [www.advantagehaiti.com](http://www.advantagehaiti.com)

After several attempts we were able to bring the shoes donated by Trinity Lutheran Church and the children sponsors to the community of Basin Caiman. Almost 200 children received new shoes purchased from The Shoebox in Black River, WI.



HCI also had the privilege of receiving Chris and Luke from Experience Mission – as they assessed the situation in Haiti from PAP to Leogane, Les Cayes, Jacmel and back to PAP. You can check them out at [www.experiencemission.org](http://www.experiencemission.org)

As tent cities are redrawing the landscape of PAP (38% of buildings destroyed by the earthquake), filling open fields with tents and makeshift lean-to's picking up with harsh crimes and abuse where the slums left off – spreading forth new diseases and hunger. Some of these little cities are at the bottom of hillsides where when the first heavy rains come the mountain side will collapse or riverbeds overflow. Sanitation is limited. Time is getting short as hurricane season is just around the bend.

Experience Mission will be sending in teams to help with the clean-up process –using the debris to help fill in foundations and prepare land for

building. Instead of taking an already temporary housing situation and creating another temporary housing situation with tin shanties or wood houses. Experience Mission is working on providing homes that the Haitians can take pride in.



HCI welcomes the partnership and opportunity to work with Experience Mission.

The other opportunity that we have been working with here on the ground in Haiti is the Community Center in Simon (OMPS – L'Organisation mouvement paysans Simon).



A group of young people have donated their time and energy to provide a safe, structured program on Saturday mornings for the children in the

community including all the children that have moved into the area from PAP. The first thing the children are taught each week is that they are special, they are unique, they are loved and most important, and they are a 'Child of God'. The program is designed to teach the child their role in society. Teach them about the history of the Bible and of the world. Learn new songs, new games. Teach them to respect others and their parents. And we also feed them each week. This week we had a medical team come and visit and de-worm each child and a brief physical. A few children were sent to the hospital for further evaluation, but in the most part they were healthy.

This Fall we are looking at setting up a tutor/study program for children that need help in school. We fully rely on volunteers in the community.



On May 18<sup>th</sup> they will march through the community, led by a band to let people know who they are and welcome other children. We are currently at about 200 children. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> they will be hosting a community meal and movie. I am proud to be an honorary member.

And one other thing is the joy of being able to tutor a couple of children in the community that want to learn English.

Together we work as I try to teach them English and they try to teach me Creole. We have a great time.

There are just so many people to thank; I know I will end up missing someone in the process, so please forgive me. Thank you, all who have continued your support and have generously given to help HCI who is on the ground and moving here in Haiti provide some of the first response after the earthquake. Thank you for all the volunteers that pack the food at FMSC. Thank you to all the volunteers at Agape for the wonderful work you do in helping to make our life (the missionaries here in Haiti) a little easier. Thank you LODI ELEMENTARY School for your generous and wonderful donation. Thank you to all the staff and children at POTTSVILLE School District for all the work you did in sewing the dresses and putting together the care packages for the children. Thank you Anne and Trinity Mitchell for going around the community and collecting all the items for care packages for the patients at the hospital. Thank you to all of you who lift up Haiti and me in prayer. Thank you to all the volunteers that have come to help and will continue to help. Thank you to all the churches that sent in clothes and shoes and medicines. Thank you to my friends for the wonderful (yummy) care packages you send me every month. Thank you to my wonderful Board of Directors who stand behind me and encourage me. And most of all: Thank you God for all the wonderful blessings you provide for us each day.

## **Haiti's Children Inc. Sponsorship program:**

With all that has been going on, the need for sponsorship for the children has increased immensely. We have families in the community that have taken on additional responsibilities of family members and friends from the PAP area. There are children who have lost their parents as a result of the earthquake. If you would like to sponsor a child the cost is \$25 a month – that's 82 cents a day:



People have been coming to my gate on a weekly basis – Education is so important for the future of these children and the future of Haiti.

Either you can go to our website [www.haitischildren.org](http://www.haitischildren.org) and choose a child or you can contact me personally [gladynhaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:gladynhaiti@yahoo.com) to donate to our children fund so we can help the desperate need in our community for children who want to go to school, but cannot afford it. We will assign you a child in the Fall – because of the number of inquiries at my gate, I have asked them to come back in August so I can see how many children we can help. Please help us make a difference in their lives.

## **Container:**

The YMCA and Trinity Lutheran Church – Pell Lake, WI is hosting a day of fun for families on May 2 to raise awareness and funds to ship a container to Haiti this July of wheel chairs, crutches, canes, baby formula, school supplies, children vitamins, etc. Any excess funds will be used to purchase prosthesis and pay for rehabilitation for the people of Haiti.

If you've missed the opportunity to join us at the YMCA in Lake Geneva, you can still donate or bring your items – please contact Chris Palka at [cpalka8@yahoo.com](mailto:cpalka8@yahoo.com)

## **TEAMS HAITI:**

If you are interested in starting a short term mission team or would like to get some information, we welcome new teams - please contact Char at [cscholpp@mhsjvl.org](mailto:cscholpp@mhsjvl.org)

Or go to our website and check out upcoming team dates:

## **HAITIS CHILDREN INC MISSION STATEMENT:**

To educate and feed children, helping them grow in mind, body and spirit, in the remotest areas of Haiti; providing hope and a better life.

Matthew 19:14

Gladys Mungo  
Director of Haiti Missions  
[gladynhaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:gladynhaiti@yahoo.com)  
[www.haitischildren.org](http://www.haitischildren.org)