Greetings, WHBC Church Family:

I hope this Haiti ministry update finds each of you well. We are living in unprecedented times and as Nance and I pray daily to the sovereign God of the universe, we include all our WHBC family. Today, one of our world’s greatest prayer needs is for the people of Haiti.

On Saturday, August 14th, an earthquake struck the island nation of Haiti. At a magnitude of 7.2, it was slightly stronger than the one which devastated the country in 2010. The epicenter of the most recent quake was located a few kilometers northeast of Saint-Louis du Sud.

Unfortunately (or maybe just because it’s God’s plan), we haven’t traveled to Haiti since 2017. This is partly because of the team’s personal and family circumstances and – more recently – because of a global pandemic and political unrest in Haiti. But even though we haven’t been *to* Haiti, our church has still been working there. Since 2018, WHBC has been supporting Berdy Jean Mary – one of our local mission partners for many years. 2018 is the year Berdy followed God’s call on his life and launched the Jeremiah House, which currently has eight orphan boys in residence. The *J House*, as it’s called, provides a safe home for the boys, feeds them, clothes them, sees to their education, and teaches them about Jesus. Berdy is also the genesis of our latest opportunity to serve a beloved country in dire need.

The J House boys and staff are all fine, praise God! However, the boys (and many other Haitians) are very frightened because so many of them can remember the tragic results from the 2010 quake. In fact, the boys have not been sleeping inside the J House because they are afraid more earthquakes may come. To help give the boys shelter at night, Berdy is working with a team of supporters to get tents to the J House as quickly as possible.

The hardest hit area from the quake is the South (Sud) Department. Berdy and the J House team are in contact with Pastor Samuel of *Eglise de Dieu Antioche des Cayes*, a church located in Les Cayes, about 50 km from the earthquake’s epicenter.

Recent updates (issued on 25 August) from the Haitian Civil Protection General Directorate (DGPC) reported the earthquake had resulted in:

* 2,207 deaths
* 12,268 injuries
* 320 missing
* (at least) 52,953 homes destroyed
* 77,006 additional homes with damage

This devastating quake has reduced entire areas in the Sud, Nippes and Grand’Anse Departments to rubble. On top of this widespread damage, medicine, food, and water are very scarce in the impact area. I believe in this time of great need God’s people can make a Kingdom difference for the people of Haiti. WHBC can partner with Pastor Samuel as he and his local church continue to help as many as they can in the Saint-Louis du Sud area. The government disaster relief agencies can only do so much, especially in the chaos of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the aftermath of the recent presidential assassination and resulting instability.

The greatest need we as a church can help meet is shelter. Speaking with Berdy, he has confirmed that Pastor Samuel’s plan is to help (at least) 80 families in Saint-Louis du Sud. Of these 80 homes, 30 have collapsed completely and 50 have varying degrees of damage. To repair one damaged home will cost approximately $500. If WHBC raises $7,500, we can cover the cost to repair fifteen (15) homes in Pastor Samuel’s ministry area. Any gifts over and above that target can be utilized for additional home repairs or put toward the purchase of food, water, and medicine for Haitian families. With roughly $3,000 in the Haiti Reserve account, we are almost halfway to our goal already! If you are led to join us in supporting this ministry, please note “Haiti Missions” in the memo line of your check and offering envelope, or select “Haiti Missions” from the online giving fund list.

Working through our friend Berdy means we can provide our support directly to Pastor Samuel, who can then begin coordinating work on the impacted homes immediately. This seems the best path to ministry success since gangs have been hijacking trucks on the main highways from Port au Prince. And although US Marines have arrived in Haiti to try and restore some level of security, having a direct support conduit to the Sud Department provides the strongest assurance that any aid will reach those God is calling us to serve.

Today, please join us in prayer and seek God’s will with regard to helping our Haitian brothers and sisters in need.

Your servant in Christ,

Mike Dunne