

SPECIAL EDITION LAUGH AND LEARN HAITIAN CRISIS



THOUGHTS:

When I think of the natural disaster in Haiti, I also think of this famous statement:

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it”

One translation of John 1:5.

THE LIGHT:

You know about the darkness of death and despair following the earthquake disaster in Haiti. How impossible it is for us to measure the volume of human suffering.

If you want to see what Americans are learning about this tragedy, click on this link.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032507/ns/world_news

But the light includes the amazing commitment to send aid to Haiti.

As the size of the disaster came into focus, offers of help began pouring in from the Netherlands, Iceland, Israel, Puerto Rico, Guyana, Brazil, Canada, Belize, Cuba, China, Morocco, France and the United State. The number of helping nations will keep growing.

Here is what President Obama promised to Haiti:

<http://www.limelife.com/blog-entry/President-Obamas-Haiti-Speech-Video/30820.html>

Charities Bringing Relief

“The light shines in the darkness...”

The first people on the scene, and the first to be interviewed on American television, were the workers from the **Salvation Army**. In the last Laugh and Learn we learned about the **Salvation Army** as a Christmas charity that helps poor people. But the Salvation Army is more than that. It is a Christian humanitarian charity that assists in most global disasters. The Salvation Army, before the earthquake, already operated more than 60 church/community aid centers in Haiti. Therefore, when the earthquake struck they were already there, already serving, and the first group to respond.

The Salvation Army has had a presence in Haiti since 1950 operating schools, clinics, a hospital, feeding programs, children’s homes and church-related activities in Port au Prince and at other locations in the country.



One of the 60 facilities includes a home for more than 50 children; a school with a daily attendance of 1,500 children; a medical clinic caring for 150-200 people daily; and a church that on any typical Sunday welcomes nearly 1,000 people. The facility is less than 10 minutes from the National Palace, in an area known as St. Martin that is home to the poorest people living in the nation's capital.

Here is a video update about the light of the Salvation Army.

<http://www.salvationarmy.ca/2010/01/13/salvation-army-haiti-earthquake-relief-video-update-major-busroes-interview-with-msnbc/>



Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse, which was planning to send charter planes loaded with supplies to Haiti Thursday morning said, "I hope and pray that they will open that air space first thing in the morning," he told CNN. Samaritan's Purse will be one of many non-government charitable organizations bringing light into the darkness.

http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/articles/responding_to_haiti_earthquake/

Springfield, Missouri based **Convoy of Hope**, another light, will distribute food and supplies from a warehouse in Haiti. Spokesman Kirk Noonan says the humanitarian relief organization also plans to send several large containers filled with food, water and emergency relief supplies.

Heart to Heart International plans to ship between \$500,000 and \$1 million worth of medical supplies by Thursday. The charity, based in Kansas City, also is preparing to send 10 people this weekend, including doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians.

The American Red Cross has pledged \$1 million to assist communities impacted by the earthquake, and is prepared to take further action as local responders assess the situation.

Many churches were already serving this poor country, caring for children by providing housing, food and schools. Here is one report from the state of Ohio.

<http://www.10tv.com/live/content/video/10tv.html?referralObject=13399451>

“And the light goes on shining in the dark; it is not overcome by the dark”



Charlotte Churches Promise Aid to Haiti

<http://www.wsocv.com/news/22231940/detail.html>

One year and three years from now it will probably be charities and churches that are doing the most practical good for the Haitian people. They were providing most of the needed services before this disaster, and when the government emergency teams leave, it will be the charities and Christian churches that will feed, clothe and educate the Haitian people.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it”

THE LAUGH:

Next time we'll have jokes and cartoons again.

