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HAITI - January 2010

Dear Friends,

I've just returned from Haiti. There is so much to say... so few words. But I will try to give you a glimpse into what is going on there.



Bottom line: I could not NOT go to Haiti! I saw the news, heard the cries and I had to go! People donated funds and time and prayers. I was able to take medical supplies and cash into the heart of Haiti, where the devastation from the earthquake has shattered buildings, shattered lives...



Arrived in Santo Domingo where I hopped a convoy with doctors and medical personnel and traveled to a small border town with a small hospital... blood smeared walls and floors. They need more doctors...more supplies...more

everything. Haitian woman singing and worshipping out in the field in the midst of such darkness. The light still makes a way...



Then traveled to Port-au-Prince the next day ...which is where I spent most of the time.

Rubble, rubble, rubble...everywhere you look!

Bodies being burned in the streets because of smell and disease...dead bodies still underneath all of the rubble...people still in shock... unable to comprehend the death and destruction all around them. People are crying, stunned beyond hope. Relief workers try to bring comfort and meet needs. We hand out water... but no matter what we do, it is not enough. Everything is overwhelming and our response is so inadequate.



Every day is like a month. Relief workers burning out after about a week/ten days. Little sleep, little food, little water and still chaos...but workers giving everything to those with nothing. Sleeping next to the tarmac... when able to sleep... helicopters bringing in severely wounded people to the makeshift hospital behind us. Planes landing with supplies...but never enough.

During food distribution, young men storming to the front to get all of



the food and water being offered so that they can sell it to those who have not eaten in days!! Women pushed out of the way. Women in Haitian society continue to be oppressed in countless ways. Children wander alone, unable to scramble and fight for themselves.

Search and rescue teams have stopped looking for the living and are now leaving. But another wave of relief workers is coming to Port-au-Prince to help.



Signs of the people who died trying to escape the earthquake are everywhere.

In the midst of the rubble and death, people stand up and begin to worship, calling out to Jesus and longing for him to rescue them. The women are leading the dance of worship and singing in the streets... Incredible!



Mash-type medical units in many places throughout the city...doctors and medical personnel working non-stop around the clock. At the door of a hospital tent I watched a young woman writhe in unbelievable pain as a doctor had just amputated her leg at the thigh. I've never heard such a wail of pain... no morphine... no pain killers...but nothing they could do because gangrene was setting in and she would have died.

Some Good News:

Within a day of arriving we were able to find an orphanage in the middle of town that was setting up a clinic. I delivered half of the medical supplies that I brought from the States to them. They also had a tent city that was multiplying by the hour and the people who run it had just buried the last of 20 of their staff who had died in the earthquake.

With the help of Samaritan Air, we were able to fly a helicopter into remote areas and take in medical supplies the people had been praying for. Turns out we took exactly what they needed! They took another load back the next day... and continue to fly medical supplies to isolated areas where no aid is available. Relief workers/missionaries/people from all over the world have come to Haiti in order to relieve suffering. The MAF disaster team is the hub of operations, facilitating planes and choppers going in and out of PAP.



I was able to help adopting parents who were trying to find their Haitian kids and work thru piles of bureaucratic paperwork to get them out of the country...2 years worth of paperwork lost in the ruins of the earthquake! The govt, what's left of it, is clamping down because of trafficking... which is necessary but they can't tell the good folks from the bad...so they are putting a stop to all kids leaving Haiti. The whole situation is a complicated mess. Pray for order in the chaos...

What can we do? Pray yes, but we must do more than pray. We must go to the hardest places, to those who have had everything taken away from them, to be with them in their suffering. We must go and for many, it is imperative to stay and help rebuild! Right now the need is still great: medical supplies, tents, water purification systems, and the list goes on. I am trying to get more supplies sent back over to Haiti. If you can help, let me know.

Whether it is in the jungles of Burma rescuing child soldiers and orphans, caring for the IDP's on the run from the Burma Army, bringing relief to refugees on borders or today helping in the harshness of Haiti's disaster, everyone has a responsibility. Without active participation in laboring for justice our faith is worthless.

**Mercy in Jesus,
Carla Brewington
*Harvest Emergent Relief***