



## DISASTER UPDATES

EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

UPDATE #2

JANUARY 15, 2010

The Rev. Raphael Dessieu said he's alive, but his home has been destroyed. The former president of the Methodist Church of Haiti sent that message in an e-mail to the Rev. Debbie Casanzio, a Florida Conference pastor. Dessieu's home was located near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where a massive earthquake struck Jan. 12.

Many in the Florida Conference know Dessieu. He and Florida Conference Bishop Timothy Whitaker signed the Haiti/Florida Covenant at the 2006 Florida Annual Conference Event.

In his Jan. 13 e-mail, Dessieu said: "My family and I are alive, sleeping in the street, as home and items are all gone. It is not safe, so please pray." (Read the full story on the Florida Conference's [e-Review pages here](#).)

The United Methodist Church and the Florida Conference in particular have a special relationship with the people of Haiti. There is a large Methodist presence in Haiti, including a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Office that has been in place since 2005, and regular work teams sent through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM).

Praise God! Three executives of the Board of Global Ministries who were in Haiti when the earthquake struck -- Sam Dixon, top executive of the United Methodist Committee on Relief; Clinton Rabb, head of Mission Volunteers; and James Gulley, an UMCOR consultant—have been found alive at the Hotel Montana. According to a United Methodist News Service article, Dixon and Rabb sustained leg injuries and Gulley was uninjured.

As much as we all want to "do something," it is very important that we wait and allow the relief teams to do their jobs without adding to the chaos by sending unsolicited donations or teams. We will be responding with what is needed when the time is right and those in Haiti are ready to receive in-kind donations.

For now you can:

**PRAY** – Pray for the people of Haiti; pray for the safety of the responders, the speedy rescue of survivors and the ability of all the organizations to work together effectively and efficiently in this response and relief effort. The General Board of Discipleship is offering worship resources for congregations to use this weekend. [Click here for prayers, hymns, and liturgies](#).

**GIVE** – Churches are encouraged to take a special offering for Haiti this weekend

or next. There are two avenues to give money. First, general humanitarian aid is being provided by UMCOR. Gifts to Advance Special #418325 are for these purposes. Every dollar UMCOR receives for this Advance goes directly to help the people of Haiti. Checks can be mailed to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087, dropped in your church offering plate on Sunday (with #418325 in the memo line), or you can donate online at [UMCOR](http://umcor.org).

Secondly, United Methodists in Florida may send monetary donations to the Methodist Church in Haiti. Every dollar collected will go directly to the Methodist Church in Haiti to help them rebuild lives and buildings. Checks may be made payable to "FAC Treasurer," and note "2010 Methodist Church in Haiti Relief, #100190" on the check. Individuals may send checks directly to the Florida Conference, 1140 McDonald Street, Lakeland, FL 33801. Churches may send these checks through their normal apportionment giving channels, utilizing lock-box #207.

A bulletin insert (.pdf file) is available [online by clicking here](#). Churches may download the insert, duplicate and share with the congregation this weekend.

**PLAN** – Plan to sponsor or send an UMVIM team later in the year to help rebuild. UMVIM is gathering information to form future teams. Please visit the UMVIM Web site for updates and to register to go to Haiti: [www.umvim.org](http://www.umvim.org).

**PREPARE** – Consider preparing health kits or other items that may be needed during the short-term and long-term recovery efforts and send them to Sager-Brown, the UMCOR Depot in Louisiana. To learn more on making kits, or for other information on the United Methodist response to Haiti, visit [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).

As we learn more, we will send additional updates which will also be posted on the conference Web site.

For more information about the United Methodist response, please visit [www.UMCOR.org](http://www.UMCOR.org) and [www.umvim.org](http://www.umvim.org). You can also visit [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org) for links to these sites and more information.

Please note: This e-mail was sent from an automated address that cannot reply to incoming e-mail. If you have questions or comments regarding this email, please refer to the email itself for contact information. This email blast was sent to the following groups: All Clergy, Disaster Ministry Advisory Team Members, Haiti/Fl Covenant Team Members, District Disaster Response Teams, Local Church, Conference and District Lay Leaders, Lay Members to Annual Conference, Haitian Ministries, Global Missions, Mission Ministries, Outreach Ministries, Disaster Coordinators and Volunteers, United Methodist Volunteers In Mission, and Conference Employees (Conference Center, District Offices, Camps and Retreat Center).