

SOLUTIONS

Independence for the Poor & Oppressed

Volume 4, Issue 1



Cholera's Deadly Spread

A mother crouches next to the body of her 10-year-old son and wails as a crowd gathers around him on a Port-au-Prince sidewalk. The boy had become sick with diarrhea during the night, she cries, and by the next morning, he was dead.

This is how quickly cholera can kill.

You can help a family survive cholera and rebuild their lives for \$50 (see back cover).

Had this mother known that rehydrating her boy with the proper fluids could have saved his life, she no doubt would have acted sooner. She didn't know this sickness was different. After all, people in Haiti have diarrhea all the time. But cholera is new. After decades without the disease in Haiti, people don't know how quickly it can kill. They don't know how to treat it, or stop it.

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Cholera's Deadly Spread

The disease is spreading quickly throughout the country, including the city slums where entire neighborhoods share poorly maintained, filthy latrines, or worse, don't use one at all.

We're working to get the message about preventing cholera to as many people as quickly as possible, but we need your help.

"We must mount an aggressive strategy to reach these people. We need people to go to their homes, to their churches, with this

since October. And more than 2,500 have died—there are likely many more that have not been reported.

Men dressed in yellow raingear and wearing facemasks drive trucks loaded with bodies through the city. Often without taking down so much as a name or phone number, they spray the dead with bleach and take them to mass graves on the outskirts of town.

Although we've reached thousands of people with the cholera message and essential

supplies in Port-au-Prince and rural areas, there are hundreds of thousands more, like the mother in this story, who need to know how to protect their families.

"Our strategy is to reach local leaders, churches, and to mobilize the Christian community," says Christon. "They are going out to share

the message. We can talk with them, walk with them. We can – we have to – make a difference."

Please help us reach more families with this life-saving information and aid. ●



Left untreated, cholera can cause death from dehydration within hours. We're ministering to children like this boy with rehydrating solution and more.

message," explains World Concern Haiti Country Director Christon Domond. "We give them soap, water bottles, water treatment. Otherwise, we will have a lot of deaths."

More than 100,000 people have been sickened with cholera, just

One Family at a Time

I will never forget January 12, 2010. When I heard about the massive earthquake, my heart sank. My thoughts immediately went to our staff in Haiti and the people we serve. Minutes after the quake, the director of World Concern Haiti called, saying Port-au-Prince was destroyed. "Please send help now!" he pleaded.

With your help, we did just that. Heart-broken people all over the world sent donations. Because of that, we were able to save lives immediately by providing food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter to nearly 100,000 people.

Thank you for standing with us.

It's hard to believe a year has passed. So much has been done – homes repaired, businesses restarted, and lives renewed. But as news reports show, rebuilding after this much destruction takes time. We knew this, and have said from the beginning, that together with you, we're in this for the long haul.

Without a doubt, people are still suffering in Haiti. The cholera outbreak has killed thousands of people in the past few months. Sometimes I wonder if life could get any worse.

I am reminded of how light from a tiny match dispels the darkness of a pitch black



room. And then I think of a father in Haiti, with his child in his arms, as he proudly steps inside a new home after spending eight months in a tattered tent. When disaster sends life into chaos, we help people regain peace and stability. We do this – one family at a time.

We need your help to continue this work. Together, we can demonstrate God's grace in tangible ways to people who desperately need His touch.

In gratitude,

David Eller
President

P.S. You can help a family survive cholera and rebuild their lives with a donation of \$50. Visit our special website at www.HaitiOneYear.org or see the back cover of this newsletter.

Our Progress Together

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

—Mother Teresa

After one of the world’s largest disasters in recent history, the casual observer may struggle to see signs of improvement. About 1,000,000 people remain homeless. Cholera and violence have captured headlines. But for the thousands of people who have received homes, jobs and income, the help has been a miraculous lifeline.



Sylvanie outside her transitional shelter, a new home for her family.

A Place to Call Home

Sylvanie Julien hangs a light blue curtain in the doorway of her family’s new home. It’s a simple building: a one-room transitional house with a steel frame. It’s also protection from the elements and a shelter that will last several years—enough time for her family’s life to stabilize.

For Sylvanie, family is everything. Before the earthquake, her small three-room house was a refuge for the 17 members of her extended family – a place where she would cook, clean and look after those who were most important to her.

On January 12, 2010, Sylvanie

was hosting a prayer service at her house when the ground began to shake. All 12 people present ran from the house just before the roof and walls came crumbling down. Tragically, two of her five children were among the 230,000 Haitians who died that day.

