



If not you, then who?

If not now, then when?

18 February 2010

Dear fellow laborers,

First, let me express my appreciation for the magnificent way you have been helping the people of Haiti and us. Some of you have been sharing our updates with your friends, families, neighbors, churches and civic organizations. Your responses - and theirs - have been very uplifting. We are encouraged and thankful for your compassionate outreach.

Your gifts get the job done. Your willingness to share the word gets people involved. Without you, this would not be happening. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

We are ticketed to leave for Haiti on February 23 at 1:00 a.m., as a party of seven: including one physician, a physical therapist with extensive experience in wound treatment, a registered nurse, a registered nursing assistant. We will carry about \$18,000 worth of medical supplies with us. We have wired additional funds ahead to be used for continuing program support in addition to the medical clinics we will be holding at Leurboung, Pont Sonde, Liancourt, and Savane Brulee. The funds will also cover teachers' salaries, food for the children, and additional medical supplies. (Volume and weight regulations limit the amount of goods which can be carried into the country.)

We are pleased to report that none of the children who are currently sponsored have been killed and, as far as we know all are well. We are eager to be there and see the children face-to-face, confirming for ourselves that they are OK, and reassuring them they will not be abandoned.

We have spoken with Luc, a Haitian pastor in Port-au-Prince (PaP), who confirmed that the school we built in Leogane and the one we helped to build in PaP years ago were completely destroyed. The town of Leogane has been totally leveled. It stood on top of the fault line which was the epicenter of the quake. The Bon Samaritains School in St. Marc, arguably the finest school in Haiti, was also closed due to visible cracks in the structure, and has now re-opened. The school we built in Pont Sonde recently is undamaged, operational, and will serve as the site for two days of clinics serving refugee and local population.



According to CNN, the Artibonite valley (where we are going after we finish at Leurboung) is estimated to have in excess of 120,000 refugees from the PaP area. Haitian officials and officials of international aid organizations are encouraging the local populace to leave the city and head for the countryside / mountains where they will be more likely to find food, water and shelter with relatives. Unfortunately, the relatives are as poor if not poorer than the refugees were before the quake.

The need for immediate emergency medical and rescue operations is drawing to a close. Now the long work of recovery and follow-up care begins in earnest. In some ways, it is the harder part. That's where you will shine. Those of you who are in it for the long haul will be providing the help and hope that are needed not just to survive, but to recover. For that, we thank you. We thank you on behalf of our Haitian brothers

and sisters, on behalf of the parents, on behalf of the children and we thank you on behalf of ourselves. I hope you may be given some grasp of the enormous difference you are making in the lives of these people.

Disease is now the growing threat in Haiti. Tuberculosis, tetanus, malaria, diarrhea, infections for untreated wounds and contamination – all are on rapid increase. There are thousands of unrecovered bodies decaying in the rubble. The second wave of horror stories is about to begin, and, as one aid worker stated it, “The drama is only beginning. This will be the worst natural disaster in a century. This is Armageddon. This is nature’s holocaust. This is Hiroshima.” (Sean Penn) Another worker (retired combat veteran of several wars, Nick Brockhausen) is quoted as saying, “Port-au-Prince is in ruins. Our team was a rescue team and we carried special equipment that locates people buried under the rubble. There are easily 200,000 dead, the city smells like a charnal house.” Indeed, fleeing the city is a wise choice, but finding medical care, food and shelter in areas that didn’t have enough of any of these before the catastrophe is not going to be easy.

We will do all we can, and we are counting on you to do all you can, too. Please continue sharing the word and recommending us and the work being done to your friends and families. Forward your updates to those whom you think may care for the Haitian people. Copies of our brochure are available on line at www.PracticalCompassion.org and can be printed for handing out. And, remember, because we are a humanitarian / educational organization according to IRS code, we are fully tax deductible and eligible for matching gift programs by most employers.

One more request. If you do have a change of e-mail address, please stop by our website and send us the new information. We can save a great deal of expense by using electronic mailings. We also can reduce our ecological footprint by using electronic mail whenever possible. If you are getting this update by postal mail, please stop by our website and give us your e-mail information. We promise, we will not distribute it. Again, thank you for caring and for doing something about it.

Your fellow servants,

George and Suzie Zimmerman

www.PracticalCompassion.org

P.S.

- Sean Penn, an Hollywood actor and activist, was recently interviewed (at his own request) on Larry King Live, a PBS program. Penn’s comments, born out his ongoing work in Haiti, were insightful and moving. More importantly, they communicated an accurate perspective on the magnitude of this disaster. We will be posting that video on our website shortly. Please watch for it.

- Please check with your tax advisors about this, but it is being reported that cash contributions to the Haiti relief /disaster efforts donated prior to 1 March 2010 may be deducted from either your 2009 or 2010 taxes. So, if you want to gain that deduction for your 2009 returns, make your donations quickly.