

January/February 2010

SONLIGHT MINISTRIES

Kyle, Lorraine, & Micah Jones



A MONTH FOR HAITI TO REMEMBER

January 12, 2010 - 7.0 Earthquake hit Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas destroying hundreds of thousands of lives and a way of life for many people.

January was by far the most devastating month that Haiti has ever experienced. This seems like a bold statement, but in reality it's the cold hard truth. In one day, January 12th, thousands of people lost their lives in a matter of moments as homes, schools, churches, government building, markets, and other businesses simply collapsed. The power of the earthquake combined with the already fragile infrastructure of Port-au-Prince produced a recipe for disaster for the city of Port-au-Prince. Consequently, lives were lost, but for many people a way of life was lost.

All people are at some level creatures of habit and gladly embrace our everyday routines no matter how bad they are relative to others. People go to the same restaurants, markets, friends house, churches, and places of employment. These all represent a way of life, and the sad reality is that a majority of those are lost. It is no wonder why all Haitians are mourning during this tragic month.

Fortunately, those of us in the North of Haiti, did not experience the damage that they experienced in Port-au-Prince and the South, but the tragedy still hits close to home to many people in our city who have close family living in Port-au-Prince - many of who died or were severely injured in the earthquake, and many of who that have made their way to our city. In other words, this tragedy affects all of Haiti, and there is much to be done to help.

So far all of the schools in our city have been closed since the earthquake, except for us. We have closed for about 7 school days since the earthquake, which has been good to allow people to grieve, but it has also been for us to launch our own relief effort. Certainly none of us here at Sonlight are trained in how to run a successful relief campaign, and so it has taken each and every one of us here to make it work. This is why it has been timely that we have also been off school to give us the time to make it work. (continue on next page)



Child Receiving Clean Water at a IDP (Internally Displaced Person) Camp in Port-au-Prince

Our Work So Far ...

The vision for our relief effort focuses on the earthquake victims themselves that are pouring into our city seeking a new start. The problem is that when they get to our city they usually have nothing except the clothes they are wearing. Thousands of people have already relocated to Port-de-Paix from Port-au-Prince, and so we are seeking to help get them off their feet.

Our numbers so far:

- \$10,500 - Haitian Dollars we have poured into our struggling local economy
- 1000 - Displaced people from Port-au-Prince we have helped
- 1 Gallon - Amount of rice for a family of 4 for 3 days
- 1 Quart - Amount of beans for a family of 4 for 3 days
- ??? - Amount of clothes given to people

Being so far from Port-au-Prince has made many of us feel helpless in making a difference, but through this relief effort we have a tangible way to make a difference in the wake of the earthquake. For all of you who have given to our relief efforts, we can only say, "Thank You," because without your support and partnership we would not be able to help displaced people, nor pour thousands of dollars to help our local economy.

A Poem of Lament For Haiti

A moment of silence please,
A time of reflection on
The casual destruction
And near immolation
Of much that we love.

Whenever the reason please,
Cease from absconding with
The mutual horror
And engorging on murder
Of much that we love.

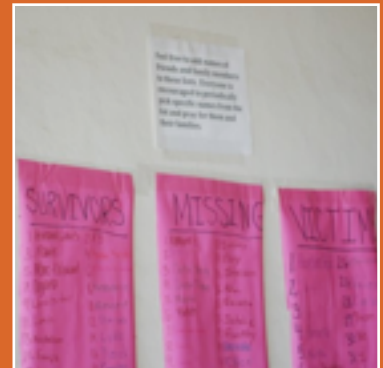
I planted a tree please,
And watered the roots for
Many long months
Hoping for mangos
The kind that I love

It was gone in a moment please,
Flattened by debris from
Nearby explosions.
It died in the earthquake
Like much that we love.

So a moment of silence please,
A time of reflection on
The abs/presence of Deity
And responsibility
For much that we love.

- Will Fitzgerald

OUR RELIEF WORK



Various Pictures

Top - Picture of our gate as People came to receive aid

Middle - Picture of a Memorial from our High School Students

Bottom - Some of our High School pouring rice and beans to make our relief kits



A Large Displaced Family From Port-au-Prince



THE NEXT CHAPTER:

We have decided this is our last year in Haiti

After much debate and discussion, Lorraine and I have made the difficult decision to not come back to Haiti with Sonlight next year. Two years ago we made a two-year commitment with Sonlight, which will be fulfilled at the end of May. We came into this year not truly knowing what we would do, but after we discovered that we were pregnant with our second child back in September and October our thoughts and feelings suddenly changed. With the coming of our second child, we had peace that returning to the United States was the right decision for our growing family. The main issue for us is having Lorraine stay at home full-time to raise Micah and Baby #2.



Although this might be possible to do here we feel like it is best for us to make this happen in the US.

The thought of leaving Sonlight and our students is one that is very sad to us. Sonlight has been our home for the last two years, and the people, the mission, the culture, and our students have all deeply impacted us. We are so glad that God sent us here initially as substitutes and then called us back for two years, because we have personally seen the growth and perspective change that this has brought in our life. Without a doubt a part and piece of us will always remain with the people here, but we know that our departure will bring a whole new set of opportunities for growth and transformation. Please pray for us!

Thank You

As always Thank You for helping us do what we need to do here in Haiti with Sonlight.

Support

Please continue supporting us through May, which is officially when we will move on from Sonlight.



PRAYER REQUESTS	RELIEF WORK	OUR STUDENTS	FOR HAITI	OUR FUTURE
	Pray for us to make a difference in our city by showing God's love and compassion.	Pray for us to make an impact for Christ on our students.	Pray for the rebuilding of this country that God provides, protects, and blesses Haiti.	Pray for God to lead us down the path he longs to take us.