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Network

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HELPING HAITI

by Melissa Kelley

A lot of the people and places we knew will never be the same again. These are dear people who have suffered immensely over the years. I would like to hold their hands and tell them everything will be all right, that we'll help them."

—Oscar Aylor,

MTW Mercy Ministry director, former missionary to Haiti



Haitians struggling to rebuild their lives in the wake of the January 12 earthquake that devastated the nation are referring to the disastrous event as "the thing."

"It was something beyond imagination and beyond understanding," said MTW missionary and Haitian-American Esaie Etienne, who, together with his family, survived the quake. "Nobody has ever seen anything like it." Etienne, like so many others, is still sleeping outdoors a month after the quake.

As *Network* goes to print, government officials estimate that the earthquake has killed 200,000, rendered two million homeless, and has affected up to one third of the entire population of Haiti.

Given the enormity of physical and spiritual need in Haiti, MTW is committed to a long-term strategy for disaster response and reconstruction, working through existing relationships with national pastors and churches. By the end of February, two MTW disaster response medical

teams will have completed weeklong trips, providing acute medical care and counseling to quake victims in the Diquini neighborhood of Carrefour, a town just outside Port-au-Prince. A third medical team will soon follow.

"The need for resources will continue for a long time," said Oscar Aylor, MTW's director of mercy ministry, who has also served as a missionary to Haiti. "MTW is committed to Haiti and its people long after the media attention has turned elsewhere. We are raising funds to allow

us to honor that commitment. Our longstanding policy is to work through the churches in such a way that they will get the credit, God will get the glory, and the Church will grow."

"As Far as the Eye Can See"

MTW advance needs assessment team leader Tom Felmley landed on the ground in Haiti just 10 days after the quake occurred, with the goal of laying the groundwork for future MTW disaster response teams. "As far as the eye could see, there was nothing—just widespread devastation," he said. "It looked like Hiroshima or Nagasaki after the atomic bomb had been dropped."



Felmley is no stranger to disaster zones. The materials engineer has participated in 15 MTW disaster response trips over the past 10 years. "The density of population at the epicenter of this earthquake makes this disaster unique. It's

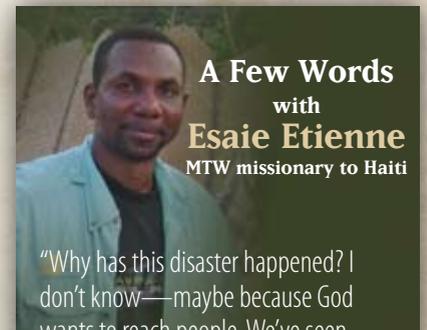


Front cover:
MTW's advance needs assessment team with missionary *Esaie Etienne*.

heartbreaking how many traumatic injuries happened as a result of the slab cement floor construction. So many homes just pancaked from the earthquake tremors."

In future weeks and months, MTW will send multiple teams of medical, construction, and crisis counseling volunteers to aid earthquake survivors. These teams, comprised of specially trained and experienced professionals, expect to work through missionaries and their networks of churches and national pastors.

Currently, the MTW teams are providing medical care in several locations, including a 20-acre grassy field that has been converted into a survivor camp, which swells to 15,000 people at night. Many people no longer have homes, and are sleeping under makeshift tents made of curtains and tablecloths propped up by tree branches. Others have access to shelter, but are still afraid to enter buildings—fearing aftershocks and further damage.



A Few Words
with
Esaie Etienne
MTW missionary to Haiti

"Why has this disaster happened? I don't know—maybe because God wants to reach people. We've seen people all over the world show so much love to us. God's ways are higher than my ways. I just don't know. We're praying the gospel will go to the hearts of people."

"My wife's uncle was very involved in voodoo. During the earthquake he was buried under cement blocks because a house fell on him. He called out to Jesus 33 times and was eventually rescued—injured, but alive. He told me, 'I'm done with the things of this world. Now I am a Christian.'"

"We hear many testimonies like his. So we pray that the Lord will intervene."



The primitive living conditions—no clean water, no sanitation, no electricity—only reinforce the need for continued relief aid and medical care. And the rainy season will begin in a few short months, only exacerbating the situation.

Ministering in Word and Deed

MTW provided disaster response in Haiti in 2008 after four hurricanes battered the nation in one month, causing deadly flooding. Esaie Etienne, whose home was damaged in those floods, has experienced MTW's word and deed ministry firsthand, and has seen his own church and ministry flourish since then.

