

Helping Haiti

www.saintjohnsconcord.com

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PA 19342*

How Can We Respond to the Earthquake in Haiti?

Tuesday afternoon, an earthquake, and its aftershocks destroyed Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. The Episcopal Church, at all organizational levels, has a strong and active mission presence in Haiti, and the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, with 168 congregations, is itself a diocese of the Episcopal Church. Episcopal ministry to Haiti has been ongoing for decades.

In addition to the churches, the Diocese of Haiti ministry includes 254 schools; medical clinics; a renowned philharmonic orchestra and children's choir based at the cathedral; agricultural, reforestation and other development projects and micro-financing efforts run in part with help from ERD. The earthquake destroyed Cathédrale Sainte Trinité (Holy Trinity Cathedral), the diocesan cathedral in Port-au-Prince, according to Episcopal News Service (ENS). The entire Holy Trinity school complex adjacent to the cathedral was destroyed as was the diocese's Couvent Sainte Marguerite and College Saint Pierre. Haiti Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin's home was destroyed in the earthquake and his wife injured her foot, but Bishop Duracin was not injured in the earthquake. About 100,000 died in the earthquake, including Roman Catholic Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot of Port-au-Prince, where the Roman Catholic Cathedral was badly damaged.

According to ENS, The Episcopal Church has four U.S.-based missionaries working Haiti, three of whom were in-country when the earthquake hit: the Rev. Oge Beauvoir, dean of the theological seminary in Port-au-Prince, and Young Adult Service Corps volunteers Mallory Holding of Chicago and Jude Harmon of Massachusetts.

Volunteers. In the wake of the Haitian Earthquake, many people are wondering how they can help. In the early stages of the disaster response, only trained and experienced first responders will be needed on the ground to assist in relief. According to USAID,

Volunteer opportunities in disaster settings are extremely rare, and are usually limited to people with prior disaster experience and technical skills (such as health, engineering, etc). To register your skills and experience for a possible volunteer opportunity, go to the [Center for International Disaster Information's](#) registration page. For opportunities to volunteer overseas in non-disaster settings, visit [Serve.gov](#). Or read about [Volunteers for Prosperity](#), a volunteer program managed by USAID.

If you wish to personally volunteer for this crisis, lead a fundraiser for Haiti, or volunteer at a local charity. Possibly, refuge or adoption work will become a future need. Join a future church mission trip to Haiti, Guatemala or another place in the world. Such trips increase faith and bring God's love to the poor. If God is touching your heart, get involved in programs at your parish, or take Red Cross Disaster training so that you can be ready to help with future disasters. Perhaps you have a new calling.

Money: I can recommend the following organizations to receive your charitable gifts. There are many others. When you donate to charities, check for certifications of sound charitable financial practices and trustworthiness. I begin with our own *Episcopal Relief and Development* (ERD), which, with a ready-made network, often works directly through local church affiliated entities on the ground. When I was once at a church in the center of a natural disaster, ERD money helped me minister directly to the needy.



The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church wrote, *"I urge your prayers for those who have died, been injured, and are searching for loved ones - and I urge your concrete and immediate prayers in the form of contributions to **Episcopal Relief & Development**, who are already working with the Diocese of Haiti to send aid where it is most needed.*

As the crisis unfolds, ERD is working with the Diocese of Haiti to provide critical, life saving assistance such as food, water and medicine, as well as long-term recovery and rehabilitation aid in the aftermath of the January 12 earthquake.

Donate now to Episcopal Relief & Development at www.er-d.org, or write your check to Saint John's Church, with "Haiti" in the memo line and we will forward your contribution to ERD. You can also send a check directly to ERD at:

**Episcopal Relief & Development | 815 Second Avenue | New York, NY
10017**



The Clinton Foundation (www.clintonfoundation.org) has been working on the ground in Haiti for some years. It is headed by former president Bill Clinton and his deputy is Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health (see below). The advantage of Clinton's foundation is that his connections provide for timely distribution of money where he is needed, and the Clinton Foundation also distributes funding to other relief charities as needed, including Unicef, Partners in Health, the Red Cross, Mercy Corps Haiti Earthquake Fund, UN World Food Programme. I donated to the Clinton Foundation through your cell phone: Text "Haiti" to 20222 to donate \$10 which will be billed to your (Verizon) cell phone account. You will receive a message back, asking you to send a "yes" that you intend to donate. www.clintonfoundation.org/haitiearthquake

The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund was created Saturday by President Obama and two former US Presidents to raise money for Haiti: www.clintonbushhaitifund.org. No word yet on the relationship of the Clinton Foundation with the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.



Partners in Health. www.pih.org. I know of Dr. Paul Farmer's work through the Boston-based *Partners in Health* from the book, *Mountains beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder. Paul's passionate medical work with the poor in Haiti is world renowned. I contributed to PIH through their web site (see letter below). Address for contributions: Partners in Health, P.O. Box 845578, Boston, MA 02284-5578.



