

## Haiti Earthquake Update Archive

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Andris and Mary Jane Jolibois came to the U.S. for a short visit to rest, get critical supplies and meet with the board of directors. Visits with churches and individuals were purposely not scheduled as that would have made it difficult for them to get rest. They are currently planning to be back in the States sometime this summer and again in October for the Fall Benefit. In the meantime, here is a report on the needs and plans. Andris and Mary Jane showed us many pictures of the devastation in Haiti and the damage to the buildings on the Living Hope Ministries in Haiti (LHM) campus. We will be sharing some of these pictures on the web site and newsletters in the near future. God truly did protect LHM in many ways – people, buildings, food, and the well. One story will help illustrate this... one of the senior staff members was in her home, laying down with a headache when the earthquake hit. Her roof and walls began to collapse... she cried out to Jesus and one wall collapsed outward, throwing her outside of the house unharmed, while the rest of the house totally collapsed. She is a godly woman and a key member of the staff – we are thankful that God chose to save her.

We now have a much clearer direction for how we can all best help our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

1. School - will begin April 5 and run through August (by government decree). The school will begin under tarps and tents since the buildings will still not be safe at that time.
2. Buildings – although the buildings did not collapse, there are many repairs that will be needed. The church, school, professional building, and cooking school buildings all sustained damage ranging from wall blocks falling out, to cracks, to damages around windows. The retaining wall of the church, new latrine, guesthouse and generator building all appear to be in good shape. We do not plan to begin repairs until the tremors stop and we can have a structural engineer make a full assessment of the damage. They are still having up to 40 tremors a day.
3. Food – the food situation is ok. LHM has enough food and is able to buy food in Haiti. The food distribution from international aid agencies for people in the village has slowed down, but people are able to get the food they need.
4. LHM Family – as previously reported, the staff and teachers at LHM have virtually all lost their homes. This will make it very difficult to resume school on April 5. Andris Jolibois recommended sending heavy-duty tarps to Haiti instead of tents. They will be longer-lasting, more flexible and more economical than tents. We will be providing more information in the near future on how supporters can help in this endeavor. We

are also investigating the possibility of building a series of apartments near the LHM campus for staff members (There are now 58 staff members & teachers employed by LHM).

5. Mission Trips – many churches and individuals have expressed a desire to visit LHM this year. Now that we know the school schedule and the condition of the buildings, we can begin contacting groups to determine mission trip plans. It is unlikely that we will have VBS or Youth Group programs in the summer since school will be in session. More details on mission trips will be forthcoming as well.

We want to again extend our thanks to the many people around the country and around the world who are supporting LHM through prayer, financial support, goods drives and many other ways. Goods may be shipped to LHM via Agape (address is available on the back cover of the newsletter) with a priority now for tarps/tents, hygiene kits, and medical supplies.

We anticipate that the major activity for LHM this year will be building repair and providing/assisting with housing for members of our LHM family in Haiti – church members, staff, and teachers. We are beginning to make some initial estimates and plans for repair/construction and will report on these plans and progress when we are able.

As we make plans for the future we remember that, “Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails” (Prov. 19:21). We also read from Proverbs that we should, “Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed” (Prov. 16:3).

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Saturday, February 20, 2010

Life on the ground in Haiti has not changed much in the past couple of weeks. Living Hope Ministries (LHM) has gotten occasional food and supplies through various sources, but no more large shipments from the military have arrived. Some of the more recent developments are:

1. Checks can now be cashed, which allows LHM to purchase some supplies and pay the staff.
2. LHM has just finished 5 days of prayer for Haiti, with specific prayers for God to realign the earth under Haiti so the tremors will cease.
3. The tremors have finally been decreasing in frequency and severity this week (per a discussion with Mary Jane Jolibois today).