"I have seen people come to know Christ through tragedy," he said. "Pray that I may always be able to find a way to show the love of Christ even in the midst of dire times."

Looking forward, MTW's relief efforts will necessarily stay fluid, shifting according to need. But no matter where MTW's ministry is physically located in Haiti, one thing is certain: disaster assistance will be needed there for a very long time. "There's going to be an ongoing need for medical care, physical therapy, providing crutches, canes, wheelchairs," said Felmley. "But it's so important to offer spiritual hope along

with physical support. People can only run on adrenaline for so long."

"As time goes on, we'll move from disaster relief to long-term ministry and rehabilitation," said Aylor. "There's a tremendous opportunity for ministry in Haiti—that's why we need to be there a long time. We see it as a significant ministry site, and we want to see new churches planted. It's incumbent upon us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in times like these." ■



HAITI: A First-Person Perspective from Oscar Aylor

"I can visualize so much of it just like it was yesterday. I still have many friends in Port-au-Prince. My daughter went to high school there—now that school is being used as a staging area for the U.S. Army."

"There's a saying about Haiti, that once you get Haitian sand in your shoes, you will always want to come back. It breaks my heart to know it will never be the same again. It's almost like having your hometown destroyed."

"We appreciated the hospitality of the Haitian people—they were lovely, resilient people whom you get close to very quickly."

How to Volunteer

Interested in serving on an MTW team to Haiti? Visit www.mtw.org for more information.

How to Pray

MTW has prepared a prayer guide to help believers lift up the needs of all involved in the earthquake relief process. Visit www.mtw.org to download your copy.

How to Give

MTW is launching a one-year giving initiative to provide ongoing assistance to survivors of the earthquake in Haiti. Visit www.mtw.org/haiti or see the tear-off on page 15 to learn more.

How to Keep Up

MTW will continue to post Haiti relief updates, photos, prayer requests, and opportunities at www.mtw.org. More frequent updates will appear on MTW's Facebook page and on Twitter.

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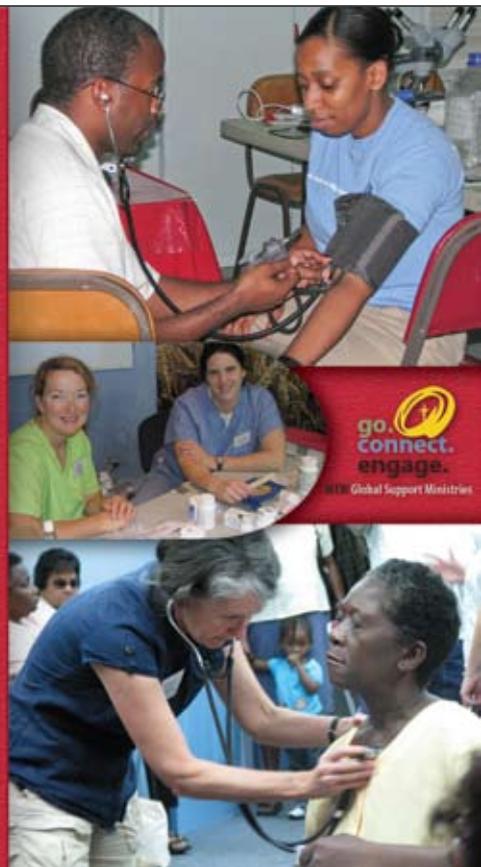
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"HOUSE OF GLORY" HELPS PREGNANT TEENS

by Terri Hintz



Abandoned, abused, and about-to-be-a-mother are not words that should be used to describe a 14-year-old girl. Most teens that age are giggling with girlfriends and dreaming about their future. But, for one young girl in Lima, Peru, dreaming was the last thing on her mind. She was in despair.

Sent to the big city to work, this young girl found much more than she bargained for. She was raped and became pregnant. Far from her family and alone, she had nowhere to go. Thankfully, Lima's Department of Family Services referred her to Casa de la Gloria (House of Glory), a home for pregnant teens run by MTW missionaries.

In the past, this girl may have become another bleak statistic of teen pregnancy in Lima. Instead, she experienced the transforming power of Christ at House of Glory.

A Church Reaches Out

This young woman was the culmination of a vision for teens in trauma by MTW church planters Amanda and Jeremy Ross. "Currently, we are the only evangelical home in Lima for [abused] young girls and their babies," said Amanda Ross, who serves as the director of House of Glory. "In addition to helping meet their physical needs, we seek to bring hope, healing, and reconciliation to these girls and their families."