**American
RedCross**

American Red Cross. www.redcross.org. Experienced in disaster response at home and abroad, your contribution will assist in Haiti and in the general operations of this organization in future disasters throughout the world. You can also contribute by cell phone to the Haiti Fund: \$10 to Haiti relief by texting "Haiti" to 90999.



Unicef. United Nations International Children’s Education Fund. www.unicef.org. UNICEF is rushing life-saving supplies into the hardest-hit communities in Haiti.

UNICEF’s response, coordinated with other UN agencies and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent is aimed at the children and women, who are the most vulnerable in times of crisis. Children under 18 make up nearly 50 per cent of the 10 million population of Haiti. In the town of Jacmel [Thursday] evening 2,500 kitchen kits and 5,000 1 litre bags of water will be distributed to enable the local population to prepare the food supplies by the World Food Programme.

A cargo plane [was sent] containing \$500,000 of supplies to assist 10,000 people, including oral rehydration salts to combat deadly diarrhea episodes, water purifications tablets, tarpaulins and tents to provide temporary housing. UNICEF has released a total of \$3.4 million toward the relief efforts from several emergency sources. The agency says that more funding, basic medical and health supplies, family kits/shelter and water hygiene and sanitation supplies are urgently needed. Contribute on-line, or by mail to U.S. Fund for UNICEF, 125 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038.



The official US Governmental organization that is a leader in organizing the US aid response to Haiti is USAID. While not seeking donations, a visit to their web site

will be of interest and is full of good information, including possible careers in disaster and development. A clearing house for dozens of aid organizations can be found at: <http://www.interaction.org/crisis-list/earthquake-haiti>.



Mercy Corps “exists to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. Mercy Corps is a team of

3700 professionals helping turn crisis into opportunity for millions around the world. By trade, we are engineers, financial analysts, drivers, community organizers, project managers, public health experts, administrators, social entrepreneurs and logisticians. In spirit, we are

activists, optimists, innovators and proud partners of the people we serve.”
www.mercycorps.org

Food For The Poor, Vision Statement: “Food For The Poor’s ministry reflects God’s unconditional love, which surrenders all, inspires trust and faith, and embraces all people, regardless of race, status or creed. We believe that Christ is alive, and that we can best serve Him by assisting those in greatest need.” (Matthew 25:40) Ranked by *Chronicle of Philanthropy* as “the largest international relief and development organization in the United States”. Food for the poor does much more than “feed millions of hungry poor in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian agency provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicines, educational materials, homes, support for orphans and the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance, with more than 96 percent of all donations going directly to programs that help the poor.” For more information please visit, www.foodforthe poor.org.



Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). The immediate focus for MSF teams is on expanding the ability to perform surgery for trauma victims, and responding to the incoming flood of victims who need immediate first aid for wounds. MSF priorities in days to come: stabilizing wounded, referring more complicated cases to specialists, reinforcing staff teams, restarting obstetric care, and addressing mental health needs of survivors.

MSF: "It is a race against time because infected wounds need rapid interventions. Inflatable operating theatres, with more surgical specialists are en route. But there are major issues of access and transport, with the staff delayed in the air and on the roads. "

Currently, each of MSF’s existing three medical facilities in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, have been partially damaged. Patients are being treated under tents in the Pacot area of Port-au-Prince in front of what was La Trinité trauma hospital and MSF rehabilitation. These makeshift facilities have treated more than 2,000 patients and MSF is now focusing its attention on expanding its surgical capacity.

Contributions. Actress **Sandra Bullock** made a donation Friday of \$1 Million to Doctors Without Borders. MSF is asking for contributions to its general fund, not restricted to Haiti, since money it accumulated from past crises funded the Haitian response, and current funds may help in other locations. Donate By phone: 1-888-392-0392; By mail: Doctors Without Borders USA, PO Box 5030, Hagerstown, MD 21741.
www.doctorswithoutborders.org

particularly for nursing care to help with post-op recovery, IV management, and other care that has had to be self managed over the past three days.

With supply chains in place and flights arriving more consistently in Port-au-Prince since the air traffic control has been reinstated, today has already been a turning point in our ability to respond to the enormity of the devastation and really get the field hospitals and public hospitals up and running. We have two planes of surgeons and surgical supplies arriving within hours, we have fuel on its way to Haiti through the DR, and we are reallocating supplies from our ten sites to where they are needed most on a regular basis.

It is clear to us all that relief for Haiti must rely on our collective immediate response and our sustained long-term commitment to building back better. Our approach to health care delivery in resource-poor settings-partnering with the public sector, employing locally, and investing for the long-term-is a key part of the solution for Haiti now and in the future. We hope that you will continue to stand with Haiti now and in the months and years to come.

Thank you for your solidarity during this crisis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ophelia Dahl".

Ophelia Dahl
Executive Director [Partners in Health]

Read our ongoing updates from the field at www.standwithhaiti.org.