Since the earthquake, the family has been spread out between friends’ homes. The separation made recovering even more difficult. But after seven months, Sylvanie cleared the rubble from her plot of land and received a new roof over her head.

“We are able to live together again, as a family should,” she said. “And now we can begin to heal together.”

Since the quake, we’ve repaired nearly 1,200 homes and built more than 300 temporary shelters.

**Bearing Fruit
Once Again**

Pastor Frujuste Pierre was outside the city of Port-au-Prince the afternoon of January 12. Normally the 400-member congregation of L’Eglise Alliance de la Grace holds a Tuesday afternoon Bible study, but on this particular day, Pastor Frujuste was attending his father-in-law’s funeral. The congregation had traveled to the small town to attend the funeral.

When they returned to Port-au-Prince, they found their church building in complete ruins. They had met every Tuesday in this building. This was the one week they didn’t. “It was God’s grace to spare us,” said Pastor Frujuste.

World Concern has assisted Pastor Frujuste by paying his salary, replacing the church benches and providing temporary shelter. With grateful hearts for God’s mercy to them, the congregation now provides lunch daily for 100 poor children in



We’re helping rebuild and repair churches, like this one, which continue to meet under shredded tarps.

their community.

**A Chance to
Start Over**

Wilfrid Simplice ran a successful barber shop in Port-au-Prince, making enough money to support his two children. But the business was destroyed in the earthquake.

In May, he was awarded a World Concern business grant of \$800, one of the largest we’ve given. He used half of it to repair his shop and the other half to buy new equipment.

With this vital assistance, Wilfrid is once again cutting hair and earning income. He’s grateful to be able to support his family again, and has even been able to hire an assistant. ●

World Concern has repaired or built 76 churches in Haiti since January 12.

You can help a family survive cholera and rebuild their lives for \$50. See back cover or visit www.HaitiOneYear.org

Churches Shine Christ's Light into Hopeless Situations

When the 7.0 earthquake rocked Haiti, the congregation at Alderwood Community Church responded immediately, taking a special offering. The outpouring of support from the church in Lynnwood, Wash., raised \$17,000 for World Concern's response, and no doubt helped save lives by providing critical supplies for suffering families.

"The earthquake really grabbed people's hearts," said Associate Pastor Tim Walton, who has travelled to Haiti several times on mission trips. "It makes it real personal. We have relationships there on the ground. I know churches there. I know pastors there. I see the kids whose lives they're touching, and I see the congregations they're helping."

Pastor Walton admits the problems in Haiti can seem overwhelming, but says his church's decision to help the people suffering in Haiti has never been based on whether or not the assistance will provide a permanent fix.

"The love of Christ is extended,

one person to another, one small group to another," he said. "We can't close our hearts to individuals and families."



Pastor Tim Walton (left) on a mission trip in Haiti with Rich Metcalfe (right) and other members of the Alderwood Community Church.

When word of the recent cholera outbreak reached the church, they responded with another donation, believing again that no crisis is too big to make a difference.

"There's a heartbeat in this church to respond to places with so little," said Pastor Walton. "We have so much abundance here—it's a responsibility and a trust from God."

For more information on our church partnerships, visit www.worldconcern.org/churches, or call Mark Lamb at 206.546.7386. ●

JOIN TEAM HOPE

- Help a family survive cholera
- Assist in rebuilding a home
- Help equip a church to aid its community

SOLUTIONS

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World Concern is a nonprofit Christian humanitarian organization providing disaster response and community development programs to the world's poor.

For volunteer or employment opportunities, e-mail:
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Page 1 and 2 photos by Frank Thorp.

World Concern considers every gift a sacred trust. The items and needs in this newsletter reflect the average costs for World Concern projects at the time of writing, but as you know projects can change over time. In the event a ministry need has been fulfilled, World Concern promises you that we will honor your generosity by directing your gift to a project that is similar in nature.

www.worldconcern.org

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Give online: www.HaitiOneYear.org

Yes, I will help! I will help desperate Haitians survive cholera and rebuild their lives. I'm enclosing:

- \$35/month to help eight families*
- \$100 to help two families
- \$_____ to help as much as possible

Make checks payable to:



**Recurring gift and credit card information on reverse.*



Our programs receive 94 percent of all cash + gifts-in-kind donations.

I'd like to become a World Concern prayer partner. My email address is: _____

Thank you for your support.

Your gift to World Concern is tax-deductible as allowed by law, and you will receive a receipt.



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