

Earthquake in Haiti Jan.12, 2010

Report of

THE HAITI ORTHODOX MISSION

One Year later

*"Still ye lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come and follow Me." Luke 18:22*

On this day, Jan. 12th, 2011, one year after the earthquake, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, our priests accompanied by readers and parishioners from each of the seven parishes, conducted the funeral of Vladimir Randiche, a Haitian, who died during the earthquake, leaving a wife and two children. Having been a Reader in training, his body was never recovered from under the rubble of the school building in which he had been teaching.

Thanks to God, many of our Orthodox faithful and friends have, over the past year, contributed to alleviate the suffering of hundreds of poor Orthodox Christians who are members of our seven parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad Mission in Haiti.

After the earthquake and even until now, the help most needed by our faithful there is the ongoing provision of basic sustenance, of food, water, shelter and medical treatments and supplies.

In order to provide for these needs the Haiti Mission has been working over the past year with two main funding organizations. The first and most important of these has been the Fund for Assistance (FFA) of the Russian Church Abroad. The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) has also been an important contributor.

In addition to funding provisions for sustenance, the Mission has established, with the blessing of our Metropolitan Hilarion, a program designed to provide monthly cash payments to the most needy families of the seven parishes in Haiti.

This program is titled, "Haiti Orthodox Family Relief.com". At the annual clergy meeting of the Eastern Diocese some months after the earthquake, an enthusiastic response was received to the prospect of the program.

Although initially the program was set up to have sponsor parishes donate \$100 a month by bank transfer, the program also now receives funds for prepaid yearly sponsorship by check and a method is provided for receipt of international sponsorships as well. (see web site)

At this time, one year after the earthquake in Haiti, the HOFR program now has sponsors assigned for eight Readers (\$300/mth.) and eleven families (\$100./mth.), which is a bulk donation of \$3,625. a month being distributed amongst the seven parishes in Haiti.

We had hoped that, by this time, all of our parishes of the Russian Church Abroad, and many other Orthodox Churches, would have been able to commit to a donation

of one hundred dollars a month to help a poor Orthodox family in Haiti. We are still hopeful for many parishes to join us in the fundamental obligation of answering to the pleading of the poor in Haiti.

The following is an incomplete list of some of the help and assistance provided by our kind donors to our faithful in Haiti over the past year since the earthquake

Donations through the Fund for Assistance provided:

- funds for two vehicles to allow the priest to travel to the various parishes.
- sustenance salaries for the priests.
- funds for on going costs of rents for places of worship.
- funds for rents for homeless priest and family.
- funds for food , medicine and water.
- start-up funding for the HOFR family relief Program.
- funds for HOFR Readers and Family sponsorships.
- funds for repairs for building damage from the earthquake.
- funds for the Cholera treatment and prevention and for clergy and parishioners illness prevention training.
- transportation costs for visiting clergy.
- and many more incidentals.
- funds for the building of a new church in Jacmel

Donations through the IOCC provided:

- disbursement of emergency food, water, and medical supplies to various parishes.

- aid to several schools; desks, tables, chairs, lighting, computers , printers, reinforcement of damaged buildings.

From other donors:

- funds for a full set of Liturgical Books in French.
- funds for preliminary church choir music training.
- funds (5,000.) for future church land in Les Cayes.
- funds (40,000) toward building of a new church in Jacmel

We are very concerned that the issues of housing, water supplies and sanitation have not yet begun to be resolved.

*"For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good... ( Mark 14:7 )*

Thank you to all of our generous donors, may Our Lord bless and keep you for the new year ahead. Let us hope and pray that the new year will bring His blessings also upon the suffering people of Haiti.

In Christ,  
Fr. Daniel McKenzie  
Administrator  
Haiti Orthodox Mission  
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

