

BUILDING HOPE IN HAITI

by Carter Davis



PHOTOS BY MARTIN HAWLEY

For the country of Haiti, the relationship between its people and the ground upon which they live has always been a tenuous affair. Rife with harsh terrain, devoid of much in the way of natural shelter, lacking necessary infrastructure and leadership, the delicate spit of land that's roughly the size of Maryland is constantly on high alert for natural disasters.

On January 12, 2010, an already difficult relationship between inhabitants and surroundings became infinitely worse when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit the already resource-starved region. Now, nearly a year later, little has changed; bodies still lie rotting among the rubble and few structures have been rebuilt. Safe shelter and clean drinking water are scarce, and even the best efforts have yielded less-than-optimal results.

However, in the middle of the chaos, one structure has indeed been rebuilt: the Reformation D'Espoir/Souls Winning Ministries Church, completed through a partnership—of finance, planning, and sweat equity—between MTW, its U.S. partner Reformation Hope, the people of the Haitian church, and Jean Paul, the church's pastor.



Pastor Jean Paul (r).

"People see this building and they see hope," Jean Paul said. "[Before the earthquake] people were hopeless, but [after the earthquake] things were truly bad. But, by the grace of the Lord, we were able to rebuild."

And so, without saying a word, the church's members have sent a powerful message to others in the region.

"In the whole Port-au-Prince area, we are the only congregation that has started and finished [rebuilding]," Jean Paul said. "People see this. They recognize that we didn't do this alone."

As a result, the church has inspired hope among many locals and, according to Jean Paul, the rebuilding has helped to strengthen the faith of its congregation. But the work is far from finished.

Sharing Hope

According to Sam Haupt, MTW's assistant director of Global Support Ministries, he's seen firsthand how Jean Paul's congregation has stepped up to provide for their friends and neighbors. In fact, many congregants have taken in fellow Haitians who are even less fortunate than they.

"That they've taken ownership is affecting our mission as we move forward, which is exactly what should be happening," Sam said.

MTW had a support team on the ground in Haiti within 10 days after the earthquake and has been working to begin, complete, or conceive a number of projects in the time since.

"We've been sending and continue to send medical teams," Sam said, "and in April we began broadening our efforts to focus on transitional shelters and rebuilding. We partnered with Medair in that, and we've been able to achieve some remarkable results with them." Medair provides emergency relief and rehabilitation across the globe.

Additionally, MTW is partnering with Eagle Ranch Christian Children's Home, a Georgia-based organization that uses a house-model approach—one houseparent with 12 children—and is working to apply the same model in Haitian orphanages.

In the future, MTW team members will train at Eagle Ranch's facilities and take that training to Haiti where the need for organized orphanages is dire.

"The Lord is Amazing"

As MTW and other service organizations continue to work on rebuilding Haiti, many in the media have expressed frustration over the pace at which the country is (or isn't)

recovering. But, as Reformation D'Espoir has proved, God is at work in the region.

"This was a terrible thing to happen," Jean Paul said. "But, we are seeing a lot of good coming out of it. In our church, we are seeing what the Lord is doing here and praising Him for it, but elsewhere people are without hope. We are trying to show them that there is reason to hope. The Lord is amazing. We know this, and we want the people of Haiti to know it, too. Soon they will." ■

To learn more about MTW's efforts in Haiti, or to give, visit www.mtw.org/haiti.

SEEDS OF HOPE: 2011 Children's Mission Project

The 2011 MTW Children's Mission Project will focus on an agricultural project in Haiti which will provide food for an orphanage sponsored by our ministry partner Reformation Hope International and their missionary Jean Paul, pastor of Souls Winning Ministries Church. Funds from the 2011 project will go toward seed and other costs related to growing fruits and vegetables for the children. Agricultural machinery has already been delivered, and work has begun on acreage provided by the Haitian government for this purpose. The video will be available online by mid-November. To learn more, contact info@mtw.org or check the tick box on page 15.



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!

Please make checks payable to MTW, write "Project 91491" on the memo line, and mail to:
Mission to the World
P.O. Box 116284
Atlanta, GA 30368-6384

This is my statement of intent to give to MTW & Haiti Disaster Response "Project #91491" for one year in the amount of: \$
to be given monthly, quarterly or one-time gift. (check one)
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