

Haiti Earthquake: The Initial Stage of Restoration

Lendall H. Smith

March 3, 2010

This past week representatives of the Committee on Diaconal Ministries and the Committee on Foreign Missions met in Philadelphia to hear a report from the assessment team that spent five days in Haiti meeting with associated missionaries and pastors. Missionary Ben Hopp reported on the present conditions they found and provided specific suggestions how to begin the process of meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the people of Haiti.

As a result of this meeting, it was agreed to send a team of five construction workers to complete the construction on a second story of a pastor's house so that two Haitian pastors, with whom we work, can be on the scene to minister to the people. David Haney sent out an email to a list of volunteers to inquire who would be available to go to Haiti the week of March 13-20 and have up-to-date passports, inoculations, and construction experience. He had an immediate response of over 25 volunteers from which he and Ben were able to select five men to make up the team. We are grateful for all those who are willing to be a part of this initial team of workers.

We are aware that many want to help the people in Haiti. We ask you to be patient because the logistics of caring for the teams are not easy in the present circumstances. Subsequent trips of medical personnel, pastors and counselors, and construction workers are in the works. David Haney, our Disaster Response Coordinator, will be contacting volunteers for these short term mission trips. Anyone who would like to be considered for these trips should contact David by [email](#).

In order to relieve missionary Ben Hopp of the complete responsibility of taking care of the logistics of teams that will be going to Haiti, the Committee on Diaconal Ministries would like to find an individual who could be in Haiti for an extended time to help with these projects. Please pray that the Lord would provide such an individual that could work with Ben in Haiti so that we could expand our assistance to the Haitian people.

We are thankful for the generosity of the church in giving over \$200,000 already to assist the people of Haiti. In addition to a shipment of food for needy people on Lagonav, \$50,000 has also been authorized for this initial team to help with the completion of the pastor's house, purchase of a temporary tent and a septic system for the church that meets in Port-au-Prince, and for other

immediate needs that they may encounter both in Port-au-Prince and on the island of Lagonav. We will endeavor to keep you informed how these designated funds are used for the purpose they were given.

Prayer Requests:

1. Continue to pray the Hopps. Pray for Heather in her pregnancy and the family living in Bradenton. Pray for Ben as he splits his time between family needs and being in Haiti to continue the ministry and have the extra responsibility of providing for the teams sent there to help with these special needs.
2. Pray that we might be able to find a coordinator to work alongside of Ben in Haiti to lighten his responsibility and be able to increase our assistance to this needy people.
3. Pray that the ministry of the church in both word and deed would be used by the Lord in these desperate circumstances in calling men, women and children to find their refuge in the true and living God.

We would remind you that donations for earthquake relief in Haiti may be sent to:

Disaster Relief
Orthodox Presbyterian Church
607 N. Easton Road, Bldg. E
Willow Grove, PA 19090-0920

Clearly indicate that the gift is for "CDM/Haiti earthquake."

Rev. Lendall H. Smith reports for the Committee on Diaconal Ministries.