



Haiti Earthquake Relief Update

COVENANT WORLD RELIEF



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On January 12, 2010, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake rocked southern Haiti, killing more than 230,000 people. Millions of Haitians were hurt and left homeless - and many are still injured and struggling to survive. The earthquake is considered by many to be the worst disaster to hit the country in 200 years.

This catastrophe has affected people already living in an area ranked by the United Nations as the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. It is a chronically unstable region in economic decline. Haitian families are poorer now than they were 40 years ago. The United Nations Development Program estimates that nearly 80 percent of Haitians live on less than \$2 per day.

Caring Through Health Care

During the first 28 weeks after the earthquake, Medical Teams International sent 19 volunteer teams - the first one arriving three days after the disaster. In total, more than 100 Medical Teams International volunteer doctors, nurses and other health professionals have been working in Port-au-Prince, Leogane, Les Cayes and Carrefour.

Medicines and supplies have been distributed to local hospitals, tent cities and rural communities. The shipments include three Interagency Emergency Health Kits, one Interagency Diarrheal Disease Kit, orthopedic equipment and supplies, suture materials and a broad range of medicines, including antibiotics.

Providing Complete Support

Injuries sustained from disasters are sometimes more than skin-deep. We strive to provide well-rounded support through our Psychosocial Services. Goals for our disaster trauma counseling program include:

- Facilitating recovery from the effects of disaster, post-conflict related trauma, depression, anxiety disorders and violence by training local caregivers in culturally appropriate intervention.
- Building resilience by teaching effective ways to increase safety, support and coping skills.

To date, we have been able to develop a psychosocial curriculum approved by the Haitian Ministry of Health and translated into French and Creole. Nearly 150 community health workers, hospital staff and community leaders from Leogane and Port-au-Prince have received training on dealing with post-disaster trauma management.

Realizing the Possibilities

Dr. June Hanks is no stranger to Haiti. Since 2001, she has been working in Les Cayes through the Advantage Program, an assistance program for people with physically disabling conditions.

Since the earthquake, the number of physically disabled people in Les Cayes has multiplied many times over as more than 88,000 survivors moved into the region from Port-au-Prince. With our support, the

Advantage Program has reinforced its prosthesis and orthotics clinic with additional staffing and supplies. This clinic provides survivors with locally fabricated prosthetics and the necessary adjustments, along with physical rehabilitation and counseling.

For the next two years, the Advantage Program will:

- Provide Haitian-made prosthetics, equipment, rehabilitation and emotional support to people with disabilities.
- Conduct seminars and training sessions with community leaders, teachers and pastors to help raise awareness and increase support for disabled communities.
- Improve the quality of life for people with disabilities at the community and government levels.

Our Milestones Together

With the support and prayers we received from the Covenant World Relief family, we have been able to:

- Deploy mobile medical units to various tent cities and rural communities serving nearly **23,000 people**.
- Help **162,000 people** with more than **\$5 million** worth of supplies and medicines.
- Provide prosthetics and rehabilitation to **more than 1,600 Haitians** left disabled by the earthquake.
- Support Quisqueya Crisis Relief through funding, medical staff, medicines and supplies.
- Supplement hospitals with medical staff, supplies, medicines and emergency orthopedic surgeries.
- Transport critically ill and injured people to the U.S. for lifesaving treatment.
- Developed a psychosocial disaster trauma training curriculum which has been approved by the Haitian Ministry of Health

Bringing Open Hands of Healing and Hope

Every day has been the same for Dr. June Hanks since January 12, 2010. Her clinic opens in Les Cayes, Haiti by 8 am. Even before she opens the door, there is already a line of people waiting for her help. She sees at least 20 patients a day.

One of these patients is **Jodelene**.

Jodelene is a three-year-old whose legs were crushed when the earthquake in Haiti killed 250,000 people, including every member of Jodelene's immediate family.

After great care, work from volunteers and donated medicines and supplies, Jodelene can now walk on a prosthetic leg, seven months after the earthquake. She still relies on Dr. Hanks for care as they treat her other leg that has permanent nerve damage.



Dr. Hanks also sees **Frenel**. He is a 15-year-old-boy who was moved from hospital to hospital after the earthquake. People took his money and promised him care for his leg that was crushed.

Weeks later, out of money and his leg fully infected, Frenel's leg had to be amputated to save his life.

"It was a joy to have him walk up to me on a new leg yesterday," Dr. Hanks says. Frenel worries he will not be able to play soccer as he once could.

Dr. Hanks thinks her Advantage clinic, sponsored by Medical Teams International, will give him that opportunity. Better yet, Frenel has found something more important in his life than soccer. He is now a Christian.

Dr. Hanks knows the road to hope and healing is long and requires so much more help from her, donors and volunteers. "The people are afraid. It's going to be very difficult. They have a disability ... and many are suffering from post-traumatic stress."

That's when Dr. Hanks sees **Marie Joe**.

Marie Joe had an accident years ago and lost both her legs. She teaches women at Dr. Hanks' rehabilitation center how to work again. Many of them learn how to sew. "Marie Joe is teaching people who are feeling very vulnerable due to their disabilities," Dr. Hanks says. "But people can see if she can make it, so can they."

The people of Haiti need our continued support – especially our prayers and experienced volunteer physical therapists who can help people regain their hope.



Covenant Missionary Doctor Helps in Haiti



This year, Dr. Cindy Hoover returned from her Covenant missionary post in Oaxaca, Mexico, to help her mother, Anne, who had suffered a stroke. Dr. Hoover imagined her year would be spent caring for her mom and visiting churches that support her missionary work in Mexico.

When the earthquake hit in Haiti, Covenant World Relief partnered with Medical Teams International. To help the disaster relief efforts, Medical Teams International asked for medical volunteers to help with ongoing needs and the Covenant Church recommended Dr. Hoover.

Dr. Hoover left August 15^h to help meet the ongoing needs of children in Haiti. She will be stationed near Dr. June Hanks who is helping disabled children near Les Cayes, Haiti.

Dr. Hoover has a master's in public health from Harvard University and has served among Mexican, Guatemalan and American Indian people. Based on that experience, she says she knows theoretically what she may encounter in Haiti.

She is, however, looking forward to bringing her own longer-term health experiences to a disaster zone.

"This is a wonderful time to put some other eyes on how things should be progressing long-term after months of people living in this disaster situation," Dr. Hoover says.

She adds that it will take families and community leaders working together to see how communities will rebuild for their own futures.

Dr. Hoover especially asks that other Covenant Church members pray that she will know: "When to do and when to encourage others to do

"That I will take the time to listen ... to find that part of each person made by God ... to trust that they might not do things the way I would, but they will do it in a way that's fine for them."

Thank you for helping us change and save lives in Haiti with your prayers and support.