

Haiti, Myanmar, April 2010

Not that we particularly celebrate Easter as such, but there's a very positive exhortation about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/risen.mp3> ; video at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/risen.html>

HAITI

Brother *Charlie Klennert* reports on his recent visit to Haiti. It's amazing how in the face of terrible tragedy, God's work has so powerfully progressed; the ecclesia has grown amazingly, and the various Carelink welfare donations and projects connected with the earthquake relief have truly dovetailed with the spreading of the true Gospel, enabling us to be the light of Christ in a very dark world there:

The plan was for brother Duncan and I to meet in New York and head to Haiti together. Sadly Delta Airlines cancelled all their flights to and from Haiti and we only were informed of this the day of travel. I got literally the last available seat on the American Airlines flight; but there were no seats for Duncan. So it ended up just being me heading to Haiti. I was pretty nervous! But God was with me.

I have been in great contact with the brethren in Haiti even before the earthquake, from the very start when Esmath contacted us after leaving trinitarian churches. I knew they were looking forward to meeting me. I gave brother Esmath the news that it would be just me. And he was happy that at least one of us could make it. I told myself to have no expectations. To accept whatever comes my way and just do what ever was asked of me. I arrived off of the plane and was met by Esmath. Since the plane was late we did not have the time to go and get the French Bibles in town (he was able to pick a few up on Monday with funds I left him), we had to go straight to Carrefour to pick up the group that were to be baptized. Winding down the roads you could see destruction everywhere. We passed resettlement camps and there were tent cities everywhere. I was told of the places where I should never go and on and on. Huge debris piles were all over the roads. Nothing seemed to be done since the earthquake. I asked if the government was helping, and all I heard were laughs... So we talked about the Kingdom and how having Jesus as king of the world, with a righteous government, is our prayer everyday.

When we arrived at the meeting place (Esmath's cousins back yard) we met the group of soon to be brothers and sisters who had been studying *Bible Basics*. They were all really excited and happy to be going to the sea to be baptized. We secured a taxi (a truck with a tall canopy) and away we all went to the sea.

Photo: *Travelling to the baptisms*



After we were dropped off we walked to the sea. As we arrived at the place of the baptisms the water was covered in trash. In the distance you could see an American warship and there were locals lingering around trying to see and understand why and what we were doing there. We sang a few songs and into the water brother Esmath and I went. One by one we performed the baptism of each and every one of our new sisters and brothers. 7 new sisters and 5 new brothers have now chosen the way of faith. May God be praised! I saw myself as enabling and assisting the work of Esmath; we had encouraged him to baptize the people himself, and he

would've done if I hadn't made it out there; but they and he had been eager for us to be involved at this early stage. Their names are: Sisters Rose; Angela; Elysée; Clerisma; Donatien; Maudeline; Widline; Sagine; and Brothers Faveur; Emanuel; Nixon; Jameson and Pierre . There were others interested in baptism whom the existing brethren felt not yet ready.

Photos: *Baptisms near Port-au-Prince, Haiti*



We headed back to Esmath's cousins back yard after the baptisms. We talked of our joy with one another. I wanted to know these people, to see where they were coming from and what made them make such a joyous decision for their lives. So after I gave them all some French Biblical literature I brought with me, we called them up one by one. They each in turn told their stories of how they came to the truth. It was a warm muggy night, hearing their stories was downright amazing. To see how far some of them have come in their lives. Each of them affected so much by the tragedy of the earthquake, yet the joy they have in Christ is beyond anything they could have ever expected or wanted. We ended in a prayer and we all headed back to our places of sleep.

In the morning I headed back to the meeting place and sat in on a very lively discussion on baptism by the brethren. Afterwards I gave the talk on forgiveness among a few other little things. There were about 65 people in all. At the breaking of bread only those who have been baptized were given the bread and wine. The others looked on thinking about whether they too were willing to make this commitment to Christ too.

Photos: *Scenes from the Bible study, and the breaking of bread meeting. Notice the meeting place is under canvas.*



At the end we said our good-byes and took lots of photos. I shared with them all the love of all who have been praying and helping out in some ways. The help they have received has gone a long way and the gospel is being preached. It was a wonder seeing such joy among such chaos after the earthquake. It was hard to say good-bye to them all. I am sure they taught me more than I could have ever dreamed of teaching them. I saw the toilets and shower block that are being constructed, and evidence of the various welfare projects that Carelinks donations have funded. I considered a request to concrete some open ground and noted a number of needs we hope to respond to. May we all keep them in our prayers. There are so many other little things I could have brought up about the trip, but the main point is how much joy they have in the true gospel. It is what they live, breathe and teach. It is their love.

As we were unable to get to the planned publicity meeting in **New York** because of the flight cancellations, but we made a *Powerpoint* for it about the work in **Haiti** so far, it's downloadable from <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/pics/haitiny.ppt> There is also a 40 minute talk about the work in Haiti as MP3 at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/haitiny.mp3>

Brother Charlie

MYANMAR

A year ago, we visited Myanmar and baptized a very active group of people there who had been carefully studying Bible Basics. They have remained faithful through many difficulties, although communication is very difficult given the situation in the country. Brother Suum has managed to visit the Delta region for a second time, travelling by ferry, bicycle, small boats, by day and night. He managed to take and email some photos, most of which were corrupted during transmission, and also some report of the trip. As we understood, he was able to distribute Bibles, our literature, some welfare and also baptized someone. You can see in his photo below young people waiting to take water from a well to take to fill a container for the baptism. Communication is so difficult, but let's remember our brother's efforts in prayer:



With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks