

February 11, 2010

**Haiti Earthquake Relief Update**

Today was busy but a fun day. Started off by calling the medical director at the local hospital to ask when he could see a potential orthopedic patient. I'd discussed this case earlier with him, a 2 year old boy who had been in the earthquake in Port au Prince who was now staying at our camp. American doctors had evaluated him in Cap Haitien and sent him to our community hoping that he could get further care of malformed feet (club feet) he was born with. After spending the last few days at the camp, we were able to get him in for evaluation to find good news. He doesn't need surgery! All little Kenson needs is to have orthopedic casts applied and re-applied weekly over the next few months.



Along with physical therapy for his weakened knees, the doctors think he should make a good recovery. This is the same situation I described earlier in the week. After spending a few days at the camp, the 25 year old single father, Roberto is no longer exhausted. He had previously been eking out a living as a metalworker making artistic designs in old metal drums. Of course, since the earthquake, his home was lost, as well as all material possessions including his trade

tools. Roberto had been just wandering trying to find his son the care that he needed and in shock after the earthquake. After a quick evaluation and placement of the casts this morning, we arranged appointments for little Kenson three times a week for physical therapy and placement of new casts every Wednesday. Caleb is willing to give the father financial help to start his work here in the community. As Roberto doesn't have any family elsewhere, he is excited to be able to start over in a place where his son can get the care he needs and he can also practice his trade. Caleb told him after six months we'll evaluate and see what options exist. What I would encourage you to see from this is how up in the air all the refugees' lives are right now. One other note, the local hospital ([www.promiseforhaiti.org](http://www.promiseforhaiti.org)) is giving all of this care to Kenson for free. So if you'd like to help them as they care for those in need, please give. They are providing free care to all patients injured in the earthquake and need help offsetting these expenses. I would encourage you to help them.



Caleb is returning from yesterday's trip to Port au Prince this evening. He spent the last day there distributing donated medical supplies to three clinics and two hospitals. Also, he purchased \$15,000 worth of food supplies to be distributed through 10 different contacts within the city. He is working



with people he already knew who are still in a position to distribute food securely. Next week, we are getting a large shipment to our community to distribute to families in need up here (especially those housing refugees). Pictured is Caleb with several solar powered portable sun ovens donated by members of Rotary International. They will be distributed in the next ten days throughout the city of Port au Prince to help folks to be able to cook. (a very practical help!)

Finally, one last image for today, we had a great friend fly in on a relief flight today, traveling eight hours round trip on a cargo plane to spend one hour on the ground to see us! Rich Leland, pastor of Summer Street Church of Nantucket, MA has been a friend and great help in recent years. After he arrived in our town at 12:45 P.M., we quickly visited our school campus across the street from the airport. As school is usually over by this time, we were barely able to catch the last busload of students leaving. However, it was a group he especially wanted to meet, the students now living at Camp de la Grace who are now attending our ministry school. While this is only a portion of the 300 kids the school has enrolled from

Port au Prince, these are also the kids we're providing with lodging and three meals every day. Rich told them he was honored to be able to meet them and that he and their church had been praying for all of them and their families. We want the folks staying with us to know that many people care for them and wanting to help. Please know how grateful we are for all of you as we seek to provide the best possible care to these folks as they begin to rebuild their lives.



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