



September 2008

AFTER THE STORMS.... THERE IS NO CALM

Randy and I returned last Thursday from five nights in Haiti. We slipped in and out between Hanna and Ike and actually didn't have many delays. It is, however, very humbling to know that places we visited just days ago are now suffering tremendous devastation from the storms. This is an update on what we have learned about the damages so far.

Dumont School

We attempted to visit a school in Dumont (located between Les Cayes and Port Salut) that is now funded by No Time for Poverty, a St. Paul non-profit. NTFP is currently building a pediatric hospital in Port Salut and is looking for another organization to take over the administration of the school. Because of the torrential rains from Hanna, we were not able to fly to Cayes. We have learned that that area suffered major damage and many people lost family members and/or their homes.



La Cahouane and Airport Church

Pastor Rene has been in contact with Pastor Barthod in La Cahouane. Over 500 people lost their homes and were seeking shelter at the church there. We provided funds to purchase emergency food to help there. We are seeking additional sources of food to help further.

Many of you are familiar with the "blue tarp" or airport church in Port au Prince. The storms destroyed the temporary shelter where they meet for church services. We contributed funds to help with the repairs there.

We are investigating either shipping Feed My Starving Children or Kids Against Hunger Food or in the alternative purchasing rice and beans in Haiti for distribution to the hard hit areas. Many roads and bridges are destroyed which make travel to those areas difficult or impossible.

Real Hope for Haiti Clinic and Children's Rescue Center

On Tuesday, September 2, we battled axle-deep mud and water and traveled to Cazale in the hills near Cabaret to visit the Real Hope for Haiti clinic and rescue center. This ministry is run by two sisters, Lori Moise and Licia Betor, and father, Davis Zachary, and their families. These dedicated angels see over 1000 people per week in the clinic and had 67 children in the rescue center that they are nursing back from severe malnutrition. In the 10 years they have been operating, they have seen over 82,000 patients and have extensive records on each one. They are amazingly organized and keep meticulous records.



The next day after our visit, the storms pounded Cabaret and Cazale washing out all road access to the village. The clinic was hit extremely hard and they are now cut off from the cities and are running out of clean water and food. Lori and Zach are in the US leaving Licia to manage the entire facility.

Licia was contacted by the US Consulate who offered to airlift her and her family out. She refused opting instead to stay and help the people of Cazale who are now her extended family. They are filtering muddy river water through towels for drinking. They are being brought bodies lost in the storm - and this is on top of caring for multiple sick people and now 77 children in the rescue center. The pressure of the need is crushing.

Together with Troy and Tara Livesay we are attempting to help as best we can. Today the Livesays will attempt to drive a truck filled with water filters, bottled water, food and other supplies as close to Cabaret as possible. From the end of the passable road, they will enlist motorcycles or donkeys to deliver the supplies to Cazale.



They will rebuild their ministry and continue helping thousands of people in their village. As Tara states, "Troy and I have watched this family and their work for three years and we can tell you that they give sacrificially to the area they serve and that they are "the real deal". There is nothing easy about what they do."

Please continue to pray for all the people of Haiti. They are now faced with extraordinary suffering on top of their already-difficult circumstances. World Wide Village has already contributed some designated disaster funds as stated above. We continue to investigate needs in areas where we have ministry contacts. Please look for updates and financial appeals over the next few weeks.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Pat".

Pat Mortensen
World Wide Village Incorporated