Seeing the plight of pregnant girls in Lima, the Rosses challenged their young church, Luz de Vida, with their vision for House of Glory. Though still a toddler itself, Luz de Vida (Light of Life) embraced their vision, laid the groundwork, and helped establish a home of mercy and security for these fledgling families. The church was directly involved in

the much of the process: investigating logistics, making connections in relevant government agencies, hiring staff, and helping welcome the first mother last summer.

Light of Life volunteers are essential to the day-to-day operations of the home. "The church has embraced the girls and their babies," said Amanda. "Members are the hands and feet of Christ to the girls and through them His love heals, redeems, and restores them. Volunteers are trained to work at the home, but this is family, not a volunteer project."

MTW missionary and House of Glory assistant director Susan Crenshaw shares a recent story. "On Christmas Eve, a church family stopped by to see the girls," she said. "They cooked, ate, and celebrated the gift of Christ with the girls and their babies, as family."

In less than a year, House of Glory has expanded significantly. The first mother's healthy baby boy was born in August and several other teens arrived in the following months. "The girls are living proof of the transforming power of the gospel," reports Amanda. Arriving wounded, rejected, and afraid, the girls have blossomed amid the support of the church, the care of the home, and an understanding set of peers. Three girls were recently baptized along with their babies, further bonding them together as family.

Giving the Gift of Time

When new girls arrive at the home, they have much common ground: hard journeys and now also the security of a safe place to call home. New girls discover quickly what hope and gratitude look like.



A Luz de Vida church member visits House of Glory.

They've also been given the gift of time. The profile for House of Glory includes teens who are 15 or younger, who have been victims of abuse and neglect, and who have no other children. Before the girls are legally adults at the age of 18, they will have had years in which to receive solid academic and job training, psychological counseling, practical support, and spiritual foundations.

"In addition to helping meet their physical needs, we desire for the girls to be reconciled to Christ, to their local community, and ultimately to their own families too," shares Susan. In a few years, when it is time for the girls to leave House of Glory to make room for new mothers, the vision is for these young women to be confident, capable 18-year-old mothers who are an integral part of their community.

Amanda is already considering the next phase of ministry. "We have big dreams," she says. "We hope to buy an apartment or two as a transition point when the girls leave House of Glory." Such homes would allow the mothers to stay connected to their local community in a city where apartments for young moms are not easy to find.

Before House of Glory's inaugural year is complete, staff and Light of Life church members are eager to do more. They are committed to giving these young families every opportunity for success. And, they are excited at how these girls might bring the gospel to the next generation.

Despair has been turned to hope in the life of young mothers through the power of the gospel of Christ. These babies are reminders that more girls need a safe place to raise their children too. And, offering teens the chance to heal and enjoy girlhood giggles after all they have endured is the privilege and joy of the body of Christ in action. ■

For more information on House of Glory, contact Amanda Ross at kaylagocstoperu@aol.com.

Left: House of Glory staff.

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Lon

MTW frequently sends short-term teams—church groups, college kids, retirees, and others—to spend a week, two weeks, or longer to assist missionaries on an established field, often serving in a support role performing less-than-glamorous tasks. Although it may seem to observers that the established team gets the most from the relationship, the benefits flow both ways.

Finding this to be true firsthand is a short-term team from Valley Springs Presbyterian in Roseville, Calif., who traveled to Spain last November to join MTW missionaries Tyler and Julie Lenocker in Madrid.

"It's embarrassing to say that we had to go to Madrid and see great evangelism modeled for us in a place where it's pretty dry and unfruitful to say, 'We need to be doing this [at home],'" said Brad Carpenter, Valley Springs' pastor of congregational care.

Surpassing Expectations

Following the guidance of the Madrid team, the Valley Springs group participated in a cultural immersion type of outreach. The team members partnered with Spaniards—giving language lessons and even hosting a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner.

"In the meantime," Brad recalled, "we were praying that God would provide opportunities to have significant conversations and build relationships."

The result was a trip that surpassed everyone's expectations.

"We didn't build any houses," Brad said, "and from the American, Protestant work-ethic perspective, it's difficult to share the success, but this is one of the most significant missions I've ever been on."

After returning home, the Valley Springs team discovered that they had made true friends, and many of the team members began communicating with their Spanish friends via Facebook.

"We're certainly not Facebooking with any of the people we built houses for in Mexico or any of the orphans we fed in the Philippines from past trips," Brad said.

