

## THE DAY OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE

On Tuesday morning, January 12, I found myself up very early. It was 4:30 a.m. and I was picking up a group of students to take them up the mountain to see the sunrise. There we stood... the morning of what would become a historic day, as the sunrise broke over the mountain range and to our left we could see the entire Leogane Plain, with our mission off in the distance. It felt like just any other day. Yet soon our region would become torn and broken.

After we enjoyed breakfast at the mission we loaded the flatbed trucks filled with Christmas shoeboxes and went to the Brache-Millot school and gave each child a shoebox and spoon. Inside each classroom our team members assisted students in opening their surprise gifts. It was a precious sight. Little did we know that only hours later, the roofs we were under would come crashing to the ground. Thankfully, at the time of the earthquake (just before 5:00 p.m.) no children were in school.

Lunch was served at the mission and off we went to the village of LaSalle for ministry hut by hut. I walked into a hut and prayed with a family to receive Jesus. Less than a few hours later, those thatch homes would be shaken, and the hearts of those Christians would be secure in knowing Jesus.

Looking back, the poorest of the poor living in mud thatched huts had their lives spared—because no concrete would come crashing upon them. Plus, Haitians typically live outside. The only time they go indoors is to sleep. At the moment of the earthquake, I was thrown to the ground... the concrete beneath me began to crack in half, and the earth opened up like a scene from a movie. I was in total shock! When I finally found my balance, I began to run toward the beach, away from the buildings. I called for all of the mission team to gather—wanting to assure everyone was safe. Glory to God, none of us were injured! Shortly after, all 44 of us evacuated to our high school property due to the threat of a tsunami. At the end of the day, I found myself sleeping on the ground, and feeling tremors all night long. The sounds of Haitian Christians singing in the distance removed any fear. I also held strong to the memories of the ministry we shared earlier that day. We are changed forever because of this earthquake. ~Timothy DeTellis



**TOP:** Allison Starcher, from Orlando, Florida, shared the joy of opening a shoebox gift with a child in the Brache-Millot school on the day of the earthquake. **MIDDLE:** In front of his school in L'unit De Viecourt, one of our elementary school students knows the day after the earthquake, one truth remains the same, Haiti: Hope in God. **BOTTOM:** The cries from the villagers all around us were directed to God. Hymns of praise were sung throughout the night of the earthquake. They made it loud and clear who they worshiped—Jesus!  
**Earthquake Caught On Video:** Call or order free at [newmissions.org](http://newmissions.org) the DVD of when it all happened.

# BUILDING A NEW HAITI

At New Missions, we have over 70 buildings. The damage sustained from the earthquake is beyond anything we ever expected. The process of rebuilding will take time and require financial support. We are immediately erecting temporary facilities so our schools can function and churches can meet. Below is the extensive list of locations and what level of destruction took place.

In the midst of this damage and destruction, we are truly amazed by the lives spared. When I toured our medical clinic, I cried. It tore my heart apart to see the floors and walls split. Stepping outside, I looked across the compound and saw our elementary school sliced into pieces. This was so devastating to me personally, as I remember being there when those buildings were constructed. It's hard to look past 27 years of history and see how today, we are rebuilding; not starting over... but building anew.

More than ever, we need your prayers, support, and commitment to stand with us. After the relief efforts are over and wounds are healed, the ministry of New Missions will still be in Haiti. We are not leaving—and our purpose is stronger than ever. The Gospel must be preached! Children need education, medical care, and food. Together, we are now called to build a new Haiti. The foundation is the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our cause is to serve the poorest of the poor.

