

A Letter from Rev. Thomas Bernard Regarding the Hurricanes

To all the Supporters of the Heart 4 Haiti Mission Society:

Grace and Peace to you from our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I want to thank you for all your prayers and support. But the main purpose of this letter is to keep you informed about what is going on in Haiti right now. As you have probably heard and seen on TV and the Internet, the hurricanes Fay, Gustavo, Hanna and Ike have sunk the Haitian nation into great distress. Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands are left with empty hands. Even though the rain has stopped, the flooding is still there.

Hundreds of houses, schools, churches, and hospitals are really damaged and destroyed. Many families are left with nothing. They have even lost school books, uniforms, and shoes for their children. Because of this situation, the government is obliged to postpone school which was to begin on the 1st of September until October the 6th.

Knowing that all the crops are gone the starvation will be worse by the year 2009. Haiti has only experienced a similar hurricane once before and that happened in 1954 (Hazel) where thousands of people were killed.

The whole population has been hurt by these hurricanes. In the area of Port-au-Prince where I am serving 79 people have been killed and in Cabaret, a village that is 22 miles from PAP, 67 have been killed and most of them were children under the age of 9.

At Village of Peace, where we have our second congregation, a part of the roof is gone and all the rooms are flooded. Our small church and school in Leogane has been destroyed. **Our concerns now are not only to provide food for the needy but also to rebuild and repair churches and schools.** As far as my family is concerned, my wife and the children are fine. Our home has received no damage at all. However, the members of the congregations are of course in great need and starving, but thanks be to our God they are all alive.

As Jehoshaphat said in 2 Chronicles 20:12: "We do not know what to do, O Lord, but our eyes are upon you". We also say together with David in Psalm 121:1-2: "We lift up our eyes to the hills – where does our help come from? Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth".

Again, thank you so much for your prayers and support and especially at this time when the situation is really chaotic for our members.

In Christ's Care,

Pastor Thomas Bernard
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