

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS

UP-DATE MARCH 29, 2010

JOHN L. KACHELMAN, JR.

As we continue to be involved in the relief efforts in Haiti I am very pleased to report that our first container arrived in Gonaives and was unloaded last night by brother Pacius and the brethren there. While many have reported great difficulties and delays in clearing Customs with containers in Haiti I am pleased to report that the containers we have shipped have been reported as having sailed smoothly through Haitian Customs! This is due to a number of factors but one that is most significant is the fact that our relationship with the United States government transport assistance programs has always been fantastic and those involved on our side have always complied and responded in ways that seized the attention of those in the government services. Another prominent factor is the assistance that we have received from Rang Hee Kim and Erin Long of COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL. They have been fantastic. Prior to our sending Rang Hee spent some weeks in Haiti to scout out the logistics and determine how to attack the situation so our containers would have no problems.

Yesterday our first container arrived in Gonaives, Haiti. It was met by our brother Pacius Gaston. Pacius emailed back this exciting report: *Our day was great, we have the Service at the Customs was great. We met some good people there and understand and the Kit. They helped us to get it. In Christ Service, Pacius Gueston*

Later in the evening brother David Smith sent me this good email with the news of the container's arrival that I had been eagerly expecting all day long:

Pacius said that transport of the container went smoothly. No big problems with customs. Only a small fee. Also, the truck driver did not have a passport (? Small fee to get him across). Pacius is delighted with the great thousands of pounds of rice, beans, etc. and buckets with food and hygiene products. The container contents are under shelter in our locked compound and protected from the weather. Tomorrow, they will load a 20 foot container by truck to take to needy folks in Port au Prince. Jambon, a very respected leader at the Delmas church in Port au Prince (formerly, a school official there before the earthquake) went with him. They have already talked with people about safe and effective ways to make a good distribution. I reminded him to keep a list of names to report, and he agreed and understood the importance.

Pacius hopes to sent me 8 pictures tonight (I could not get the satellite phone to work – hopefully, this doesn't represent the internet status). I could sense the joy in Pacius' voice. Pacius did tell me that Jambon could take charge of the delivery without his being there and get the job done – to free him up for other responsibilities in Gonaives. Thank you for your patience. And thank you so much to so many for making this possible. I realize that this represents so, so many good people who have sacrificed unselfishly – donors from many small churches throughout many states, Counterpart and its dedicated and effective staff, and the support of the US government. We appreciate your suggestions as we report back to you over the next many days how this aid has brought tremendous relief to scores of people. It is greatly appreciated.

In today's mail we are sending out the financial report for the Haiti Relief Work. So many have donated to this effort and the Lord's money is being put to good use and we want you to see how it is spent. One encouraging financial factor...All purchases (in Judsonia, AR and Columbus, MS) have been supplement by other donations. For every dollar spent on transportation, food, tarps, and bucket supplies there has been at least four dollars of food, tarps, supplies, etc., donated. At this point when we factor in the amount of donated commodities with what we have purchased, the Lord's money is purchasing food (rice/beans) at approximately 12.7 cents a pound and heavy duty tarps (16x20) at \$5.00 each!

Thank you for your involvement and your compassion!

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Here are pictures of the arrival of the container in Gonaives last night! Rejoice with your Haitian brethren as they begin today distributing over 40,000 pounds of rice and beans!

