

Haiti Relief Update

Since January 12, when the earthquake hit Haiti, IRFF (International Relief Friendship Foundation) representatives have made three trips to the country providing relief work. In addition, \$9000 has been spent by IRFF on domestic and overseas shipping costs, to move donated food and medical supplies to Cap Haitian in the north of Haiti.

Arriving in Haiti

On February 1st, Evelyn Drake, representing IRFF, together with Dr. Ron Patterson, Executive Director of Christian Disaster Response and fourteen doctors and nurses, spent up to 2 weeks helping the victims of the quake. The doctors and nurses will be working in two week shift for up to one year. Evelyn's main role was to translate for the group because she grew up in Haiti and knows the language well.

The party came in through the Dominican Republic and were met at the Haitian border with a bus and staff from the Mayor of Cap Haitian's office. Once there, they were met by the Mayor Fritz Joseph and his secretary, Lunise Perard who had worked with Richard Sapp and Evelyne in the past two years on service projects sponsored by IRFF and WFWP (Women's Federation for World Peace). Consequently they knew us very well and were very grateful Evelyn could translate.

The next morning, the Mayor briefed the group over breakfast on the situation occurring in Cap Haitian. He told us as many as 150,000 people came from Port-au-prince to his city, due to the earthquake, overwhelming their resources. He said they had neither enough food and water to help these people, nor doctors, nurses or medicine to give them the care they needed. He expressed his gratitude for our volunteers. Following breakfast, the U.N. Chief of Police for Cap-Haitian came to visit. He and two other officers from the U.N. offered their full support for our work. After this encouraging meeting, the team went to the Cap-Haitian Airport where medical supplies were received that Dr. Paul Williams had flown in. After inspection by the customs officer, Dr. Williams, Dr. Patterson and the team loaded the supplies onto a truck. From there, the items were driven to Sacred Heart Hospital where many people with life-

threatening injuries were being treated. The Mayor joined the team in delivering these much needed medicines and supplies.

After visiting the Sacred Heart Hospital, the group drove to a large gymnasium where many people had gathered to receive medicare. The remainder of the medical supplies were used by the doctors and nurses immediately to treat the patients. The need here was so great, with not enough doctors to go around. Still the team did a fantastic job comforting the people and tending to their injuries.



Far left: Mayor Joseph, Dr. Williams, and Dr. Patterson in the back row, with yellow tag ribbons



Aircraft carrying medical supplies was small, because airport is small.



Evelyn Drake, Dr. Williams and Dr. Patterson at the gymnasium clinic.



Receiving medical attention in the Gymnasium.

The End of February

Dr. Patterson and Richard Sapp returned to Cap-Haitian to coordinate the on-going rotation of volunteer doctors and nurses, and to work with the Mayor on the need to plan long term recovery efforts, including a needs assessment throughout Haiti.

After meeting with the Mayor, the first day there, he, with our party of six others, left Cap-Haitian and drove 120 miles south toward the capital, Port-au-Prince. The trip took 8 hours due to the extremely poor condition of the roads and a road block by rioting citizens in one small town who took control of a truck load of food going north to Cap Haitian.

We stopped 10 miles north of the capital at 9 PM to visit Dr. Marie-Pologne Jacques Rene, President/Founder of the University of the Haitian Academy near Titangen, Haiti.

Dr. Rene has worked with Religious Youth Service (RYS) and Service for Peace for over 25 years. She took us in, served us dinner, and bedded us down in tents for the night as the buildings had been rendered unsafe by the earthquake. That night 3 aftershocks were felt by some of the group. For detailed information on the impact of the January 12th earthquake, see the report of Diesa Siedel, who was at the academy at this time, facilitating 2 weeks of empowerment programs for the Haitians girls. You may contact her through www.unitedinitiatves.org



Meeting with the Mayor: Mayor, aide, Dr. Patterson, & Richard Sapp .



Tents for sleeping at the academy.

The next morning at breakfast, Dr. Patterson made a commitment to a container of needed medical supplies and medicine to the academy.

In Port-au-prince, we visited the Unification Church Center, where we met with Alix Mondesir, the City Director. Alix, was living with four other staff in the badly damaged compound. The 3 story main building had collapsed and they were living in the laundry building. They had received \$12,000 from church members, internationally. When asked how they were doing overall, Alix responded, "We're okay!" The members stand outside the gate each morning and donate food and cooking fuel to their neighbors.

Dr. Patterson had an appointment with Morning Star Academy, a very large school and seminary in Port-au-Prince. We then drove back to Cap Haitian, another 7 hours, over the world's worst roads, arriving back at our hotel at midnight.



Richard Sapp with Alix Mondesir, City Director of Port-au-Prince church, standing in the UC compound rubble, with the laundry room in the back ground.

Back in Cap-Haitian

In the following three days, we had meetings with the Mayor, arranging for an engineering team to come in to evaluate the safety of the public buildings that may have structural problems, presented a preparedness training to take place for government employees in June and to arrange for container shipments to be received with the Mayor's assistance in March.

