

In the Dirt

SPRING 2011

MTW Disaster Response Ministry Newsletter

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DRM/MTW Haiti Update

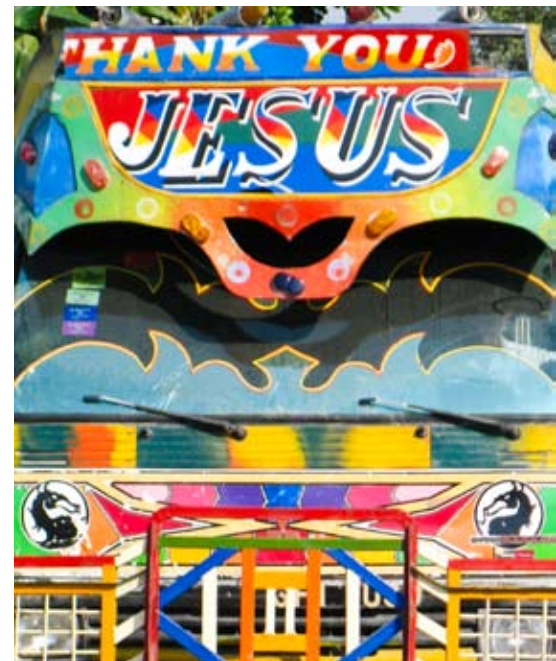
MTW's continued response in Haiti

by Philip Ajamian, MTW Project Administrator for Latin America

The tiny country of Haiti commandeered the world news headlines for most of 2010. Due to the earthquake in January and the ensuing chaos, including a cholera outbreak, a hurricane, and political turmoil, this island in the Caribbean has endured much tragedy in a short period of time. Mission to the World answered the call to help, and by God's grace, was able to serve in a number of ways throughout the year, including the work of DRM. MTW sent in a number of disaster response medical and counseling teams and three construction teams to provide assistance. The medical and counseling teams, hosted by MTW missionary Esaie Etienne, were able to minister to many people in need.

MTW's Rich Wolfe (MTW regional director, Caribbean and Central America), Sam Haupt (MTW short-term and mercy ministry director) and I went on a surveying trip in March 2010, six weeks after the earthquake. We visited the cities of Port-au-Prince and Gonaives, as well as the campus of Souls Winning Ministries, an outreach of Reformation Hope Inc. RHI's ministry in Haiti, led by Pastor Jean Paul, is comprised of a church, orphanage and school just outside of Port-au-Prince. MTW helped to rebuild the church and school which toppled in the earthquake, and three short-term teams helped paint classrooms, run Vacation Bible School activities with the children at the orphanage, and build a pavilion that serves as a dining center and multi-purpose structure at the Reformation Hope campus. Many thanks to Pacific Crossroads Church in California, Village Seven Church in Colorado, and First Presbyterian Margate in Florida for serving with MTW in Haiti.

As we look at plans for Haiti for 2011, Esaie Etienne is leading efforts to build a school and church in Gonaives, a few hours north of Port-au-Prince. Plans are to break ground for the school and church in the immediate future; a water well has already been completed on the property. The political situation is still unresolved. We anticipate sending mission teams to Haiti throughout 2011, so if you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Philip Ajamian at philip.ajamian@mtw.org.



Photos from DRM Haiti Medical Team #2

For questions or more information, please contact Christina Davies: christina.davies@mtw.org or Emily Hendrix: emily.hendrix@mtw.org, Tel: 678-823-0004 ext. 2147. Online at www.mtw.org.



Can't We Do More?

Health education in the disaster zone
by Hugh Davis

The line seems endless: mothers and children, sisters and brothers, old men helped by their daughters. We examine them, listen to them, encourage them and pray for them. As they leave our makeshift clinic, we wonder, "Can't we do more?" What can we leave with them that will make a difference a year from now—or for a lifetime?



Recently DRM has begun to add health education to its offerings. In 2009, for the first time, MTW's Disaster Response Ministry sent a medical team to the Philippines for the sole purpose of health education. Since that time, another small team went to Haiti to address the cholera outbreak through education. Other teams have been adding health education programs to their medical clinic teams. They have

been teaching people as they waited to be seen and training leaders of the local church to enhance the church's ministry. Although this work is in its infancy with DRM, it is an exciting and potentially life-changing ministry.

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The local church representatives, not the DRM team, did the teaching.
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Following a series of devastating typhoons in the fall of 2009, a team arrived in Manila with the task of developing an educational response to the disaster. Jody Collinge, MD; John Sexton, FNP; Hugh Davis, RN, MPH; Dennis Hamilton, DMD; and Bob Bradbury, a PCA Pastor made up the team. They surveyed the disaster site and displaced persons' camps and met with and discussed the disaster with Pastor Buboy, director of mercy ministries, Mission to the World Philippines (MTWP), and our local host Pastor Marcelo Ramirez of Holy Name in Jesus Christian Church.

