

Advancing Hope – January 2010

Feature: Gifts Through Advance Crucial for Response in Haiti

An earthquake registering 7.0 on the Richter scale devastated Haiti on January 12. Still recovering from floods in 2008, Haitian authorities fear that more than 100,000 lost their lives. Most buildings in Haiti's capital of Port-Au-Prince collapsed or suffered some damage. Almost immediately, the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) began assessing the situation to provide the best help to those with the greatest need.

Rapid Response

The generosity of United Methodists has been evident. In less than one week, donations through [Advance #418325, Haiti Emergency](#), had surpassed \$2,000,000. Gifts made through local congregations and annual conferences will add to this total.

Bishop Joel Martinez, Interim General Secretary of GBGM, said, "Events such as these can challenge both our faith and sense of security. As a church we know that the heart of our ministry is continuing and extending Jesus Christ's ministry of outreaching love." He called on people to offer their prayers and generous financial support. Donations through The Advance to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), are providing material resources and funding to Haiti, including a contingency grant to the Methodist Church of Haiti.

Strong Presence

A strong United Methodist presence already exists in Haiti. GBGM has partnership with the Methodist Church of Haiti and has coordinated many volunteer mission trips to the nation.

There are 12 Advance projects in Haiti, including Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic. Partnered with International Child Care, this mission provides general medical care with particular treatments for respiratory conditions. The hospital was severely damaged during the earthquake, causing the death of one orphan. Frequent updates about Grace's Children's Hospital are being posted on the ICC website.

As recovery efforts continue, support of Haitian mission projects through The Advance will be crucial. With eight of the 12 projects directly related to health care, housing, and hunger alleviation; support of these efforts will be a substantial part of rebuilding Haiti.

How to Help

As Bishop Martinez and others have said, continued prayers are needed for the people of Haiti and those who minister to them. Financial support is also vital, especially in light of the challenges of getting material goods into that country. Later, after the situation is stable, volunteers will be needed to rebuild Haiti.

Advance Projects Related to Haiti

- [Community Health Workers Program and Goat Project 418705](#)
- [Family Health Ministries Women's and Children's Health Programs 3021059](#)
- [Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic 418520](#)
- [Haiti Children Project 3020507](#)
- [Haiti Emergency 418325](#)
- [Haiti Global Mission Partners 00483L](#)
- [Haiti Undesignated 00483A](#)

- [Haitian Artisans for Peace International 3020490](#)
- [Haitian Creole Pig Project 418002](#)
- [Hot Lunch Program 418790](#)
- [Integrated Community Health 418847](#)
- [Solar Oven Project 418812](#)

Advocate of the Month

The Advance would like to recognize all United Methodists who have so quickly responded to the call for help from our sisters and brothers in Haiti. In addition to gifts made through local churches and annual conferences, almost 15,500 United Methodists have made online donations of over \$2,000,000. Thank you!

Featured Resource

Brochures are available in both color and black-and-white with information on responding to relief in Haiti. These brochures are ideal for inserting in bulletins, using as media ads, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS, PLEASE ADD A LINK TO THE PDF'S THAT CHRIS SENT OUT LAST WEEK.

Did You Know?

So many people are answering the call for help. The Advance project for Haitian earthquake relief is **#418325, Haitian Emergency**. Support may be made [online, via telephone, through the mail, or through your church.](#)

As always, **100%** of your gift to mission through The Advance is directed to the ministry of your designation.