Additionally, the team used its experiences in Madrid to fuel its ministry efforts back home.

"Our church's young adult group is currently talking with on-campus parachurch organizations at the community college here because we came back convicted that we don't have a passion for evangelism like we should," Brad said. "The on-campus

ministries aren't getting the love and support that they should from us."

Benefits Flow Both Ways

Although the benefits for the teams heading into the field can be relatively easy to quantify, the missionaries on the field also benefit from the relationship.

"In a context that is outside of your normal culture, when you're away from what you're used to, there's a need for people to just be an encouragement," said Tyler Lenocker. "Not necessarily in terms of our work here but in terms of the gospel. Having a team come with a mindset that they want to be a blessing to us, not in what they're doing but in the time that they spend with us, that makes a huge difference."

In preparing for the trip, the Valley Springs team discovered that there was more to be accounted for than plane tickets and passports.

"The more we looked into it, the more we realized how difficult [the Madrid team's] task is," Brad said. "Our focus became more 'How can we support them?' instead of 'What can we get out of this trip?'"

"One of the goals of any short-term project is to help build up the missionaries on the field," says Mitch

ON— g-Term Impact

by Carter Davis

Gindlesperger, two-week director with MTW. Even though there are a host of short-term benefits to be gained from a short-term trip—an increased focus on ministry back at home and finding a life's calling, among them—the focus should be on the end result, not the immediate payoff.

"Serving on the field can be a very dry place for missionaries," Tyler said. "Just like Paul was sent to encourage different bodies of Christ, sending teams is seen as a value, and we would like to see more short-term teams bring encouragement to the field."

Fueling an Interest in Missions

"I once heard that 98 percent of our long-term missionaries came, at some point, through a [short-term] trip," said Mitch. "There are other motivations for participating, certainly, but a lot of people come and test the waters and see if they like missions at all, or if they like a particular field. It's a great first step in both of those directions."

Although most short-term projects tend to focus on construction, VBS programs, and similar ministry outreaches, there is no "typical"

short-term experience—as evidenced by Valley Springs in Spain. Regardless of the work performed abroad, the project can only be considered a true success if the participants find that the work they perform on the field impacts their lives at home.

"Our chief desire is to mobilize the church; get them out of the pew and involved in missions," Mitch said. "We're equipping the church to do future ministry." ■

For more information about MTW short-term missions opportunities, contact 2wk@mtw.org.

VIEW FROM THE CHURCH:

NOTES FROM NORTH AFRICA

by Robert Davis

At the 1979 Urbana Missions Conference, my wife, Kim, remembers praying specifically for Christians in a North African nation. Last October we met four of them.

Wanting to see what God was doing in Spain and North Africa, we joined an MTW vision trip there and spent 10 days visiting workers and national believers. Wonderfully, we discovered pinpricks of light amidst the darkness.

It was a privilege to meet Muslims who have come to Christ and who are willing to take great risks to share the gospel with their country. I am confident that God will bless their efforts and that the church will grow in those lands.

Our first stop was Spain—one of the least evangelized countries in Europe, where evangelicals number less than one percent of the population. There are more Christians in Atlanta than in all of Spain.

MTW began work in Madrid in 1991 focusing on evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. One church is now under national leadership. The current team partners with national churches, has an outreach to university students, and conducts Bible studies. We spent time with MTW workers and met several Spanish pastors.

We learned that the most effective method of evangelism in Spain is long-term, personal witnessing to friends. Sometimes it takes years to develop a friendship of trust—sharing meals, lives, and then the gospel.

In North Africa we found the church miniscule, but growing. We met expatriate Christians and visited national Christians, and heard their stories.

They told us of persecution and struggle, but also stirring accounts of God calling His own. Muslims who convert may face punishment. It is illegal to evangelize. The national churches are not officially recognized, yet dozens exist. Statistics say that there are fewer than 1,000 Christians in

the whole country—fewer than there are in many PCA churches. Believers meet secretly in small groups, changing their meeting place as needed.

We visited one city of 3.5 million where several hundred expatriate Christians are allowed to worship in one church.

We worshiped with them and, unexpectedly, I was asked to preach, one of my highlights of the trip.

We also visited a school

begun by Americans that held courses in English, microenterprise, and health education. Some 50 adults and children are enrolled. Many have come to Christ.

