

## Haiti Update January 2010

Contact continues with members of the ecclesia in Port au Prince, Haiti. They are still all living in the open air, having lost their homes in the earthquake. They continue in urgent need of clean water, shelter, food and clothing. Brother Charlie Klennert of the Tacoma, WA ecclesia in the USA is coordinating Carelinks efforts for the ecclesia. He has spoken several times by telephone and online to brothers Esmath and Absolu. Charlie's email is [charlie@tacomaecclesia.net](mailto:charlie@tacomaecclesia.net)

Brother Nick from the UK is travelling out to Haiti this Tuesday 26 January. There are no civilian flights getting into Haiti at this time and so he is flying to the Dominican Republic and intends travelling overland from there to Port au Prince. With the breakdown of law and order, and many American Haitians trying to do the same thing to take cash to their relatives, this route has been reported as suffering from robberies. However, we have more recently learnt that the US military have secured the road as the main incoming aid corridor, and so our brother is going to attempt to make the trip. His intention is to meet the ecclesia in Port au Prince, assure them of our fellowship with them and spiritual support; assess what practically can be done for them; give them significant financial assistance [thanks to your donations and collections], and perhaps make several trips between the Dominican Republic and the Haitian border with whatever aid he can buy in Dominican Republic, if he can set up for our brethren to collect it from the Haitian side. We will be sending funds to him in the Dominican Republic via Western Union as he reports the needs he encounters.

Please pray for brother Nick and his mission over the next week, and also of course for those he is seeking to assist. This is one of the greatest natural disasters of recent times, with an estimated 200,000 - 300,000 dead, 1.5 million living without shelter, a capital city destroyed, and tens of thousands of bodies still unburied. All of which has happened in one of the world's poorest nations.

We are aware that some wish to support the general reconstruction of Haiti by their donations. We'd like to repeat that we applaud such efforts and generosity, but we are a very small organization and our focus at this time is limited to assisting the members of the ecclesia in Haiti, trying to get them clean water, food, clothing and some level of accomodation rather than them sleeping in the streets as they are doing at this time. Donations to Carelinks for Haiti will go directly to achieving these aims. Those who wish to donate to the general reconstruction of Haiti would be advised to contact the Christadelphian Samaritan Fund c/o Brother Ken Smith of Birmingham, UK, who are funnelling donations to the larger charities operating in Haiti.

Following are some clips from various chats which Bro Charlie has had with Bro Esmath. They are really an inspirational read:

"I talked to our brother Esmath earlier tonight. I am just amazed every time I make contact with any of our brothers down there. Today they held there meeting (church) and 75 people showed up. He is still helping the orphans there. His wife is in the united states and his family wants him to come here, but he refused because he is working so hard to help everyone in the ecclesia... He does not feel right leaving... As I talked I told him we will do what we can to help them turn this "curse" into a "blessing". It seems that some amazing things are happening down there. We prayed together and discussed various things".

\_Esmath \_ok let us keep in touch

\_Me\_:I will give him your cell number

\_Esmath \_:ok

\_Me\_: You have mine and I have yours so will keep in touch. His name is Nick, in case he calls.

\_Esmath \_:no problem brother

\_Me\_:So many people want to make sure you know that you all are being prayed for

\_Esmath \_:I know that brother and I do know that you are sharing the same sorrows with us

\_Me\_: Yes brother, I truly am, more than you will ever know.....So look for the western union tomorrow at about noon your time

\_Esmath \_:I know that brother. ok I will do so brother while coming back to Carrefour

Here's two more general emails from Br Esmath:

"Dear My Brothers,

Greeting to you in Christ our Redeemer,

I am happy for being able to communicate with you today, I have left Carrefour on foot to be here close to the airport, so that I could have access to net to write you because it is not really easy. I have lost simply four cousins and nephews but my whole family nearly is alive. the whole members of *\*/the ecclesia/\** are alive also. we are facing difficult situation, we are all staying outside of houses. I have gathered all the people in one place . we cannot gather in our locale because there is no way, but I have one of my cousin who has a piece of ground , we stay there and I am going to build a tent , so that we can meet also to continue with our service.I cannot find a proper word to describe the situation that we are facing, but we do not fear because if we are not among these million of people who died in this event, is because God wanted us to be alive to testify what we have seen. I know that you are praying for us and share our sorrows , I know also that you care for us but I do not think there is commercial flight on Haiti right now and besides, I do not know if the transfer office and hotels are open now because they are afraid of gangsters , during the event the prisons have been destroyed and the whole criminals and kidnapers are in the street , trying to bother the population inspite of the situation.my both cell phone have been lost during this event and I have no number to communicate, I could buy one but the whole offices are destroyed.I cannot put an end without thanking you for thinking about us and care for us , May God bless you so much my Brothers... For this moment we need tents , foods, water. clothes, but do what can be done. the water from the pipe is not drinkable but we cannot find clean water to drink. Help are arriving from everywhere but the poor people do not find anything as yet. some people found boxes of food, tents and water but up to now Carrefour [our area] do not receive anything. If you can bring a camera it will be good , so that I could provide pictures of all our activities"