

Haiti Trip update from Elim's ERA Team



There is so much to tell and we can't share everything here but let me give you some updates. Things have gone amazingly well for us. God seems to have prepared a way for us. I know we shouldn't be surprised and think it is actually more amazement. This strange enterprise has connected us with some amazing people who have been open hearted and generous. Please don't believe all the media reports that paint a negative picture of the people. The circumstances are appalling (the town of Legoane is 90% destroyed) we have seen crushed bodies, limbs hanging from buildings and the stench of death is very strong in selected areas but we have also seen the mercy of God because we have personally met Christians who are demonstrating the heart of the Kingdom of God in reaching the poor and needy.

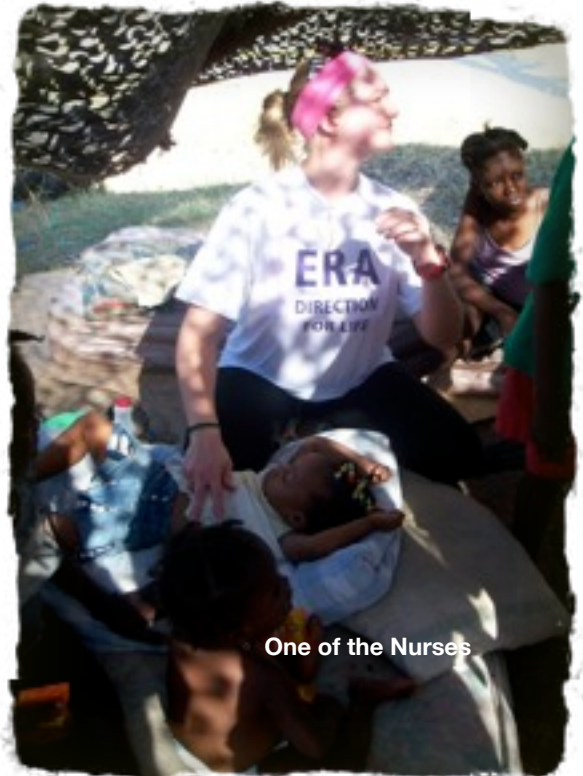
We are all safe and well and are staying at the home of a Christian family. The father was the principal of two schools that collapsed but thankfully not one child was injured. This man has willingly open his home and become our driver because he knows the city so well. It has been such a blessing because driving in Haiti takes a lot of nerve and quite a bit of skill.

We have had several interesting developments and opportunities to minister to the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the people.

On Wednesday evening we were privileged to witness the miraculous rescue of a 16 year old girl by a French rescue team. The girl who is recovering well ,had been trapped for 15 days and survived because she was having a shower at the time of the earthquake,. We have been informed by the ecstatic team that this is a world record for survival in these circumstances.

Yesterday (Thursday) some of the team visited a camp of 60,000 people who have been looked after

by the American military and are being fed. We moved on and found a group of around 200 families living in a car park. As well as giving medical aid from 2 nurses in the team, we were able to buy enough food to distribute and intend to minister to this makeshift camp and others.



We have just bought more food to distribute today (Friday) and have given some to an orphanage already today. Later on today (Friday) we are also receiving essential medical supplies we have been able to purchase in neighbouring Dominican Republic.

We would appreciate you circulating info as widely as possible and we are requesting prayer support from the Elim family. We would like to convey our thanks for the difference their giving has been able to make.

We return to meet the secretary of state today, having had a meeting with him yesterday, and spoken to the president, the chief of police as well as the aid workers who have influence here. The Secretary of State has made an official request for assistance by us in the area of chaplaincy.

This morning, Saturday 30th Jan we drove out to a village about 30mins outside the capital Port au Prince which, like most places had not received any aid or support.

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Conference with Haiti's President



The journey was hard work because of the extreme terrain and we had to walk for sections over the dust path to get to the village which was nestled beside the lake.

Speaking with the Secretary of State



Immediately on our arrival a crowd of 400 people gathered to see what we had brought. The group had managed to bag some rice for ease of distribution but it would have been easy to allow things to descend into chaos. Thankfully we had been joined by a group of guys from New York who have been travelling to Haiti for the last two years to help homeless children. They were a tough looking group dressed in a military style which helped us manage the crowd who were desperate for any help we could give which included the basic medical aid we have been administering.

Speaking with the Police



It was a moving experience to see how many people were thankful and they broke into song as they waited in line. Of course as you can imagine the need was greater than the supply so we have promised to return and bring more supplies when we have them.

Today we were able to make an appeal at a press conference with the Minister of Communication so that we can help families with the desperate need for tents.

The team remains in good spirits and thankful we are able to help and plan for the next trip and the long term as we see opportunities develop.

We will of keep course keep you updated when we can and have video footage we would like to show you as opportunity arises.

Please continue to pray:

1. For personal safety and travelling
2. For effective aid distribution – much aid is not reaching people, much of it is in warehouses
3. For those who are traumatised – many people refuse to go back into buildings and are sleeping on the street
4. Police & Government – pray for favour as we engage with the Chief of Police, Secretary of State and other officials who can assist us

Every Blessing

Dave Dickson

On behalf of the ERA Team in Haiti

A local Taxi