We praise God for the opportunity to meet Christians living the gospel in these nations. We rejoice that our brothers and sisters there are not diminishing but growing and maturing in the faith. Please pray with us that God will call more workers to go to those who do not know the darkness that blinds them, let alone Jesus, who will set them free. ■



Robert and Kim Davis

Robert Davis is the senior pastor of Draper's Valley Presbyterian Church in Draper, Va.

To learn more about MTW vision trips, contact Church Resourcing at cr@mtw.org.

2010 PCA Global Missions Conference: Student Focus

MTW hopes to draw many college students to the upcoming 2010 PCA Global Missions Conference, with the goal of introducing a new generation to missions. The conference, to be held November 5-7 in Chattanooga, Tenn., will be co-sponsored by Covenant College.

As part of the conference's student appeal, the schedule includes a Saturday night concert for students with Christian hip-hop artist Shai Linne. Additionally, a special rate of \$100 is available for a limited time for full-time undergraduate and graduate students.

"Jesus is building His Church today, just as He has been from the beginning," said Jack Beall, MTW's director of church resourcing and director of the Global Missions Conference. "And, amazingly, He calls and privileges us to be involved with Him."

Worship during the conference will be led by Wade Williams (Perimeter Church-Duluth, Ga.), Eric Johnson (Redeemer Presbyterian Church-Athens, Ga.); James Ward (New City Fellowship-Chattanooga, Tenn.), and musicians from Chattanooga's North Shore Fellowship.

For more information about the 2010 Global Missions Conference or to take advantage of the student discount, visit www.mtw.org.

Record Number of RUF Students Going on MTW Short-Term Trips

The number of RUF students going on short-term missions projects this year will be its highest to date. Last year, 80-90 RUF students and campus ministers participated. As of January 2010, about 245 students and campus ministers are scheduled to go on projects, and that number is expected to grow.

Mitch Gindlesperger, director of MTW's Two-Week Department, attributes the increase to the relationships MTW staff have built with RUF campus ministers, and to the growing number of campus ministers who have taken part in a short-term project themselves. "RUF campus ministers will go on a trip and then come back and share their experience with students and with other campus ministers," Mitch said. "That's really been moving things forward."

According to Mitch, exposing students to missions carries long-term value. "Through these trips, we're giving future leaders a much broader vision of the work of the church."

To learn more about MTW short-term missions, visit www.mtw.org.

East Asia Partnership

Ten years ago, MTW met with a group of PCA church missions leaders to discuss working together to strategically plant churches in East Asia. From these discussions, the East Asia Partnership (EAP) was eventually born.

Today, the EAP—comprised of 42 Reformed churches and organizations—partners with existing ministries and MTW workers on the field to further the goal of church planting in this sensitive area. They accomplish this through a variety of ministries: theological training, teaching English at local universities, cultural exchange programs, and mercy ministry opportunities, among others.

The East Asia Partnership director says that the unity among believers brought about by the EAP is a powerful motivator for him personally. "Jesus says that our unity as brothers and sisters in the gospel is a strong testimony to the world that Christ is Lord," he said. "When we partner together, the lost see Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit at work."

To learn more about the East Asia Partnership, email eaphome@earthlink.net.

Latin America Retreat: Investing in Local Leaders

On the first day of MTW's Latin America Leadership Retreat last fall, Francisco Tarazona, a church leader from Lima, Peru, felt the Lord speak to him through one of the preaching sessions.

"I was reminded of the words of our Savior: 'I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it' (Matthew 16:18). Even today, this helpful reminder sustains me."

Francisco was one of approximately 20 Latin American nationals who attended the retreat, held in November near Bogotá, Colombia. MTW Latin America leadership raised the money to invite nationals to attend the conference alongside MTW missionaries, with the desire to further invest in the ministry of these men.

For Francisco, taking a workshop on how to preach Christ cross-culturally was invaluable. "It was really helpful because I sometimes wonder if people get the messages I teach and are able to apply them."

As a part of the seminar, MTW missionary Gary Waldecker spoke about the cultural filters people in a congregation have when listening to a sermon.

"It was eye-opening," Francisco said, "along with ideas of how to go about breaking filters by challenging the idols of our particular cultural settings."





VIEW FROM THE FIELD:

"Why Am I Here?"

by Lyn Newbrander

I was having a rainy KLM day. You know those days: get on the first KLM flight back to America and ditch the whole thing. I lifted three-year-old David off my bike and unloaded groceries from the saddle bags. Wet and loaded down, we faced the long trek up our 48 stairs, with David practicing, "St-ep, st-ep, st-ep."

