

Haiti Medical Ministry

Watermark Medical Ministry

<http://watermarkblogs.org/medical/>

Dear Volunteer (March 1st, 2010)

This update is intended to keep you abreast of some of the work Watermark's medical ministry has been involved in relative to Haiti Relief and Recovery efforts. Watermark's medical ministry has been asked to be a part of a partnership working in Haiti to establish a new hospital with Mission of Hope Haiti (MOH). As you know, January 12, 2010 was a momentous day in the life of Haiti. After experiencing a 7.0 earthquake, the struggling people of Haiti have been confronted with an entirely new set of challenges for simple survival. Food, water, sanitation and health care are still very challenging issues for this country.

Approximately 2 weeks after the earthquake, we had the opportunity to spend a week in Haiti, working in the Mission of Hope (MOH) health care clinic to provide direct relief for injuries and illnesses that occurred as a consequence of the earthquake.



During our time there, we were impressed with the need to find a way that we could use our knowledge and experience to assist MOH in the establishing a full-time hospital operation adjacent to their outpatient clinic.

In the long term, we are helping to provide leadership toward the transformation of Mission of Hope's small health care clinic into an ongoing hospital operation with the capacity to provide ongoing surgical care, prosthesis development, rehabilitation and acute infectious disease treatment. Additionally, we will assist MOH's medical staff in caring for the increased number of outpatient visits (over 150 visits/day) by supplying medical mission teams for this work.

One way you can help is sign up to travel to Haiti on one of the upcoming teams. All types of health care workers are needed (surgeons, Anesthesia, ED, Primary Care, Pediatrics, Nursing, Central Supply, Pharmacy, etc., etc.). If you have an interest in going, there is probably a job for you there. The teams are rotating into Haiti every Saturday, typically working for one week. If you desire to be on an upcoming team, write Chris Berry at cristoforo.berry@gmail.com and he will contact you about getting you scheduled on a specific team.

The clinic is currently seeing up to 150 patients per day (double their normal load) and the current medical mission team consists of:

- 1 ER, 2 Primary Care, 1 Orthopedist, 1 Anesthesiologist,
- 1 physical therapist for wound care
- 2-3 Nurses
- 1-2 Central supply staff

The clinical conditions being seen vary, but they are definitely starting to see more typhoid and other communicable illnesses. Pediatric coverage is important. The rainy season starts in April and we expect it to cause even more medical needs due to the lack of shelter for hundreds of thousands of people. They typically need at least 2 primary care providers for most of the weeks.

The leadership is currently making assignments for future weeks, but immediate needs are to fill the week of **March 6-14!** Future dates that they need coverage include:

- March 20-28
- March 27-April 4
- April 3-11
- April 17-25*
- April 24-May 2
- May 1-9*
- May 8-16*
- May 15-23
- May 22-30

If you haven't had a chance to look at the Texas Orthopedics blog, you might check it out since they have daily updates from the teams with photos. (www.txortho.com). Hill Country Bible Church (<http://www.hcbc.com/index.php/haiti-relief/>), is working closely with MOH staff (<http://www.mohhaiti.org/>), and is the point of contact for the selection and coordination of each team member's travel and on-ground transportation, lodging, food, security, etc.

The strength and potential of the Mission of Hope mission was illustrated in the 30 days after the earthquake:

- Over 3 million meals served
- Over 20,000 gallons of water distribute
- Over 1,000 tents distributed
- Over 120 outpatient clinic visits per day
- 140 Surgical procedures in a makeshift Operating Suite and Post-op Ward

It was our privilege to help establish the initial operating room and post-operative hospital ward serving the first patients who received surgical care for untreated fractures suffered in the earthquake. Now, the "new hospital" is moving into the recovery phase as it plans to serve as a resource for rehabilitation, limb prosthesis, wound care and acute infectious disease management. As MOH moves into this phase of response, it is vital that they maintain a constant flow of assistance and expertise as they build this new resource for Haiti.

Below are some links for more information:

Mission of Hope: www.mohhaiti.org

Hill Country Bible Church: www.hcbc.com

Texas Orthopedics Blog: www.txortho.blogspot.com

Watermark Medical Ministry Blog: <http://watermarkblogs.org/medical/>

Pictures and Video from 1st Trip: <http://gallery.me.com/kurtneale#gallery>

Thank you for your continued interest and prayers for Haiti's recovery