4. Everyone is still living outside -- they have been advised not to go into buildings yet.
5. We have shipped some supplies in from the U.S. and are waiting to see how well that process works.
6. Pastor Bob Carpenter is now scheduled to arrive in Haiti on Tuesday for a reconnaissance mission. Please pray for safety and success for this mission -- it has been delayed twice so far.
7. It is still unclear when school will resume. The government first said schools should open March 1 but then said schools cannot open until they have been inspected. In any case, Andris Jolibois does not believe they will be ready by March 1st since building repairs are necessary and the repairs cannot begin until the earth is stable.

Paul's instructions to the Colossians are applicable to us today, both in the U.S. and Haiti. "Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..." Through this earthquake and the aftermath, God has opened a door for His gospel to be spread further in Haiti and elsewhere.

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Saturday, February 6, 2010

Living Hope Ministries would like to thank everyone for your continued prayers and support. Food and supplies are still an issue for LHM and the village. Since the large food delivery 9 days ago and a small delivery last Saturday, there have been no further deliveries of aid. Andris and Mary Jane Jolibois were able to go into Port-au-Prince yesterday and speak with the US Army. They were promised a delivery of food and medical supplies within 2 days for the whole village. We also have a commitment from Food for the Poor to deliver food for 500 families. Please pray with us that these aid deliveries will arrive soon.

Our reconnaissance team led by Pastor Bob Carpenter was scheduled to leave yesterday, but their flights have been delayed until February 9. They will be carrying in tents and some very specific medical supplies that are urgently needed.

We would like to extend a special thanks to all our supporters who have been so faithful in prayers and so generous with financial support. Through you, God has raised over \$50,000 for earthquake relief and there are many fund-raisers still underway. When Pastor Bob returns from Haiti, we will put together a detailed plan on how to address the needs over the coming months. We know that we must repair buildings on the LHM

campus and we expect to have a special focus on housing for the members of the Zion Church Haiti congregation and LHM staff who have lost their homes.

We are thankful for the many of you who are involved in collecting items to send to Haiti. We will be providing guidance soon on how those goods will be transported to Haiti throughout 2010. The food, clothing, hygiene kits, medical supplies and other items will meet critical needs as the aid from governments and international aid agencies inevitably begins to decrease.

Thank you all for continuing to answer God's call to us to help our brothers and sisters in need. "If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you." Leviticus 25:35

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Monday, February 1, 2010

God is using Living Hope Ministries (LHM) to minister to the surrounding area. Since LHM has gotten food aid, they have distributed food to 1600 families. The distribution has been very orderly. They received more food Saturday from a Christian aid group based in the Dominican Republic and have heard that they may get another large distribution from the military today (Monday). In the midst of this crisis, LHM has continued to hold church services and Bible studies - all outdoors. School has not resumed since they are still not able to go into the buildings.

Pastor Bob Carpenter is taking a small reconnaissance team to Haiti later this week. They will take in much needed medical supplies and tents and will help us to make plans for the next several months regarding mission teams and shipment of goods. Please pray that their travel will go smoothly and safely.

Let us all put our hope in the Lord: "...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

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Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Aid really has arrived at LHM now! This morning, 5 trucks arrived at LHM and unloaded 510 boxes of food. The convoy included the U.S. Navy, the Sri Lankan Army and the Mexican Army. The food came in packets with rice, soy powder and spices – a ready to cook meal. They determined that there are actually 7,000 families that will be serviced from the LHM distribution point. The delivery this morning is not enough to feed that many, so LHM is making arrangements to purchase more large bags of rice so that

everyone in the village will have food. They have developed a distribution system, letting a limited number of people into the campus at a time to get food. Continuing prayer requests are:

1. Tents - there are still no tents available
2. Water - the delivery this morning did not include water. LHM is trying to distribute as much as they are safely able to from the well on campus
3. Ongoing food deliveries – today's food won't last very long so please pray that LHM will now be considered an official distribution point and receive supplies every couple days.
4. Aftershocks – they had a large tremor this morning. After two weeks they are still not able to go into the buildings

Thanks be to God whose timing is always perfect.