Life with three small children in Amsterdam was full of mommying, juggling groceries on bikes, and transporting kids to Dutch kindergarten. Why was I here, anyway? Between diapers, I'd somehow learned the language well, even speaking Dutch when people spoke English to me. But there weren't a lot of people lining up at my door, wondering (in Dutch) why my life was so incredibly joy-filled.

As I set David down at the table for his lunch of peanut butter on whole wheat, the bell rang. It was Margaretha from across the hall. Soon after we had moved in, we met unexpectedly. When she came home from the hospital after a high-risk pregnancy, I ran down the stairs and immediately jumped in: "I'm-your-neighbor-shall-I-take-the-baby-up-for-you?" Barely waiting for an answer, I flitted up the 4 flights, set the baby in his seat by their door, and dashed back down, late to get David from school. Margaretha later told me that she felt as though an angel suddenly appeared, swooped up the baby, and dashed down, adding, "Baby's at the door! Welcome home! Bye!"

Over time, a friendship developed. Margaretha helped me with my Dutch, comforted me during my 19 weeks of bed rest (she knew!), and we left a "baby phone" with each other when running a quick errand while children napped.

Today, I opened the door to Margaretha, still feeling discouraged. "What's the matter, Lyn?" she asked. By this time, Margaretha knew I was a missionary, and since she had grown up in the church, she might understand.

"I'm just discouraged. You know, Margaretha, I don't know what I'm doing here. I could be back home, doing all of the same things with much more ease, in my own language, close to my family. I just wish I could pack up and go home. There really isn't any point to my being here."

Margaretha told me something I will never forget: "You know, Lyn. It took an American coming to Holland to make me feel at home in my own country. I don't know about all those other things you wish you could do, but I thank God that He sent you here just for me."

Tears filled my eyes. Was one Dutch friend across the hall worth all the time and effort in support raising and in learning the language? I laughed, knowing the answer. Obviously, God thought that Margaretha was worth my sacrifices—and His. ■

Lyn Newbrander and her husband, Tim, now serve as MTW missionaries to Germany.



After the reporters and celebrities have left, **Haiti** will still be hurting and **MTW** will still be helping administer the life-saving gospel in word and deed. In the next few months, giving and interest will drastically decline for **Haiti's disaster**. But the crisis won't be over. **MTW** is offering PCA churches and members a **direct route to meet the physical and spiritual needs of Haitian people**. Will you join with **MTW** in meeting needs, helping with recovery, and building the Church in Haiti? By committing to give monthly or quarterly for one year, you will ensure we're there ministering for the long haul.

Go to www.MTW.org/Haiti for more info and online giving. Or fill out the form below and mail it to us with your first gift. **May God bless the people of Haiti through you!**

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A vertical photograph of a sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its reflection on the water. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds.

MAKING SENSE OF TRAGEDY *by Bill Goodman*

I write this shortly after the devastating earthquake hit Haiti. Chaos still rules the day and as I write, Mission to the World has an assessment team on the ground to determine how we will provide medical, counseling, and construction assistance. Our missionary Esaie Etienne and national partner Charles Amicy have reported that they and their families are safe. We are thankful for that. They also report the difficulties they face dealing with the death and devastation they have witnessed. Please continue to pray for them and the people of Haiti.

It is natural to ask why such tragedies happen. As was the case with the outbreak of HIV/AIDS and the horrors of 9/11 some have suggested the earthquake represents

God's judgment on Haiti for ungodly practices such as voodoo.

At least twice Jesus was faced with a similar question. In Luke 13:1-5, Jesus reminds us that those who suffer tragedy are not more sinful than all others but that all who don't repent will likewise perish.

In John 9, when confronted with the question of why a man was born blind, Christ responded that it wasn't because he or his parents sinned, but rather it was so the work of God might be displayed in him. He went on to say that we should work while it is day because the night is coming when no one will work (John 9:1-5).

In these passages we get a few clues about how God views tragedies. While it is safe to say tragedy is a result of the Fall and living in a sinful

world, it dangerous to assign blame for a specific sin. Further, God has a purpose in tragedies that is part of His redemptive work, and we as believers are called to join Him in that work.

Haiti shows us how little control we have over the events of our lives. But it also reminds us that the heart of God is to recreate the paradise that was lost due to the Fall. Jesus' invitation to all believers is to join Him in that work. What a privilege to join hands with brothers and sisters from around the world to bring hope in times of despair. Since this is God's heart, it is also the heart of God's people.

Wherever there is tragedy and suffering, God is at work.