

**Pastor Special Address**  
**Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Earthquake – Global Link Team Timeline**  
**Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Overview:**

- Video clip (You Tube 3:45mins. Showing an overview of the earthquake)
- Read James 1:19-27
- Share a timeline of events
- Observations & next steps

**Global Link Mission trip Team**

Willard Metzger – World Vision  
Mike Griffin – World Vision Atlantic Team leader  
Laura Chatterton – CLC  
Bernie Zearth – SSC  
Heidi Billington – SSC

**Timeline:**

11:50am (local time) team arrives at Port Au Prince National Airport

2:00pm arrive at hotel (20 mins. From Airport)

- World Vision team usually books @ The Marathon

4:00pm lunch in dining area

4:45pm Laura returns to room to retrieve camera

4:53pm Earthquake magnitude measuring 7.0

- The dining area where the team ate collapsed
- Laura's room adjacent to the dining hall

5:20pm World Vision Canada contacts Pastor Dennis to relay all team members safe

6:00pm darkness falls

- 13 after shocks followed with some measuring 5.9
- Share personal accounts – Heidi & Bernie, Pastor Placide

**Eyewitness to the Devastation**

*On the same day that the devastating earthquake struck Haiti, a team of World Vision volunteers had just arrived in the capital of Port-au-Prince.*

*Heidi Billington and Bernie Zearth, both from New Brunswick, are members of that team and were able to send these personal reflections in the terrifying first 24 hours.*

Heidi Billington, Fredericton, NB

I was struggling to get online connection and was in the process of rebooting when I heard a horrible rumble. Within seconds the earth began to shake, lamps and mirrors broke and crashed to the floor. Fear welled up quickly and I began calling on God with every fiber of my being...

I couldn't differentiate between the trembling in the earth and the trembling in my body as I braced myself between the door frame. I opened my room door and the garden outside was full of people raising their hands to God and praying '*Mon Seigneur! Mon Seigneur!*'

To my relief, everyone on our team was safe and soon gathered in the parking lot. We managed to get one phone call out to World Vision Canada to contact our family members and tell them we were ok.

The cries from downtown were so horrible. And we realized that dusk was upon us and soon it would be dark... It became apparent that no help would come tonight. Within a short period of time, people started coming up the hill. They had heard doctors were at the hotel. They brought their broken and wounded, desperate for help. One mother sat with her baby son, both of his legs broken, a gapping head wound his wails tore at my heart...

And they continued to come, headlamps from the vehicles lit the area enough for the doctors to wash and bandage them. Hotel sheets became ripped bandages, headboards became splints to set broken legs, towels soaked up blood, and candles were lit to cauterize wounds and the wails from the city rose up.

I attempted to help in anyway I could but quickly realized there was little I was capable of doing, there was little anyone could do. Exhausted I lay down, with many others, on the cement of the parking lot, hoping for some sleep as the night wore on. The cries from the city below would ebb and flow. I honestly wasn't sure which was more eerie the wailing or the silence...

With the daylight came the realization of what had happened the night before. The front doorway to the hotel had become a laying ground for the dead...

So here I sit, with a stone wall between me and the disaster. I sit, under the shade of an almond tree listening to the cries of the wounded and dying, watching the helicopters swarm above us, heartbroken.

Bernie Zearth, Fredericton, NB

I think back to the sense of excitement and anticipation as we arrived in Haiti for the first time. What a vibrant, colorful city. What an experience we were prepared to have.

It all changed in seconds. The room first trembled and then shook, accompanied by a roaring sound. The wall-mirror fell to the floor and shattered glass flew everywhere. The TV fell to the floor. Outside, people cried out. Some in fear and alarm, some praising God. The chaos began.

People moved to the sidewalk and street in front of the hotel, milling around in disarray, feeling a series of aftershocks. In a state of shock, we chatted, sometimes joked, glad to have survived, aware of what could have happened to us. The place where an hour ago we had supper, was now a pile of rubble as the roof collapsed—so close a call.

Night came soon and quickly. From our bubble of safety (on the hotel grounds), we heard the cries from the city in the distance, renewed with each major aftershock. Then the wounded began to arrive—a few at first, more and more as the night progressed. Dawn came, and with it the chance to see the world around us. From the rooftop of the hotel we saw the devastation of the buildings on the surrounding hillsides, and we began to realize the magnitude of what had occurred.

We saw many more injured people arrive in the morning, hearing rumors of medical care. An impromptu medical clinic materialized at the front of the hotel, but with no medical supplies. I looked on, painfully aware that any skill I possessed was entirely useless in this situation? what a sense of helplessness...

As information filtered in, we heard the airport was closed, that the core of the city was demolished, and that the death toll was staggering...

Within 24 hours (it seemed like days), we were in contact with World Vision staff. Even though we did not get much more information, just seeing a local contact felt like grabbing a lifeline. Now we continue to wait, but with a greater sense of security.

#### Pastor Placide, pastor at Jacmel, Haiti

We do know that you and the whole church and pastor Sisco are worrying about us in this season of great troubles in Haiti. This earthquake is the greatest that we have ever known since the existence of our country.

I was in PAP when that started yesterday as a matter of fact I was in a market having some groceries for our family. Suddenly I saw that the whole building was trembling and stuff start falling all around me but I did not get hit by anything even though some people got killed. When I went outside a big concrete beam was on my truck, Major damage occurs. Thousands of people get killed IN PAP I would say. As I could drive my truck I crawled into it in order to try to move it to another area, as I was moving the truck, I could see people carrying children with intestines hanging, people with no legs, one arm and else. As you may hear that the presidential palace is damaged, also the UN headquarters, the Senate and so many important offices. Haiti has been the poorest country in the western hemisphere it is now we are going to see the real poverty. But you know what? God is still just and holy.

Please be praying for us

- Next two nights the team slept outdoors
- Friday World Vision staff evacuates team through the Dominican Republic
- From DR – Bangor on Friday

9:30pm arrive in Bangor

Saturday @ noon arrived to a warm welcome in Fredericton

### **Observations:**

- Miles & Rose Mary Blair, Blair Hope Ministries Int. and Pastor Murray Moore, Cumberland Bay Pentecostal Church arrived the same day as our team (Tuesday)
- Their mission to Jacmel, Haiti
- To date(Sunday, January 17) not home but safe
- Bernie Zearth (Global Link team member), “it was like God had a protective bubble wrapped around the team the whole time.”
- The WV staff & missions team usually stay in The Marathon hotel
- The Marathon totally collapsed killing all 200 international guests.
- The power of social networking
- Reminded of the power of love & compassion
- Some of the hard lessons learned were to prepare individuals, organizations and CLC for the more demanding climb

### **Next Steps:**

- Both an informal and formal critical incident stress debriefing for Laura and the entire team
- Experienced that of a war zone
- Promote Global Link Project
- Special event

**Sunday, January 31 @ 6:30pm**  
**A Voice for Haiti Benefit**  
**Global Link Project**

Invitations and promotion would take place using both village and CLC sign, social networking sites and letters sent to various businesses in our community.

This event will see us raise funds for our Global Link project. There is opportunity to pick up child sponsorship and/or give a cash/cheque donation that will go directly to the project.

The evening will consist of special music (CLC artists, and special guests), short overview of our project and Laura’s personal account of the trip. There will be multi media throughout the evening illustrating the devastation and a challenge to respond and raise monies for child sponsorship.

Benefit Goal \$25, 000.00

**Close with prayer**