

# HELP FOR HAITI

## Updates on Help for Haiti:

The Hearts with Haiti [website](#) continues to offer daily updates, and there are pictures there.

[St. Josephs Family, Haiti](#) on Facebook is providing frequent updates and many photographs. Bill from St. Josephs Home was on ABC's national news Sunday night. I would love to say, "Here's the clip!" but I can't. If I can figure it out, I'll get it on our website.

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) and the Presbyterian New Service both are providing daily updates on our denomination's assistance in Haiti. Headlines for today include [PC\(USA\)-backed hospital in Haiti still standing](#) [Hopital Sainte Croix in Leogane damaged but not destroyed.](#)

Water Missions International is providing daily updates on their [site](http://www.watermissions.org) ([www.watermissions.org](http://www.watermissions.org)). Danya Jordan also sent us this link to pictures taken by WMI Haiti Country Director Julio Paula: <http://picasaweb.google.com/paula.je/HaitiEarthquake?feat=directlink> - you will need to copy and paste this link.

This [video](#) on youtube could be used in worship or at a weeknight event.: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVZzv71jDgg>

On our website, you will find

1. Pictures taken by Papy-click on "Haiti's Earthquake Photos on our home page. (I can't get the link to work.)
2. the black and white [bulletin insert](#) with updates and the addition of Water Missions International as a recipient of funds.
3. a copy of the [Special Remittance Form](#) created for this cause. Four copies of these forms have been mailed to the churches.
4. You will find updates over the next week by clicking on "Help for Haiti" on the presbytery's [homepage](#).

Remember:

\*Please ask members of your churches to make checks to your church and to designate on the check which of the three causes the money is to be used for.

\*Please send one check along with the remittance form to us each week for the next few weeks, so that we can make weekly disbursements to the three causes.

\* Continue to pray for the people of Haiti and all of those who are working with them.

Call our office (766-4219 or 800-230-9293) if you have questions.

Here's a great idea for a way that your church can get involved:



Pancakes with a Purpose!  
How YOU can help!

I-Hope for Haiti is a very simple way you can get involved to help our brothers and sisters in Christ restart and rebuild their lives. Hosting a pancake dinner fundraiser is fun and easy! Gather your friends, Bible study group, PW group, Men's Group, your neighbor's cat! (Ok, maybe leave the cat at home...) Schedule your pancake dinner TODAY and remember to KEEP IT SIMPLE!

Contact Rae Epps for more information and help organizing your I-HOPE for Haiti Pancake Dinner!

Rae Epps  
[raeepps@gmail.com](mailto:raeepps@gmail.com)  
843-367-9136

Rachel says:

I am willing to travel to be at the fundraisers. I also have a restaurant that will let me order bulk items such as pre-made pancakes, eggs, biscuits, bacon, and OJ to help cut costs. I am willing to speak at the event to tell the St. Joseph's story, talk about Haiti, whatever! I want this to be a big event and have LOTS of people involved!

## Much to ponder here:

You may be asking: **"WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO BESIDES GIVE MONEY?"**

Many of us are feeling helpless in the midst of seeing the huge amount of misery and need in Haiti. We want to do something tangible and hands-on to feel like we are making a difference. It is as if we could feel less horrible if we were able to offer something besides our money. There are lots of you volunteering to catch the first plane to Haiti to help, and I confess, that is my desire as well. However, all that I am reading and hearing from contacts, both inside Haiti and in this country, make me believe the following:

- The first wave of those going to help out in Haiti need to be individuals and groups with highly specialized skills in disaster response. There is not going to be time or resources in the first few weeks to "train" volunteers arriving on the scene - they need to hit the ground knowing exactly what needs to be done.
- Those going down in the first wave of responders need to be connected to an existing organization with structures in place in Haiti to handle transportation, housing and feeding, health issues, etc. (i.e. Red Cross, military, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, etc.) Very few previously existing mission structures are going to be ready to host groups for a long time to come and emergency supplies being shipped into Haiti need to go to Haitians, not take care of American volunteers.
- Haiti is a difficult place to travel and function as a mission group in the best of times - this is NOT one of those times. There are few accommodations for groups left standing anywhere near the city, no clean water or food, no easy transportation to and from the airport, huge health issues (respiratory and disease), and an embassy overtaxed dealing with those trapped in Haiti and little time to assist those who choose to come now should problems arise.
- The time will come when teams of folks from here will be needed and welcomed - to help clear debris, to help with long-term medical needs, to help with rebuilding, etc. However, as someone who has taken groups to Haiti many times, I think that time may be weeks or even months down the road. We need to allow the military, Red Cross, and medical specialists time to deal with the immediate crisis and pave the way for the rest of us to follow. We will closely monitor the situation and try to organize one or more teams to go from Charleston Atlantic Presbytery once we feel it would be helpful and prudent to do so. We will also be glad to share information about trips that any of our local churches plan to implement if you are open to additional travelers.
- If there are individuals who do possess specialized skills in medicine, heavy equipment operation, or are trained disaster responders, it may be helpful for you