Ps. 75:1 We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near, men tell of your wonderful deeds.

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Tuesday, January 26, 2010

The Navy did reach LHM yesterday, but they did not deliver any food. At the time of the phone conversation with Mary Jane Jolibois, everything was arranged and the Navy had just phoned her to say they were 30 minutes away. Unfortunately, they only sent 2 jeeps for reconnaissance first, then decided the road up to LHM was not suitable for their supply vehicles. And, they do not want to unload and distribute from the main road. In addition, there is a concern that a helicopter landing might be risky because some of the walls with cracks might collapse. This leaves us back where we have been - trying to work both ends - from the U.S. and Haiti - to get emergency supplies delivered. Our apologies for the overly optimistic message posted yesterday.

In the end, regardless of which individuals and organizations we work through, it will be God who moves through people and situations to provide for His people: Ps. 9:18 "But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish."

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Monday, January 25, 2010

Word came this afternoon from Mary Jane Jolibois that the Navy was arriving just then with food and supplies for 5,000 people. LHM will become a distribution point for the

village. The Navy has asked Andris and Mary Jane Jolibois to help with other mission contacts in the area to distribute supplies to more areas in need.

Thanks to the many people who have contacted government agencies, the U.S. military and aid organizations on behalf of LHM. There will still be a great need for food, water and supplies over the weeks and months to come, so all aid deliveries that are eventually made will be welcomed and well used.

On a sad note, the one LHM student who lost his life in the earthquake was a 4-year-old pre-school student. He was not a sponsored student. We know that all of you who sponsor a student have been concerned about the child you sponsor. The rest of the students are ok, although most have lost their homes.

Waiting for God's timing is sometimes difficult, but we have a God who works on our behalf. Isaiah 64:4 "Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him."

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Sunday, January 24, 2010

There had not been any contact from LHM since Friday until this morning when Mary Jane Jolibois was able to reach her mother for a long call. It seems that phone service is coming back and is more stable now.

1. They were just getting ready to start their church service (outside). They held a service last Sunday but only 30 people were able to come. Today it seemed like a lot more people were coming.
2. Aid has still not reached them. They had just stocked the food depot on the campus before the quake so they are ok for now, but they still have great concern about the people in the surrounding area. They were able to get a little bit of bottled water yesterday from local sources.
3. Tomorrow (Monday) they plan to hire a car and go into the village to try and make contact with the military and agencies distributing food. Please pray for their safety and success on trip.
4. The new latrine is ok (one crack in the wall) and they have been able to use it.
5. Andris Jolibois and a staff member went into the apartment yesterday to get some clothes and supplies. They had to go in the back way as the stairs are damaged.
6. Mary Jane said the LHM campus has the least damage of any of the areas around. Praise God!

7. Most of the staff, teachers and church members have lost their homes. LHM is beginning to discuss plans to build an apartment building on some land close to LHM. This would be housing for some of the people with close ties to the mission who lost their homes.

8. There has not been any sickness in the area which is a great blessing.

We continue to work from the U.S. side to try and get aid directly into LHM. Please pray that at least one of the many contacts we have made will lead to direct aid reaching LHM and the area very soon.

One of our LHM supporters sent in this terrific verse:

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills- From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Ps 121:1-2

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Thursday p.m., January 21, 2010

We had another update this evening from Haiti. This was our longest call so far - we are posting an update even though one was posted just this morning. We know that many of you are praying for LHM and eagerly awaiting updates. For those who are concerned about the students they sponsor or Haitian friends met during mission trips, we still do not have details on specific individuals. Here is some additional information.