~Timothy DeTellis



## LOCATION

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Ambas-Pere - Damaged                 | 10. Fond Jack - Damaged                       | 18. Masson - Damaged                                   |
| 2. Birey - Damaged                      | 11. High School - 3 Large Buildings - Damaged | 19. Santo, Church - Destroyed                          |
| 3. Bord Mer, Church, School - Destroyed | 12. L'Acul - Damaged                          | 20. Satleo (Leogane LeRoy), Church, School - Destroyed |
| 4. Brache - Damaged                     | 13. L'unite de Viécourt - Destroyed           | 21. Signeau - Damaged                                  |
| 5. Brach Milot, Church - Destroyed      | 14. Lafferony - Damaged                       | 22. Ti-Boukan - Damaged                                |
| 6. Chateau - Destroyed                  | 15. LaSalle - Damaged                         | 23. Ti Riverie - Damaged                               |
| 7. Concrab - Damaged                    | 16. Leogane Guillame - Damaged                | 24. Medical Clinic - Destroyed                         |
| 8. Darbonne - Damaged                   | 17. Marechal - Damaged                        | 25. Office building - Destroyed                        |
| 9. Flonc - Damaged                      |   | 26. Warehouse - Damaged                                |



**TOP:** Pastor LeRoy from our Leogane church prays in front of the rubble. To see his people suffer was difficult prior to the earthquake, now it is beyond words. **SIDE:** The elementary school in Santo is destroyed. Thank God the earthquake did not hit during school time. A building can be replaced—each child is precious. **BOTTOM:** Images from our elementary school in Bordmer, our medical clinic, and our office building show the destruction as if the buildings were sliced into pieces.



# CHARLIE DETELLIS RETURNS TO HAITI

On Sunday, January 24, I returned to Haiti alone—after being evacuated on Friday, January 15. As you can imagine, I wanted to return as soon as possible. Our mission serves thousands of children and families, and now more than ever, they need us. While driving through Port-au-Prince, I saw more of the destruction of the city. I believe the upper class got hit hard with this disaster.

The aftershocks are still very frightening. One tremor hit while I was at my desk in the office—which is damaged beyond repair, and I quickly ran out of the building.

You cannot believe the amount of military personnel on our Bordmer compound! Right now, there are 150 Marines and around 250 Navy personnel based at our mission. There are tents, equipment, and U.S. military everywhere.

A U.S. military vessel is arriving with a delivery of supplies tomorrow. They will begin distributing food to our school locations tomorrow. Our compound is full of men and gear. Even behind the mission are six amphibious vehicles. There are some 20 pallets of ready to eat meals (MREs) in our yard. Currently, the servicemen at our mission are SeaBees. They are the Construction Battalions of the United States Navy. The Seabees have a history of building bases, bulldozing and paving thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips, along with accomplishing other construction projects of a wide variety. God knew who we needed! These are men who can do physical work. There are trucks, hummers, pick-ups, bull dozers, tractors, and forklifts. This definitely is God's timing.

Our schools are opening and the work here will be strong. The country is showing some signs of stability—as fuel is for sale at the gas stations, and I am hearing more banks will open this week. I see a new strength within our Haitian leadership at New Missions. They are proud to serve and know that God is with them. Amen! God is our refuge and strength. ~Charlie DeTellis



**TOP:** Hummers, dump trucks, bulldozers, and amphibious vehicles are based at New Missions. **SIDE:** Food has been distributed to our schools. The military has MREs (meals ready to eat) on pallets and are being delivered by the truck load. **BOTTOM:** The U.S. Military set-up a command center at New Missions and are fully supporting New Missions as we step forward after this earthquake.

# THE LOVE OF GOD

Think about His love. The love of God – how sufficient is God’s love for the people of Haiti now? Is God’s love big enough, strong enough, present enough, passionate enough to meet the needs of Haiti following a 7.0 earthquake on January 12, 2010? Yes!

We know God’s love is big, strong, present, and moves with passion. We know God’s love through His Son Jesus; we look back at His love shown for us on the cross. We look today to Jesus for all the love we need to be energized, to be encouraged, and to be enabled to rebuild New Missions. Of all the photos of the earthquake scenes, the one that shook my heart and corrected my posture is the picture of a woman standing, with her back arched, her arms outstretched to their furthest point, and her head lifted high up to the God of love.

