



If not you, then who?

If not now, then when?

Saturday, January 16, 2010
8:52 P.M.

Dear fellow laborers,

This will likely be our only e-mail today. Sadly, it must bring bad news. However, the news could be so much worse and we are thankful that it isn't as bad as it could be.

We heard just moments ago from our friend Gerard in Haiti. He told us that the dormitory at the orphanage in Leurboug has collapsed and that one child was killed in the fall. Which child was killed we do not know. The other children are alive and Madame Luc is also alive. We also do not know how many of the kids were injured. The children are sleeping outside on the ground. They are scared and they are hungry, but they are alive. We were not able to determine whether the well is still functioning or not. Often well pipes are broken during earthquakes. Medical care is not available where they are.

A few years ago, this dormitory was constructed to provide shelter for the children staying with Madame Luc. More than 40 children have been living with her at one time. At last count there were 47 children living here. The structure they had been living in before was a makeshift structure about 12 feet by 20 feet. It was made from limbs lashed together and the walls and ceiling were made from pieces of plywood and corrugated tin and cardboard. The floor was dirt. During storms with high winds, the structure came apart and the pieces were converted to deadly missiles. The new building was constructed with reinforced concrete foundation, cement walls with rebars and a reinforced cement roof. The building was still no match for the earthquake. The orphanage was sitting very near the epicenter of the quake that felled more than 50% of the structures in Cite Soleil according to the last (unofficial) count we heard.



To complicate matters even more, the bridge which is part of the main route from PaP to Leurboug has also collapsed. That bridge was just completed two years ago after it had been washed away by the floods triggered by three hurricanes within a two week period. Now it is down again. Traffic cannot pass at this time.

We still have no further news from/about Luc Deratus and his people in Cite Soleil. We do not know how many people were in the church building when it collapsed, nor do we know how many were killed or injured. We will send information as we receive it.

Thank you for your prayers, your concern, your outreach and your contributions. Please believe that all of them are greatly appreciated and extremely valuable.

Your servants,

George & Suzie Zimmerman

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