1. Pastor Andris' sister by the airport is ok, but lost her home – so all of Andris' family survived – Praise God!
2. They do have food on the campus for now, but food is very limited in the village
3. They have been fixing meals for about 30 people per day on the campus (cooking outside)
4. They found out that yesterday there were 3-4 food drops in another village near them
5. The most urgent need in the area is water – the community well is damaged and will need repair (this is the well installed by LHM)
6. 16 families from the church have lost their homes and all their possessions
7. Tents are still urgently needed. They built a wooden structure yesterday to sleep under and protect from rain. It has also been cold at night.
8. The banks are beginning to open.

We continue to investigate ways to get food and supplies directly to LHM and we have some promising options – please pray that at least one of these channels will be able to deliver to LHM in the next 24 hours. In addition, we hope to use some of these channels to continue to deliver items to LHM over time.

In the midst of this crisis, it is wonderful to see God's people come together in prayer and in community to help those in need. As we step forward in support of our brothers and sisters in Haiti, remember the words of Jesus who said "...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25: 40

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Thursday a.m., January 21, 2010

We had another short call from Mary Jane Jolibois in Haiti this morning. The situation at LHM and the surrounding area is very critical. The immediate community of 5,000+ is out of food and water and getting desperate. Also they are still experiencing 20-30 aftershocks a day, so still cannot go into the buildings. They are still searching for a tent to protect them from the rain. As you've seen on the news, the aid agencies are having a huge challenge just getting food and supplies distributed in Port-au-Prince, let alone to outlying areas. We have been pursuing a number of options to get aid directly into LHM as a distribution point for the area.

In the meantime, if anyone has connections at the State Department or the US Marines, please contact us at [LHM-web@livinghopehaiti.org](mailto:LHM-web@livinghopehaiti.org). Please continue to pray that the Lord will open up the right channels for us to go through to make this happen as fast as possible.

For those of us in the US as well as our brothers and sisters in Haiti to remember - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

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Wednesday, January 20, 2010

As you may have seen by now, Haiti experienced a 6.1 earthquake early this morning with the epicenter about 20 miles west of LHM. Shortly after that, Mary Jane Jolibois was able to get through to her mother, although it was a very short call. We learned that:

- The wall around the campus is intact - it has 2 cracks that need repair but overall this is very good news. It means they have protection.
- Both the church and school buildings have sustained some damage

- They are still staying outside - about 20 people permanently staying on the campus since the initial quake
- They are trying to find a tent due to the rain

Psalm 20:1-2 "May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. May He send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion."

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Sunday, January 17, 2010

Mary Jane Jolibois was able to get through to her mother this morning. Here is the situation.

- 1- Pastor Andris Jolibois' sister and his mother are ok. They have not been able to reach his other sister
- 2- They have lost a couple students, but too early to determine exactly how many
- 3- One young man from the village has lost his whole family of 10 people
- 4- The well is working so they are boiling their water
- 5- They have supplies and food for now
- 6- Mary Jane says they will be able to cash checks next week
- 7- They have been advised not to go into the buildings until 3 days after the shaking stops – they are still having aftershocks
- 8- They expect that they have damage inside the buildings
- 9- They have all been sleeping outside
- 10- They are very low on fuel so they are not running the generator
- 11- There are a lot of people and families staying on the LHM grounds

Philippians 4:6-7. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

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Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Mark Breeding, Vice-President of the Living Hope Ministries (LHM) Board of Directors, was able to make brief contact with Mary Jane Jolibois and has issued the following statement:

"God miraculously protected LHM in the midst of this devastating earthquake. I count it as God's intervention that I was even able to get through via phone, even though it was for only a minute. Their concerns now are for the many aftershocks that are occurring, the people in the surrounding area and the nation of Haiti. They (LHM) may

have sustained some minor structural damage but will make a more complete assessment... The days and weeks ahead are likely to be difficult for Haiti. Please pray that LHM will be a place of refuge and support for the surrounding area and that God will work through LHM to further His Kingdom in Haiti.

May we and our fellow believers in Haiti remember that "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge." Psalm 18:2a"