2010 Spring Break Service Project Cap Haitian, Haiti March 7th~14th, 2010

The Spring Break Service Project for 2010 gave another opportunity for Women's Federation for World Peace(WFWP), International Relief Friendship Foundation and Service for Peace to work together. On the foundation of previous trips to Haiti by our WFWP and IRFF, Mrs. Betsy Jones, a former Vice-President of WFWP and a psychiatric nurse who teaches trauma seminars in Albany, N.Y. joined the project. She is also a family counselor and added a great amount of professionalism to the efforts to serve the Haitian people following the devastating earthquake of January 12th of this year.

Mayor Fritz Joseph had asked Evelyn Drake in February if she could locate trained personnel to care for the persons traumatized by the disaster. Surprisingly, a few days later, Mrs. Jones called Evelyn to offer assistance in trauma care. In addition, the team left the U.S. with Mrs.

Fannie Smith, WFWP coordinator for the Chicago area, Mr. Mark Felix, Service for Peace President at the University of South Florida and two more students from the University.

Evelyn's abbreviated report on what transpired during the project week follows:

"We met the Mayor Joseph and he briefed us on the current situation. After the meeting we traveled for 45 minutes to the city of Limbe, which is like a township next to Cap-Haitian. We ate dinner and then met to ready ourselves for the rest of the week/ We met the youth leaders of AJLEC (Action des Jeunes Limbeens pour L'Epanouissement de la Culture) in Limbe. Ten of these young people would work with us in preparation for a mobile clinic in Limbe.

Tuesday morning, we visited St. Jean Hospital and met with Sister Magerie Jean-Louis, the executive director of the hospital. We also met Dr. Arsenal Mompremier, the medical doctor who gave us a tour of the hospital. He shared regarding the needs of the hospital. Although they built an operating room recently, they are without the equipment to carry out the operations. They are hoping someone can donate the necessary instruments and materials for a fully operating room. In the afternoon, we departed for Cap Haitian and our first seminar. Mrs. Jones led us in a seminar on First Aid and CPR going over many techniques to help the people understand their present dilemma and what they need to do in an emergency situation. 42 group and youth leaders participated. They were totally involved and had lively discussions.

The next morning, Wednesday, we began our mobile clinic in Limbe under the direction of Dr. Jean=Marie Colin, a pediatrician and Dr. Monique Jean, a general practioner of medicine, both founding members of ALMEDA, a group of Haitian doctors I worked with on previous trips. These are young Haitian doctors who volunteer to go into remote areas of Haiti to provide medical care to the people there. We were assisted by the AJLEC group, who did a marvelous job of registering people according to which type of doctor they needed to see. Many patients had skin infections from the earthquake, were anemic and suffering from trauma. Many were in need of psychological care.

Mrs. Jones gave them the tools necessary to overcome their fears and negative feelings and thoughts. By sharing positive thoughts and through a technique called "tapping" which is Energy Psychology harnessing the same energy systems used in acupuncture and yoga, Mrs. Jones and our team were able to revive the people. Between the ALHMEDA doctors and our group centering on Mrs. Jones, 100 people received medical and psychological care.

Thursday, the doctors saw 50 more people and we took care of 20 persons. ... After this we held a seminar and 85 people participated. Mrs. Jones and our team did a great job of educating the people with regards to Trauma and the "tapping" exercise. The ALHMEDA doctors watched and learned our techniques as well.

Friday, we gave the mobile clinic in Cap Haitian during the morning and in the afternoon we held our final seminar on trauma. In the evening, we had a meeting with the various group leaders who had participated during the week at the seminars. Mayor Joseph was there and we organized for the work to continue after we were gone.

In conclusion, it was a great blessing to serve the people of Cap Haitian and Limbe. We gave medical and psychological care to more than 200 people. Giving the touch of love, inspiring the people to keep hope and faith, and giving them the skills necessary to sustain themselves and their families for the future was very uplifting for all of us. I thank God for this precious opportunity to travel to Haiti once again and bring spiritual support as well as medical help to the Haitian people that they need so much. It is our hope that many will join us this summer for our third annual Haiti Summer Service Project to be held in Cap Haitian from June 15 to 30th. Finally I thank Mrs. Betsy Jones, Mrs. Fannie Smith, Mark Felix and the students from USF.”



Betsy Jones giving one-on-one counseling



Dr. Jean Marie Colin, a pediatrician and IRFF Volunteer giving opening comments at a seminar

Continuing with help to Haiti

On March 26th, the first 20 foot container left Port Everglades, Florida, for Cap-Haitian an arrived on March 30th. Dr. Patterson flew out of Ft. Lauderdale on Monday, March 29th to meet the shipment with the Mayor.

Dr. Patterson’s warehouse in Auburndale, FL is full of donated goods, including 8 pallets of medicine which arrived March 25th. Donation of goods is not the problem. The problem is raising funds to cover transportation needs. The 20 foot containers are purchased for \$2,400. They are used for storage in Haiti or can be used for housing. The cost to ship one container is also \$2,400. With the domestic freight charges added the average cost to get one container of goods to Haiti, is around \$8000. Hopefully, IRFF can continue to partner with other NGO’s to help Haiti. Donations of funds are critical. The IRFF staff is all volunteer. Please send any donations to www.irff.org. to help with this relief effort. IRFF was founded in 1975 and has a long history of meeting humanitarian needs worldwide. The Board Chair, Hak Ja Han Moon, has given IRFF the inspiration to carry on.

Richard Sapp, International Director of Disaster Services, IRFF