Local Ministries Prepare to Send Aid to Haiti

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

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Montesano, WA - Haiti ARISE Ministries prepares to send aid to the people of Haiti, following the devastation caused by yesterday’s 7.3 earthquake 14 miles southwest of Port au Prince. Haiti ARISE Ministries operates out of Grand Goave southwest of Port au Prince. As news trickled out of the country about massive destruction throughout the country, Haiti ARISE teams in the US and Canada waited anxiously for word from the staff in Grand Goave.

The earthquake occurred at 5 p.m. (2 p.m. Pacific Time) bringing extensive infrastructure trauma and collapse of even significant structures, including hospitals, stores, government, aid organizations and the partial collapse of the National Palace. The death toll and scope of devastation is yet untold, but it can be presumed that this is a tremendous blow to the country, just beginning to pull out of the devastation of last year’s brutal hurricane season. Haiti is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Of the 8.5 million inhabitants, over 4 million are considered malnourished. Over half the adult population is illiterate, and 70% of the population is unemployed.

Haiti ARISE Ministries, is a non-profit, faith-based humanitarian organization. They have focused their efforts on educating in practical skills, spiritually strengthening and raising up leaders to affect positive change throughout the politically volatile and destitute nation. The ministry also provides a monthly food and clothing distribution and is currently working to establish a goat farm, a staffed medical clinic and a children’s home to address the restavek (child slave) problem in that country.

Founder, and former restavek, Marc Honorat, was on the phone from Haiti with Haiti ARISE Canada’s Vice-President, James Roberts, when the earthquake hit. He urgently asked for prayer for the country and then communication dropped, according to Roberts. Roberts also reported that a few hours before the earthquake a team of 24 volunteers, including 17 teenagers, from Nelson, British Columbia, arrived in Port au Prince to begin their Haiti ARISE mission trip. Darrell Damron, Vice-president of the Haiti ARISE U.S. Board, reported last night, that Honorat was able to get word out, via email at a neighboring mission, that the visiting team and the staff were safe.

“We are doing our part here to prepare to send aid as quickly as possible,” explained Damron. “Haiti ARISE will be providing relief on the ground to people in Haiti in the aftermath of this disaster; no doubt our team is already helping those nearest to them right now. People will know that they can turn to Haiti ARISE for help because we've been there in the past for them. When the sun rises tomorrow, the extent of the damage will be visible, and Haiti ARISE will be providing food, water, shelter, and care to many in the coming days, weeks, and months to come.”

For those interested in contributing to the effort to help in Haiti, or for more information on Haiti ARISE Ministries and Earthquake Disaster Updates, please visit the Haiti ARISE website www.haitiarise.org. Contributions may also be made directly through the Haiti ARISE US office:

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