Haiti Team Responding Quickly to Devastating August Earthquake by Ken Bever

On August 14, a major 7.2 magnitude earthquake rocked Haiti’s southern peninsula, killing 2,189 people with 344 still missing. The quake also injured an estimated 12,000 and toppled more than 53,000 homes, schools, and church buildings.

The earthquake struck 78 miles west of Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince. This same region was battered by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, which killed nearly 900 people and destroyed 90% of some areas, including the main road connecting the peninsula to the capital. The region was still recovering from this disaster when the quake happened.

Thanks to outpouring of donations, HFHC started purchasing relief supplies the following day and began coordinating efforts with other relief agencies including Healing Hands International, Haitian Christian Development Project, and IDES. Jeantyrard Elmera, Haiti NGO President, immediately organized a triage team composed of Haitian doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, security guards, and church volunteers. In August, the triage team assisted families in three communities with Christian schools — Rousseau, L’Asile, and Cavaillon — who had not had any assistance up until then. The medical clinic provided care to over 500 patients with broken bones, burns, wounds, skin problems, stomach ailments and trauma.

They also distributed rice, beans, cooking oil, tomato paste, sardines, and corn meal to more than 1,000 families in “care bags” which also included a tarp and hygiene kit.

In September and October, the team is visiting additional locations and launching the rebuilding of homes and schools. You can track the locations where our team continues their work along with photos of their progress at https://tinyurl.com/hfhcrelief.
According to the United Nations World Food Program, “Haiti has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world--4.4 million Haitians - nearly half the population - need immediate food assistance, and among these, 1.2 million suffer from severe hunger.”

**Why is the hunger problem so severe?**

With earthquakes destroying homes and with hurricanes and floods destroying crops and killing livestock, people have been forced to buy costly, imported food which is unaffordable for many.

Many families do not own land to grow their own food and those that do are faced with difficult growing conditions due to a lack of rich topsoil and access to water.

**What are we doing?**

We are grateful to our donors and partner organizations who are contributing to our Food Fund. Because of these donations, HFHC can provide a healthy, nutritious lunch to all of the children in our ten schools. This food is saving 3,000 children from starvation and malnutrition.

Knowing that children are not in school during the summer break, we organized food distributions of rice and beans this past July and August so that children can bring food home for themselves and their families.

**What is the impact?**

Our HFHC school teachers are thrilled because the School Lunch Program has had transformative benefits for the children they teach. They tell us that children rarely miss a day of school, are more focused in class, and are scoring higher on exams. As we educate and train these children, we are preparing them to earn a living and become outstanding leaders who can help to break this cycle of systemic poverty and hunger.

**What Can You Do?**

If you would like to help support feeding children through our School Lunch Program, please consider making a donation to the Food Fund at www.hopeforhaitischilren.org.
For most children in Haiti, consistent access to quality health care is unattainable. As you can imagine, the disparity between child health demographics in Haiti and the United States is astounding. For example, the mortality rate for children under five years old is 6 per 1,000 in the United States but is 63 per 1,000 in Haiti. So, what is our response to this painful reality?

This past year, HFHC has hired and trained local school nurses to notify and assist parents with a child in need of urgent medical care. Sponsored children’s lives have been saved this past year through this on-site medical health care program.

Every year, each sponsored child receives exceptional medical care through our Annual Child Care Clinic. Medical professionals from Haiti and the United States work together to conduct well-child examinations and offer specialized care in audiology, dentistry, and optometry. Children’s medical records are analyzed and tracked to confirm proper growth and development and to raise awareness of possible complications.

This year, travelling to Haiti has been difficult due to security concerns and the pandemic. We were unable to have a medical team from the United States travel to Haiti. However, during the last two weeks of April 2021, our HFHC staff, nurses, a pharmacist, and local doctors travelled to the schools to conduct this year’s clinic. They worked tirelessly to ensure each sponsored child received an exam, and we are so thankful for such an incredible team in Haiti. We hope to bring a team from the United States back in coming years and we are grateful to our sponsors who provide the resources to make this health care possible.
For more than fifteen years, Hope for Haiti’s Children has hosted summer youth camps that have helped sponsored students grow and thrive. Hundreds of young people have attended camp and experienced the transformative power of Jesus’ Gospel, the fellowship of Christian believers, and a community of discipleship that endures even after camp ends. Sponsored teens have echoed this sentiment after every single camp session: “Coming to camp changed my life!”

These camps paved the way for HFHC to establish its own church camp experience, complete with a five-acre physical campus in Thomazeau, that is now known as Camp Hope. In years past, HFHC’s youth camp and Camp Hope sessions involved U.S. teams traveling to Haiti to help direct and lead camp events. However, the coronavirus pandemic of 2020 forced HFHC to adopt a different method moving forward… a model in which Haiti staff would plan, organize, and execute all camp activities without the presence of U.S. team members during camp weeks. In 2020, Johnny Laine Evenson and Roolite Religieux co-directed Camp Hope with the help of a Haitian leadership team and weekly Zoom sessions with HFHC staff in the U.S. to facilitate planning and preparation. In 2021, a small group of U.S. friends of Camp Hope traveled to Port-au-Prince to host a two-day leadership retreat for Johnny Laine, Roolite, and crew.

The results have been astounding! In the summer of 2020, 177 teens attended Camp Hope, and 74 students committed their lives to the Lord in baptism. During Camp Hope 2021, 223 students came to camp, and 42 were baptized.
In addition to the evangelistic success of Camp Hope, however, there have been other valuable outcomes. Teens are mentored by faith leaders from their own schools and communities who create meaningful connection points throughout the year. Recognized student leaders are offered additional leadership training after camp ends and are given authentic opportunities to lead and serve during the school year and at future Camp Hope sessions. In addition, members of the Camp Hope leadership team are committed to sustaining this discipleship effort and serving with excellence, humility, creativity, and unity.

Thank you for your prayerful support of all camp events and the teens who attend. We are excited about the future of Camp Hope and are devoted to making it a place for young people in Haiti to find and follow Jesus.
 Gifts In Memorian

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"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11
Motorcycles

It’s amazing how impactful a mode of transportation can be, and in Haiti, the value of a motorcycle is great! Very few people own a vehicle and thanks to our valued partner, International Disaster Emergency Services from Noblesville, Indiana, all ten schools now have a motorcycle to help with operational needs. School administrators tell us that they are able to do the following:

- transfer food supplies needed for the School Lunch Program
- take a child to the clinic when they are sick
- save time and money since they do not have to pay for local transportation.

Their smiles tell the story!

Projects to Consider

Each year we become aware of school and orphanage needs, facility repairs and improvements, needs for nourishment, and spiritual outreach. Please prayerfully consider donating funds to provide for one of the needs below:

1. **10th Grade Classroom**
   Thomazeau Christian School serves students in Pre-K through 9th grade but will expand to include the 10th grade next year. ($25,000)

2. **Paint for Schools**
   Five of our schools are in need of a fresh coat of paint. This will preserve the buildings and brighten the learning environment for the kids. ($1,000 each school)

3. **Books for Libraries**
   All of our 10 schools need a resupply of books. This school year, they have some new books that need to be purchased. ($2,000 per school)

4. **School Nurse Kits**
   The school nurses need replenished medical kits for the 2021-2022 school year. This includes bandages, first aid kits, and more. ($500 per school)

5. **Sponsor a Child**
   Sponsor a child to go to school and receive annual clinic visits and a chance to attend Camp Hope. ($36 per month)
FEATURED STORY:
HATI TEAM’S QUICK RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE

By Ken Bever

Hundreds of homes of Christian school families collapsed in the quake