- to check the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website to see if they are looking for your skill set in any of their early responses or to contact them and offer to be available as they begin to put together teams.
- The scope of the disaster in Haiti creates a need for our involvement there for years to come. My hope and prayers are that the passion many of you feel to "do something hands-on" will carry beyond the first few weeks and that you will commit to be involved in the solution long term.
  - In the meantime, there is much that we can do here at home. Churches can take a long-term approach toward educating themselves about Haiti - both before and after this disaster. Take advantage of Presbytery staff and members of churches who have traveled to Haiti to speak about their experiences. Take on the challenge of raising money for a water system from Water Missions International to assist in providing clean drinking water to a neighborhood in Port au Prince. Begin to build a line item in your church budget to help scholarship mission team members for upcoming trips to Haiti.

Written by Deb Guess, Associate for Campus Ministry and Mission for our presbytery

## What you can do now:

1. Give through your church to one of these three causes:
  - Hearts with Haiti – a group that supports the work of the St. Josephs Home
  - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has pledged \$1 million to relief for Haiti.
  - Water Missions International – this Charleston-based group is sending water systems to Haiti – many of you are familiar with the work of this organization

Checks should be made out to your church with one of the above groups indicated on the "For" line. We have asked our churches to forward the money to us weekly so that we can disperse the funds weekly.

## 2. **Here's a Hands-On Project for Haiti for Your Congregation**

If you or your congregation would like to help in ways other than donating money, Church World Service reports there is need for [hygiene kits](http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits_hygiene) and [baby kits](http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits_babycare)

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and ([http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits\\_babycare](http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits_babycare)).

Kits should be shipped to the following address:

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**  
**Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center**  
**1720 Ferncliff Road**  
**Little Rock, AR 72223**



3. Pray for the people of Haiti and for all those who are assisting them during this crisis.
4. Watch this space for other ways to help and updates.

## News that we have received:

The picture on the right was taken by **Papy (Smith Joseph)** and sent to Deb last night. We rejoice that he and his family escaped injury. Papy is the director of the Women's Microfinance Project in Haiti and a good friend of many of us who have traveled there or who have hosted him during his stays in the U.S.



The boys from **St. Josephs Home** and the children from **Wings of Hope** are all currently staying in the front room of the Wings of Hope building - the rest of the Wings building is damaged and St. Josephs is totally collapsed. The children and house in **Jacmel (Trinity House)** all seem to be okay, although roads between Jacmel and Port au Prince are completely closed off.

**We received this word today.** Please lift up the family of Ben Larson. Ben was a senior at Warburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque and was a guest at St. Joseph's at the time of the earthquake. His wife, Renee, made it out of the home but Ben did not. He died in the disaster and his family was notified yesterday. Please take a moment and pray for Ben and his family.

Two Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) missionaries in Haiti and mission teams from three PC(USA) congregations that were in the country when the devastating earthquake struck Tuesday (Jan. 12) have been accounted for.

PC(USA) missionary **Mark Hare** is safe and uninjured. **Sharyn Babe** sustained leg and back injuries in the quake and has been medically-evacuated to Cuba.

## Resources for use in your church:

The PC(USA) website ([www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)) has resources posted on the site now. Here is one example:

### We pray for Haiti

God of compassion  
please watch over the people of Haiti,  
and weave out of these terrible happenings  
wonders of goodness and grace.

Surround those who have been affected by tragedy  
with a sense of your present love,  
and hold them in faith.  
Though they are lost in grief,  
may they find you and be comforted.  
Guide us as a church  
to find ways of providing assistance  
that heal wounds and provide hope.  
Help us to remember that when one of your children suffers  
we all suffer;  
through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives  
and rules this world with you. Amen.

— Bruce Reyes-Chow, Gradye Parsons and Linda Valentine

Hearts with Haiti also has a good website with daily updates: [www.heartswithhaiti.com](http://www.heartswithhaiti.com).

Water Missions International also has information on their site:  
<http://www.watermissions.org/>.

We will continue to update this site with pictures and information for you.