God’s love rescued my two sons, their wives, my four grandchildren, and 38 visiting Americans at New Missions. God’s love safely kept everyone in our New Missions’ buildings. Yes, there was great loss to New Missions – with all of our buildings either damaged or destroyed. My son Charlie responded to the great loss and he says, “New Missions is not the buildings. It’s the people.”

God’s love on the darkest night in the history of Haiti was more than enough to inspire our Haitian people—as they sat on the ground, on the dirt roads, to raise their voices to the loudest decibel to praise and glorify God. Their praises drowned out the Voodoo drums, and the sounds of Voodoo soon ceased. The Christian Haitians continued praising God throughout the night on the Leogane Plain.

God’s love is more than enough. Many of you are calling New Missions to give of your finances to help rebuild. One donor was the owner of Infiniti-Blu in the Dominican Republic where I live. Another church called wanting to help rebuild our medical clinic—which was destroyed. God’s love is moving people to ignore their own needs, to sacrifice their own agenda and projects, giving them faith for the future. God’s love is moving strategic people to be in Haiti with my son Charlie—to secure the basics for our ministry to continue.

God’s love is moving governments and organizations around the world to respond to build the new Haiti. God’s love is amazing! I marvel at His wondrous love. Today, January 20, the United States military is occupying our mission compound in Bordmer, Haiti—

beginning relief efforts by getting food and supplies to the people. In addition, there are Cuban nurses ministering to the medical needs of the people at the New Missions High School.

God’s love is there to wipe away every tear, as He made provision with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to hold, hug, and give new hope. The Haitian people will wake up to a new morning after their night of crying, grief, pain, and sorrow.

What can separate you from the love of God? Can an earthquake separate you from God’s love? No! When you say yes to Jesus, nothing will ever separate you from His love. Not today, and not even when you close your eyes on earth; to be absent from the body is to be present with God.

God’s love is present in Haiti. Our hearts are shaken by an earthquake of His love. We have a passion... a longing to be with the Haitian people. Now is the time to preach God’s love to the Haitian people. Come to Jesus, and enjoy the eternal safety of the family of God – where nothing, not even a 7.0 earthquake can separate us from the love of God. God’s love will keep our hearts and flesh from failing.

Are you discouraged? Is New Missions discouraged? Never! I keep feeling God’s love, over and over, within me. I see God’s love expressed by His people. I want to see more than just the needs of the Haitian people met. I want to see this nation rise tall – beauty out of the rubble – beauty out of ashes. We will remember the lives of those lost in this earthquake. We will do all we can to honor their memories in the reconstruction of their land.

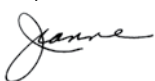
I am honored to be alive for this moment in history for the people of Haiti. My desire is to go quickly, and to be with the people of New Missions in the Leogane area. We will praise and thank God, and by faith see the victory of New Missions built better and stronger for His honor and glory.

God’s love will use our Haitian pastors to minister, and bring compassionate help to their people. God’s love will use our Haitian staff to assist relief efforts. God’s love will move the hearts of volunteers to demonstrate to the people that God has not forsaken them. God is bringing about His plans for a new Haiti.

Think about it... how big is God’s love for Haiti? The answer is unimaginable. His love is broad, deep, wide and high – beyond human comprehension. God loves the Haitian people, and He loves you and me. ~Jeanne DeTellis

I thank God for the ‘heartquake’ in my body, mind and spirit. Again, I say ‘yes’ to His love for me as Savior. Again, I renew my love for Him, to live for Him and to serve Him. I believe in God’s love for Haiti. I believe in God’s love for you and me.

Love,



Jeanne DeTellis

*P.S. During this time of rebuilding a new Haiti, invite your church to collect a special offering for New Missions. We are actively serving on the ground in Haiti through our 22 churches and schools—reaching over 9,000 children and their families.*

