

Celebrate Jesus of Haiti

October 2016

Dear Friends,

We thank God for your prayers and concern for the people of Haiti during and after Hurricane Matthew. We are pleased to report that hundreds of people survived the storm huddled together in the concrete buildings of Campus One and the Dwelling Place homes. All of our buildings remained standing, undamaged. There were six lives lost on LaGonave, two of which were near Anse A Galet, the town in which most of our people dwell. Many flimsily constructed homes were demolished in the Saline Flats area adjacent to the sea. Most of our school students live in the Saline Flats.



Most people cook outdoors and went without food for several days during the relentless rain. Pastor Joaquim took leadership and opened up Celebrate Jesus headquarters, cooking all day and feeding everyone who came on Saturday and Sunday, no questions asked. He sent word, "Whosoever will may come." Hunger and food supply is the most immediate need. The open-air market and food stored at many of our feeding stations was washed away. Crops were destroyed on both LaGonave and the main island where much of our food comes from. Gratefully, we had enough food stored to meet the immediate need but it will need to be replaced.

Now we are preparing for the sickness which comes from sewage picked up in overflowing rivers and with standing flood waters. Already on the main island 300 have died from cholera. It is highly contagious and can be spread even by touch. We have had no reports of cholera on LaGonave, but after the earthquake hundreds of the ill were shipped to LaGonave from the main island because there was simply no place to put them. Haitians will also be susceptible to Zika virus, malaria, and typhoid. Our clinic is preparing to assist the local hospital.

On the main island where the greatest loss of life occurred, Hurricane Matthew hit the location of the tent cities which were moved out of Port au Prince after the earthquake because of so much negative press coverage. It would have been impossible for people to survive a hurricane in a tent. On LaGonave the winds were so fierce people had to lay down inside the buildings which are built with an opening under the eaves for circulation. International aid will all go to the main island; none will come

to LaGonave. Pastor Joaquim is traveling to Dominican Republic for a conference of pastors on the role and organization of the churches in the aftermath of disasters so they can develop an emergency plan for the future.

Celebrate Jesus of Haiti has and will always be a ministry of faith. We trust God to provide what we need when we need it. While we always keep reserves of food, we do not keep a large reserve of funds to handle a catastrophe like an earthquake or category 4 hurricane. Extra donations received have already been spent toward replacing our food supplies but with crops and market destroyed we will need to assist whole families for some period of time. We plan to go there in late October to prioritize which homes to rebuild in the Saline Flats as funds are available. If the Lord moves in your heart to help the people of Haiti, the greatest need is financial and the need is immediate. Please consider us as your hands and feet.



In early September we were there to prepare 240 children for the new school year. 120 elementary school children received uniforms. 120 secondary school children received backpacks with toiletries - soap and shampoo. Jerry's team, including 4 men from home, finished construction on 2 more houses in the Dwelling Place, bringing the total to 9. God knew then that these houses would be needed to protect people from a coming storm. Jenell, assistant to the principal of the high school, moved in with his family. Cancan, one of Jerry's faithful Haitian construction crew, moved in to the other home. He had painted it sea foam green, his favorite color, not knowing it was for him.

Our young friend Jonah continues to make progress. He's gaining weight and his responsiveness is much sharper. He is brought up each day to sit outside the school buildings and listen to the songs, the buzz of lessons, and the excitement of children playing. A friend in Tulsa made him a special astronaut quilt with a stuffed dog and a matching pillow & case. We continue to believe he will be restored.

If we make this trip in October we will not return in November, as is our custom. The elementary school children are in need of new closed-toed shoes. If you can find some on sale and wish to send them, please bring them to either of the Faith Christian Family Church campuses during the next two weeks.

As always, we are grateful to God for you. Without your prayers and encouragement, we would struggle to bounce back from the cares of a ministry to some of the poorest people in the world.

We love you,

Jerry and Sonja Dickherber