

Eyes to See Hope

As the Haitian Proverb says, *What the eye does not see does not move the heart.*"

Our eyes have seen from many sources the tragedy and devastation of the earthquake in Haiti. Many hearts have been moved, mine included.

After dropping off a mission team at the airport on the afternoon of January

12th, I along with several of our Haitian leaders stayed on in Port-au-Prince with plans to pick up another group the following day. With the afternoon to run errands, we visited an orphanage close by and learned how we could possibly improve our children's home in Gonaives. We then headed downtown to purchase cases of Bibles for the Pastors' and ladies' conferences coming up later in the week. We returned to another orphanage near the airport around 4 PM where we would stay for the night.

Just before 5 PM there was a loud roar and the concrete building started shaking and rolling. We dashed for the door and safety. The children were crying hysterically, obviously very shaken and frightened as we were. Within 30 minutes, the staff had calmed their fears and we heard beautiful singing and prayers coming from this crowd as they gathered on the front lawn, the same lawn where we all pulled our mattresses and spent the night amidst the many tremors.

Early the next morning, we headed into Port-au-Prince, looking for our four university students who were studying in the city. The streets were very full of people, some leaving the city and others going in, trying to find family members. As



AP photo

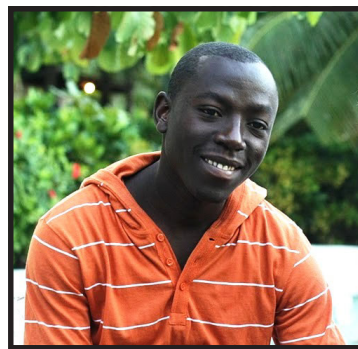
we got to the major business areas, the sight was amazing as the majority of multi story buildings were demolished. Many bodies were seen lying on the sidewalk or rubble. We got word from other

people we knew that our boys were alive and safe for which we were so thankful. As we travelled back to Gonaives, the stories we heard from people we encountered along the way are hard to explain. With cell phones not working, we

thankfully were able to stop at a hotel and send out a brief email to my wife stating that we were alive and safe. I was so grateful our lives were spared. If the quake had happened one or two hours earlier, we would most likely have been under the rubble as well.

Where is hope in the midst of death and suffering? My heart asks, "Hasn't Haiti suffered enough?" I think back over the 26 years I have been working alongside my Haitian friends in this poor country.

Where is hope? God caused me to remember just the week before as our mission team drove up to our destination in Gonaives. 15 young



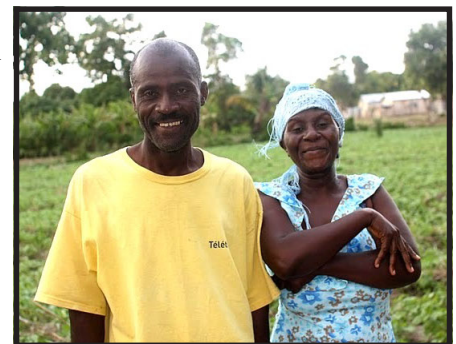
Anthony, finishing 3rd Year of Medical School



Celebrating new life in Christ through baptism

people were being baptized, remembering Jesus' words "I am the resurrection and the life." Hope is seen in 15 youth in their new life in Christ.

Part of our week was venturing to Sous Raille that had been hit hard by the hurricanes in '04 and '08. We witnessed new homes built for families who had been living in 8x8 structures of tin debris or USAID tarps. Now in large cinderblock houses, we saw smiles of gratitude.



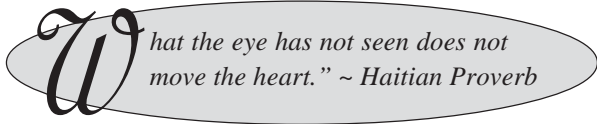
New home owners share their joy

I remember our team hearing from Anthony, a young man who had grown up in the children's home sponsored for years by a couple from NC. Now he is half way thru medical school in the Dominican Republic studying to be a doctor. "How can we pray for you?" the group asked. "Pray that I can pass all my studies to be a pediatrician. Pray that God will provide funds for me to start a clinic in my rural community. I would like to come back to serve the children right here." The group laid hands on Anthony and prayed. This is hope.

I remember the stories my Haitian friends have shared of how they were God's hands and feet as they experienced past tragedies, offering hope to their neighbors.

Where is hope? I pray that God will
(Continued on back)

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A Haiti Herald, February 2010

Eyes to see Hope (Continued from front)

give all of us eyes to see through suffering and tragedy the traces of God's grace moving towards His purposes – like a double exposure, one picture impressed on another. Laid over images of hunger, disease, poverty, may we have eyes to see shapes of God's new creation: new lives baptized, new homes, young

hearts desiring to serve God and others sharing of Christ's love.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
~Romans 15:13

Stan Wiebe, Director of HHH



As the words on a Haitian building declare, "oh yes CHRIST CAN".

Relief Funding Update

- We are grateful for the **relief funds** received and **financial commitments** made that will enable us to fulfill our present relief plan. (See our web-site for details.)

- Special scholarships and classes are planned at the Poteau **vocational school** starting in March to equip the citizens to help in the rebuilding efforts.



Vocational training scholarships may give hope for a new start

- HHH Haitian leaders have formed a **relief efforts committee** and our churches are reaching out to the earthquake survivors who have relocated to the Gonaives area.

They are bringing a hot meal to the hospital several times each week as they go to minister to the patients and their family members. Relief efforts are being coordinated as a **ministry of the local Haitian churches**.

- **Ongoing support** is needed in the form of monthly sponsorships for the displaced children. The children's home plans to accept up to 15 more children affected by the earthquake.

- We also plan to **partner with other ministries** who are directly affected by the earthquake by offering assistance in the years to come. Our desire is that any HHH work volunteers from America will serve in conjunction with volunteers from partnering churches in Gonaives and serve together as a team.



"I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; ... I was sick, and you visited Me;" Matt. 25:35-36

Please Pray For ...

- **God's love, comfort and strength** to be experienced by the people of Haiti as they gradually recover from yet another tragedy.
- **rebuilding efforts** to be done well and **decisions** to be made justly for the Haitian people.
- **emotional healing** for the many children and families who have lost loved ones and possessions.
- **lack of violence** as many people experience sheer desparation.
- effective opportunities for **ministry and sharing** by and among the adults and youth with whom we partner Haiti.

Upcoming Events

- 1st Monday of each month – **Prayer meeting** for Haiti at 7:30 PM at the Wiebes'
- Pastor Ron Bouchard (NY) and Stan Wiebe plan to **travel to Haiti** in early March for a week to assist with relief and to assess relief partnership opportunities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HHH, CONTACT:

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