

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS

UPDATE JUNE 9, 2010

JOHN L. KACHELMAN, JR.



Even though the news media has dropped coverage of the disastrous earthquake the relief efforts in Haiti continue. The reemergence of the Haitian government has become the bureaucratic beast that it was prior to the catastrophe. This growing difficulty is evident in the problems we have faced in clearing the last four containers we have shipped with food and relief items. The good news is that even with these bureaucratic barriers we continue to ship in hundreds of tons of food and relief items. We are getting containers into Haiti through the Port-au-Prince harbor as well as from the Dominican Republic. **With the clearance of these four containers reported below, we have collected, loaded, shipped and cleared TWENTY-TWO forty foot cargo containers. We have been able to do this and have successfully shipped in, to date, 1,093,932 pounds of food, personal hygiene bags, family buckets, and miscellaneous items for orphans. And this was accomplished at a cost of approximately \$75,000.00 (I will get an updated financial report out as soon as possible but I just have not had time). This means we have been able to utilize the funds sent to us for the earthquake relief to purchase and deliver rice and beans for FOUTEEN CENTS PER POUND!**

As you read David's report below you will read of the difficulties that are arising as the Haitian government regains its control. We will continue to ship in commodities (food; relief items; school equipment; etc) as long as we can. Kathy Cadden (Columbus, MS with OPERATION UKRINE) has plans to continue shipping in food and supplies on a monthly basis to several orphanages that have hundreds of children in care.

Our focus is in Gonaives where the brethren at Poteau (Gonaives, Haiti) are working very well to make sure the food and commodities are going to those in greatest need. We are looking into the long-term relief efforts that will be implemented with the remainder of funds that have been donated for this relief effort. While we can continue sending food we need to look at how we can make a long-term difference for those impacted by the earthquake. The answer lies in education, vocational training and proper living quarters. We plan to be working with the Gonaives brethren to address these needs.

Here is the most recent communication regarding how the Lord's Church is assisting those in Haiti as they continue to struggle with the earthquake catastrophe. Read it and rejoice in how the divine plan of the local church brings success that is blessed by the Almighty God!



Thank you for your involvement and contributions that make this report possible. I hope that as you continue to read these updates you are pleased that we are doing all we can to be accountable for your trust in sending the money and you are very pleased at how we are striving to be stewards acceptable to the Master.

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

From: David E Smith
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:16 PM
To: John L. Kachelman Jr.
Subject: Containers Arrive!! Praise God—we give Him and our friends so much thanks

To John Kachelman—the churches of Christ (with copies to many friends)

It has been a very difficult last few days, but all four containers have arrived in Gonaives (from the Dominican Republic).



Even though Pacius had all of the correct documents, they had to be taken to the customs office. They asked for three copies (even though there was a copy machine in the room—they sent him out to the town to get the copies). When he came back, they said that the copies were not of adequate quality to see the address of origin (it was on other documents in their hands). The director of customs didn't show up for two days. Then, they sent him to the ministry of finance (change of rules) for another stamping. The finance minister didn't show up on the appointed day. More delays. Then he had to go back to the customs office. For a week, the containers sat at the border with the drivers complaining and calling every day. Finally, two containers came across on Saturday, and Pacius was able to arrive late Saturday night. The shipper refused to have the drivers ready at the border for Monday crossing. Tuesday was a very congested market day. Then, today, they crossed and made it to Gonaives tonight in the dark about 8:30-9:00 p.m. (slow trip because the trucks had to travel over the bad roads at a slower speed). They will be unloading the containers in the morning.



Pacius knows to take pictures. He has had little time at home for the last 2-3 weeks. I have not had an e-mail from him for more than two weeks since he has had to spend so much time in Port au Prince. But we know the importance of the pictures.

Dr. Wes Hamilton (dentist who attends Pleasant Valley and who travels with us on our mission trips) told me how thrilled his mother, a member at Mabelvale church, was to see pictures of the buckets that she had helped packed. She had shared the news with their elders and church.



All of the preachers of the area and the six elders of Poteau and other leaders are all working together very hard to quickly get the food out to the needy people. They still have a big job ahead. Please know how profoundly joyful they are as they bring this special blessing to needy members of their community—those who are struggling to support the Port au Prince refugees. Port au Prince representatives are also identifying the overlooked earthquake victims for food that is being trucked there. Feeling abandoned by their own government, distributors and recipients are all quite aware of the love of Jesus Christ and the good will of the people of the United States who are working so hard for them in spite of the government barriers.

We are so thankful for the great cooperation of the Hope for Haiti Children organization. Jeantyard Elmera, Haitian HFHC representative, personally spent hours at the customs director and the ministry of finance office working with Pacius to get all of the proper papers and to help strategize how to get the job accomplished. With the government admitting their plans to slow or eliminate the shipments this month, I think that they have done a commendable job.

In spite of all of the delays, we are excited about the great assistance that the Christians in the USA and the United States of America government (through Counterpart International) have given us. Erin Long (Counterpart) has just been fabulous!!! Persistent, competent, caring, and professional. Please know how much I appreciate her learning the nuances of trying to communicate through the patch work phone system in Haiti with its dead-end phone rings, etc. I just couldn't be at the phone at the times that calls needed to be made.

Again, we cannot say thank you enough. I'll try to get a report out soon. Tonight, I am telling God in prayer how much we appreciate His love and Providence.

David E. Smith, MD
Haiti Christian Development Project



From: David E Smith
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:25 PM
To: Rang Lee Kim
Cc: Erin Long
Subject: Containers from Counterpart and the churches of Christ arrive and bring great happiness



This has really been a difficult journey for all of us. Pacius is working to get more pictures, and we'll keep sending them. I will be traveling down in early July to get more information and follow-up. I know that the committee is working hard to find those with most need. They had someone from the north part of the country (Port de Paix) with request for food to help 75 in an orphanage and 500 in a school. These are real needs, and I know that they are struggling to sift out the validity of the stories and the requests.

Please know the depth of our appreciation for this help. Obviously, the comments of the people who are getting this helps speaks the volumes that need to be said.

We are working hard with a Port au Prince attorney (who also passed the bar in Louisiana following her law school there) to help us establish our own foundation. I hope that happens in the next three months????

David E. Smith, MD

A REPORT FROM OUR BROTHER PACIUS...

From: gveston pacius
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 7:43 PM
To: David E Smith

Hi David,

Here are some of the pictures I choose to send to you. I have many for you but I select these for you. I will be sending more.





My wife, Benedicte (my daughter) and I went to Bayonnais yesterday to see the distribution. You know Dr David, the situation of these people is bad—no rain till today. The church there still has 36 refugees to help. The only water they have is the Well (drilled by Living Water <http://thelivingwaterproject.us>). About their gardens—they are bare, no way to plant their crop.

One of the members of the Church, Saint-Victor about 68 years old, says in the name of the Church: "Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone that helps us in the worse time of their lives. This is the first time we receive that much food, Family bucket or hygiene kit, beans, etc...to feed our children, our neighbors, and people from Port-au-Prince. Please Pacius, would you that for us."

You can see the picture of this brother with me, and my wife, Benedicte and me.

I do not have pictures from Gros-Morne yet. I receive a call from the Ladies group From Gros-Morne say: "That is the really love you share with us."

Lord Service, Gueston Pacius



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