



Week of Compassion

the relief, refugee, and
development ministry fund
of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

January 15, 2010

Our Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with a heavy heart that we write to you. The images of the earthquake damage in Haiti are overwhelming. The utter destruction and loss of human life are devastating. We have sat in stunned silence and have cried harsh, bitter tears as news has come to us.

We know, too, that our sorrow is not yours. Though we are all connected to the people of Haiti as brothers and sisters in God's creation, our sorrow is not the sorrow of someone who once lived there, who has family there, who visits whenever possible, or even still calls Haiti home. We are praying for all of Haiti and all Haitians in Diaspora, but we especially want to lift up you, our Haitian Churches in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We, as the staff of Week of Compassion, stand in solidarity and prayer with you. We also want to let you know that Disciple congregations all over this country are in prayer for you. Their prayers are not only prayers uttered by their lips, but they are prayers they are offering with their hands and resources. Thousands of donations for Haiti Earthquake Relief have come to Week of Compassion from Disciples all over the country; many Disciple churches are organizing groups, of all ages, to put together relief kits for folks in Haiti. We thank God for their work, and we know that their hopes are for the safety and security of all of the people touched by this disaster.

Please let us know ways we can continue to be supportive. We are currently funneling resources to Haiti, and of course would be glad to send whatever financial resources you have collected to help with the aid effort. We will also keep you updated as to the situation on the ground as our partner organizations do their work on the front-lines of the disaster. Through the largest global alliance of Christian humanitarian agencies, Action by Churches Together (ACT), Week of Compassion is already on the ground in Haiti. Your generous gifts and offerings are already at work. In the chaos of aid distribution, ACT Alliance members, including Church World Service (CWS), are managing to get food, temporary shelter, water cleaning materials and expertise to Port au Prince.

We value your ministries. We thank God for your presence in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We long for a day where God's Rule of Peace and Love frees us all from the tears, shock, and pain we are feeling. We stand with you, our brothers and sisters, in hope, faith, and above all, love.

Your Partners in the Gospel,

Rev. Amy Gopp, Executive Director

Rev. Brandon Gilvin, Associate Director