



DISASTER UPDATES

EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

UPDATE #1

JANUARY 14, 2010

As the horrifying pictures and videos from Haiti begin rolling in, our minds reel and our hearts break as we try to take in the extent of the devastation. Relief agencies from all over the world are responding with supplies and trained teams.

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).

Three executives of the Board of Global Ministries-- Sam Dixon, top executive of the United Methodist Committee on Relief; Clinton Rabb, head of Mission Volunteers; and James Gulley, an UMCOR consultant-- were on the island on a mission-related trip when the earthquake hit. They have not been heard from since the earthquake. Please join all United Methodists in prayer that they are safe and will be heard from soon.

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 are in constant communication with UMCOR and UMVIM as they work with the government and other responding agencies to provide relief and determine what is needed. We will coordinate our response through UMCOR and UMVIM.

For now you can:

PRAY – Pray that we hear from the UMCOR workers in Haiti soon and that they are safe; 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.

GIVE – Give generously to UMCOR Advance Special #418325. 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 or you can donate online at [UMCOR](http://www.umcor.org).

PLAN – Plan to sponsor or send an UMVIM team later in the year to help rebuild. Sending teams now is not appropriate. Please visit the UMVIM website for updates on team needs: 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.

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 and www.umvim.org . You can also visit 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)

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