

Another Update from PTPA by Therese Patterson

January 20, 2010

Dear All,

I regret that I cannot be in my office this afternoon or tomorrow to answer calls or e-mail's as I have to attend an aunt's funeral in Indiana. I will however, be back in my office on Thursday morning. My apologies to those of you whom I have not been able to talk with or e-mail. I have had numerous calls and over 600 e-mails as of last night. I will continue to respond to them on Thursday and Friday.

The first information I want to share with you concerns Fonkoze. I heard from Ann Hastings on Saturday night and at that time, she thought they would be able to have Fonkoze bank open in PAP on Wednesday. However, I have received this latest information below.

“Anne and the rest of Fonkoze’s leadership is fine. Everyone’s money is SAFE, even though not immediately accessible. The current needs are many, and we cannot reopen without cash liquidity, security and employees. Also needed are internet connectivity, fuel, transportation for employees, etc. Some branches in the provinces escaped with nary a blemish – but even they cannot function without cash. Our clients and our employees are going to need our support for many months to come. We hope you will be with them in your prayers, in your solidarity, and in your giving. We will NOT give up, and we hope that you will not either.”

I am confident based on Anne's e-mail, that you can still send your funds to the City National Bank of New York, and just as soon as they are operating again, your money will be there waiting to be processed and distributed to Haiti.

For those of you who have not seen the video of Sr. Mary Finnick and Matthew 25 House, you may go to:

"Doctors struggle to save lives" -

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#34911184>.

They are extremely busy right now at Matthew 25 House treating patients in the soccer field and trying to meet all of the needs of the moment. I spoke with Sr. Mary at length on Saturday night and she was feeling good about their situation in general in that they had adequate water, food and meds. A team

of 14 from Colorado arrived yesterday with supplies and will be working at Matthew 25 and as you will see on the video, Dr. Jim Toth and his wife from St. Monica in Duluth, Georgia managed to get across the Dominican Border with 400 lbs. of supplies.

I regret that I don't have time to mention news on many of the different parishes, priests and friends that you know in Haiti, but I realize with communication improving in Haiti, that you have also been able to receive the same news. American Airlines has continually changed their information and I know that those of you who were planning to go down this week and next are monitoring that situation. Two of the medical teams for this week have canceled until a later date and one has managed to get into Haiti tomorrow.

Hospital Corporation of America sent a plane full of supplies last Friday and they were not able to get into the airport. Thus, the flight that several of our doctors had hoped to be on, had to be canceled. Senator Bill First from Nashville left on Sunday with supplies, but there was also not sufficient time for us to gather supplies for that mission.

I hope to have some photos of the damage at Matthew 25 House on Thursday when I return, so if you are interested, please let me know. Many people have asked about Domond and he is busy helping where he can. The homes of his family in PAP were destroyed, so he has approximately 15 family members staying at his house (in spite of some damage to the second floor in his house). Domond is hoping to have his daughter, Ketnie, on a plane today or tomorrow to be with her mother, Claudette in North Lauderdale, Florida. Ketnie's school was completely destroyed.

I believe it is fitting to end by sharing with you a beautiful prayer by Deacon Jack McPhee at St. Mary's Church in Huntley, Illinois. The prayer is one of gratitude for all that we have and our need to continue to ask God to give the Haitian people His strength, courage and love in this darkest hour.

Blessings and thanks to all of you for your prayers, concerns and gifts,

Theresa Patterson
Parish Twinning Program
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Lord, I just want to say THANK YOU, because this morning I woke up and knew where my children were. Because this morning my home was still standing, because this morning I am not crying because my husband, my child, my brother or sister needs to be buried out from underneath a pile of concrete, because this morning I was able to drink a glass of water, because this morning I was able to turn on the light, because this morning I was able to take a shower, because this morning I was not planning a funeral, but most of all I thank you this morning because I still have life and a voice to cry out for the people of Haiti.

Lord I cry out to you, the one that makes the impossible, possible, the one that turns darkness in to light, I cry out that you give those mothers strength, that you give them peace that surpasses all understanding, that you may open the streets so that help can come, that you may provide doctors, nurses, food, water, and all that they need in a blink of an eye. For all those that have lost family members, give them peace, give them hope, give them courage to continue to go on! Protect the children and shield them with your power. I pray all this in the name of Jesus.

To all my friends please continue to forward this so that we can pray together for the people in Haiti.

Thank you Father, for your daily blessings.