

○ MAY

○ 2010

Malcolm's *Haiti Reflections*



SERVING WITH YOUTH WITH A MISSION

'It's not a Problem, it's an Opportunity...'

These are the words that became the corner stone of my month of service in Haiti, following the Jan 12th 2010 Earthquake.

I entered Haiti at a critical turning point in the work. Immediately following the earthquake YWAM geared up and ran an incredible feeding program and medical clinic to the many thousands that had migrated to St Marc from the capital, Port au Prince. By using the network of pastors we were able to distribute food (from the World Food Program, WFP) to them, and they would distribute to the people in the care of their congregation. The WFP, at one of the UN coordination meetings, told us to cap our distribution to 10,000 people with 100 pastors. Two weeks later we were feeding closer to 15,000 people with over 130 pastors and the list was still growing as we added several outlying communities.

But as time progressed there was a clear shift from disaster response to intermediate help. When you asked the people what they wanted, it came back very clearly that they wanted education for their children and jobs. With people living in tents and temporary shelters, that are inadequate against the rain,



coupled with the meager food rations supplied from the WFP, you have to admire the way that the Haitian people are ready to rebuild their lives.

But what is it like serving in a disaster situation? Firstly you are amongst the who's who of aid agencies, the UN, WFP, Oxfam, Unicef, Save the Children (had pancakes for breakfast one morning in their camp), Red Cross and the numerous foreign military UN protection details.



Truck after truck of aid at the DR/Haiti border, the airport infield filled with aid supplies and equipment, UN vehicles and helicopters appear to be everywhere, American Airlines operating out of an old airport warehouse as a terminal building...



But then there is the physical horror of a disaster scene. Though I never saw any dead people, you just know that there must still be bodies in the flattened buildings. The massive destruction; low quality housing in the south west part of Port au Prince saw entire neighborhoods destroyed. An orphanage full of young children with casts on legs arms, broken pelvis, caused by crush injuries from falling concrete. Heart breaking to see the injuries, but even more some when you think that they have all lost parents.

So how do you minister into such need? How do you reopen schools for children to get an education when they are filled with displaced persons with nowhere else to go? How do you deal with the crowd mentality of people who know there is food the other side of wall during general food distribution? How do you provide for the huge orthopedic need?



It took every ounce of my knowledge to set up several tent communities, working out how to balance the burning desire to just



help, alongside encouraging the local community to participate. Learning how to work in a culture that is not my own, learning how to make sure that pastors don't put their political agenda's above the need of the people, were all part of my task.

Being a part of a Christian ministry also brings a unique set of challenges. How do you deal with people when you tell them you can do no more, how do you show someone compassion when they are hungry and angry at Christianity?

These were all learning steps that we had to take in setting up the first of the tent sites in St Marc. Making sure the ground will not flood when it rains, that there is food available, that there is adequate sanitation, security, and drinking water. There is much more to be done than most people can imagine. Receiving a tent is only the start of the long process of turning these people's lives from a situation of utter devastation and disaster into one of new beginnings.

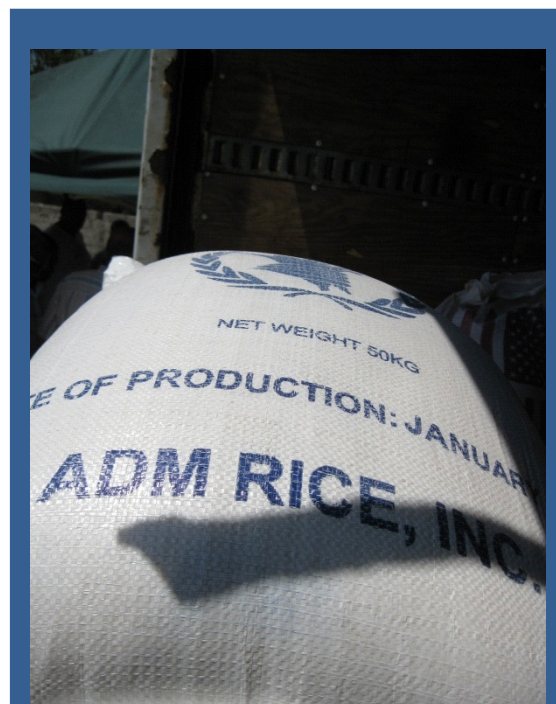


I am glad to have been able to spend a month in Haiti, bringing some of my knowledge and skills into this situation and being able to help the Haitian people. I wish to thank all those who gave financially to enable me to go and the finances received covered that of my airfare and ground fees.



As a direct result of my trip, many families now have a dry tent to sleep in at night, a group of pastors that cares for each camp, basic food rations and a hope for a better future. With the foundation we have created, future teams will continue to minister into these camps over the coming months, not just helping their physical needs but also showing love and compassion that they so desperately need.

God Bless Malcolm



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Support: As a full time volunteer, I receive no salary for my work. If you wish to help support my work with YWAM and the worldwide Christian community that we are called to serve, please consider supporting me, through YWAM, with your prayers and donations.

For a tax deductible receipt: to

By Check: payable to YWAM, with a separate piece of paper stating that it is for the support of Malcolm Taylor and mail it to:
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Your support to YWAM in prayer and by your donations is gratefully received. Thank you.