The team identified the most pressing health and disease issues and, working into the night, developed lesson plans. Those plans were tested in the field the following day and then turned over to members of the local church. The church members were trained in disease recognition or prevention aspects of the health issue, and then the church members and the team returned to the displaced person camps. The local church representatives, not the DRM team, did the teaching.

Consistent with DRM core philosophy of edifying the local church, this approach assisted the local church in developing relationships with the displaced persons and helped them earn the opportunity to spend time with the camp residents in Bible studies and worship. Health education opened the door to new relationships while making an immediate difference in the lives of the residents. The Holy Name in Jesus Christian Church also purchased, assembled, and distributed basic utensils, cleaning supplies, and food preparation equipment to many of the camp residents.

The DRM team members left the Philippines knowing that adding health education and disease prevention to the disaster ministry has the ability to answer the question, "Can't we do more?"



MTW Global Missions Conference

by Marcy Hefner

Our DRM was privileged to participate in the PCA's Global Missions Conference held in Chattanooga this past November. We shared recent disaster response experiences with the over 2300 attendees during workshops and round tables offered at the GMC. The team also manned a booth at the convention center giving us a chance to answer questions and share experiences with conference attendees as well as giving them an opportunity to visit with many current and former disaster team participants who stopped by.

During a special ceremony, Drs. Ted and Sharon Kuhn honored the MTW Medical team leaders, including DRM team leaders who were at the dinner, for their participation over the years. Honorees included Hugh Davis, Tom Felmley, Christina Davies, Marcy Hefner, and Annette Merlino.



Christina Davies with her son Caeden at DRM's conference booth



From L-R: Christina Davies, Kelly Anderson, Steve and Cindy McIlvaine, Hugh Davis, Annette Merlino, Greg Seymour, Tom Felmley, Esaie Etienne

Who's Who in DRM?

Kelly Anderson

Hi! I'm a self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie. Two of my favorite things are being up high and going fast; I love travel and adventure and living life on the edge. Being a part of the Disaster Response Ministry has been a thrilling way to meld my many desires and callings. I currently work as an emergency room nurse in Durham, North Carolina at Duke University Hospital. I first attended the Disaster Response Training in Valencia, Pennsylvania in May of 2009 and was subsequently able to deploy with the first DRM team to Haiti in January of 2010. Since that time I have also become involved as a faculty facilitator during the spring and fall Disaster Response Trainings in 2010. In April of 2010, I had the privilege of attending Advanced Medical Leadership Training (AMLT) in La Ceiba, Honduras. I am also trained as an EMT and in Advanced Wilderness Life Support (AWLS), i.e. how to MacGyver your way out of medical emergencies in the backcountry. I have loved being a part of the Disaster Response Ministry and would encourage you to consider how the Lord could use your gifts and training in this ministry.

"Missions is a battle ship, not a cruise ship."
- John Piper





DRT participants, fall 2010

DRT Fall 2010 At a New Location!

Due to overwhelming demand, MTW's Disaster Response Training (DRT) was held TWICE in 2010, training over 50 people in one year!

The second session was held prior to the MTW Global Missions Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. DRT was held at Camp Vesper Point, a scenic church camp in nearby Soddy Daisy, TN. The facility was beautiful; for the first time in ages, we set up camp in the woods instead of a field. We trained over 20 new responders from various backgrounds. Volunteers from local churches and family members of Brian McKeon and Greg Seymour served as victims. Hugh Davis led the training. We continue to fine-tune and improve. Thanks to all who participated and taught!



SIGN-UP
DEADLINE
MARCH 1!

NEXT
DISASTER RESPONSE
TRAINING

April 25-30, 2011

Valencia, Pa.

DRM strives to improve the training and add new material every year.

Would **YOU** like to help with the training?

Know **someone else** who might want to be trained?

YES? Please send an e-mail to Christina!



Kelly's Recommended Reading List

When Helping Hurts, Corbett and Fikkert

Operation World, Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk

Let the Nations be Glad, John Piper

Improving your Serve, Charles Swindoll

Bruchko, Bruce Olson

End of the Spear, Steve Saint

Mac and Leanne's Guide to Short Term Missions, J. Mack Stiles

Through Gates of Splendor, Elizabeth Elliot

Prayer Requests

- Praise for all those who served Haiti
- Wisdom and strength for planning and preparing for future DRM activities
- God would prepare the personnel and resources to see this ministry grow to His glory and honor.



How to help - even when you aren't on a trip!

- Send us a **story** about your involvement with DRM
- **Recommend** someone for Disaster Response Training
- **Tell people** about DRM/DRT!

DRM Resources

Facebook group: [MTW Disaster Response Ministry](#) - join us!

Want to donate to DRM?

Make check payable to MTW
memo: DRM97105LETTER
MTW Donations
P.O. Box 116284
Atlanta, GA 30368-6284

Disaster Watch Websites

<http://www.reliefweb.int/>
<http://www.gdacs.org/>
<http://www.alertnet.org/>