

MARCH 2010

CATCH THE VISION

SPECIAL EDITION



HAITI
EARTHQUAKE



And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

I Cor 12:26

On Tuesday January 12, shortly before 5:00 AM, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked the Island of Hispaniola and shook much of Haiti to the ground. The capital, Port-au-Prince, was devastated. As soon as we received word of the quake, we knew that there would be a great need among the thousands of believers that live in Haiti.

After what seemed like an eternity, we established contact with a few of the believers in Port-au-Prince, including Brother Guy Cantave and Brother Tanis, VGR representatives in Haiti. The news was much as we expected: almost complete devastation, and thousands dead.

We immediately began organizing a relief operation for Haiti, and sent emergency funds to the brothers as soon as the first bank was able to open. Brother Joseph chose two men from Montreal: Brother Guy Berthiaume and Brother René Dupuis to make the initial trip to Haiti. Both men speak French and English, and both are extremely capable.

Their mission was to establish a distribution network among the churches in Haiti and to report back to you, the people who are truly responsible for helping these desperate people. This is a summary of Brother Guy Berthiaume's report of the initial visit to Haiti.



Brothers Guy Lamothe, Guy Berthiaume, René Dupuis, Yvenel Tanis, Guy Cantave, and Paul Lamothe.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

I picked up Bro. René at 8:45 in the morning and we were at the VGR office in Montreal for the 10:00 meeting, where we received our instructions and briefing for our mission. I was to lead the operations over there and to organize supplies in order to make sure the Bride of Christ in Haiti had everything needed to survive and to go through these difficult times. Bro. René Dupuis was to assist me in my tasks. I was to realize later how much I would appreciate his help and support.

We drove back to our homes in Shawinigan at the end of the day and had roughly one hour to pack our luggage. We drove back again to Montreal to sleep a few hours at Bro. Fergusson's place, which is near the airport.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

We got up at 4:30 in the morning and went to the airport to catch our flight from Montreal to Miami. Once in Miami, I spoke with Bro. Joseph Branham on the phone to confirm our instructions and go over the plan.

We flew from Miami to Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic. We arrived in the afternoon at 4:30PM and picked up our rental car already reserved by VGR. By that time we had to drive through some of the craziest traffic I have ever seen. After stopping by the side of the road and praying, we managed to get out of town and headed toward our destination for the night: Costa Larimar in Barahona, Dominican Republic.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

We started to drive early in the morning and headed toward Haiti. We were supposed to meet the brothers (Bro. Tanis and Bro. Cantave) in front of the police station in Jimani, a small city close to the border of Republic Dominican and Haiti. We could not cross the border without them.

The problem was that, although it was a small town, there were three police stations in Jimani! After much waiting and prayer, we finally connected with the brothers and headed toward Haiti. After crossing the border, the road was really bad. A rock hit the fan of Bro. Tanis' truck and split his radiator. The brothers took off the hood and installed a tank of water on top to keep the water flowing. The cable to the gas pedal was also damaged. Bro. Tanis was controlling the speed of the vehicle by pulling on a cable through the window. Surely the enemy was trying to stop us, but the Lord was with us.

I was also able to speak quickly with Bro. Isaac Branham on the phone to confirm our arrival in Haiti. It was a quick phone call, but Bro. Isaac's encouragement and direction set the tone for the entire trip.

We arrived late, but we managed to stop by Bro. Guy Lamothe's (pastor of a large church in Port-au-Prince) place to confirm our meeting with the pastors of the area for the next morning. One person who had to be there was Bro. Paul Lamothe (Bro. Lamothe's brother) but they could not reach him. We went back on the road and headed toward Bro. Tanis' place.

You can imagine our reaction when Bro. René made a wrong turn and, with thousands of cars in Port-Au-Prince and darkness and dust, Bro. Tanis saw the vehicle's plate ahead of us and realized that Bro. Paul Lamothe himself was right there in front of us! Only God can do these things.



Bro. René stepped out of the vehicle and grabbed him in his arms. He introduced him to me and we were able to secure and confirm his attendance for the next morning's meeting. Praise the Lord!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

We met the five most important people of the area. I explained in my first report how we worked all together. Their feedback was noted on the flip chart in order to plan our strategy.

Not having communication was the hardest thing for me. No electricity, but Bro. Tanis had a generator to charge batteries. We could also use the internet sporadically and at very slow speed. The mobile phones worked locally but not for international. My first report listed the most needed items such as food, shelter, and personal items and where we could get them in Haiti.

The system we used at Bro. Conserve's place worked great. Standing up and using the flip chart I brought with me, gave me the opportunity to keep everybody's attention, promoting exchange between each other, and also keeping the control and leadership of the meeting.

I believe the brothers appreciated our approach. They were touched that we included them so well in every aspect. They all thought that this work was inspired by the Lord.

We set up a meeting for 10:00AM Monday morning to go over the strategy and see if we could move forward in the same direction and/or make adjustments.

At that time, I gave \$1,440 for a few of the assemblies. I told them we had more funding but that we needed to secure our structure.

I realized also that there were some roadblocks based on some personal conflicts between

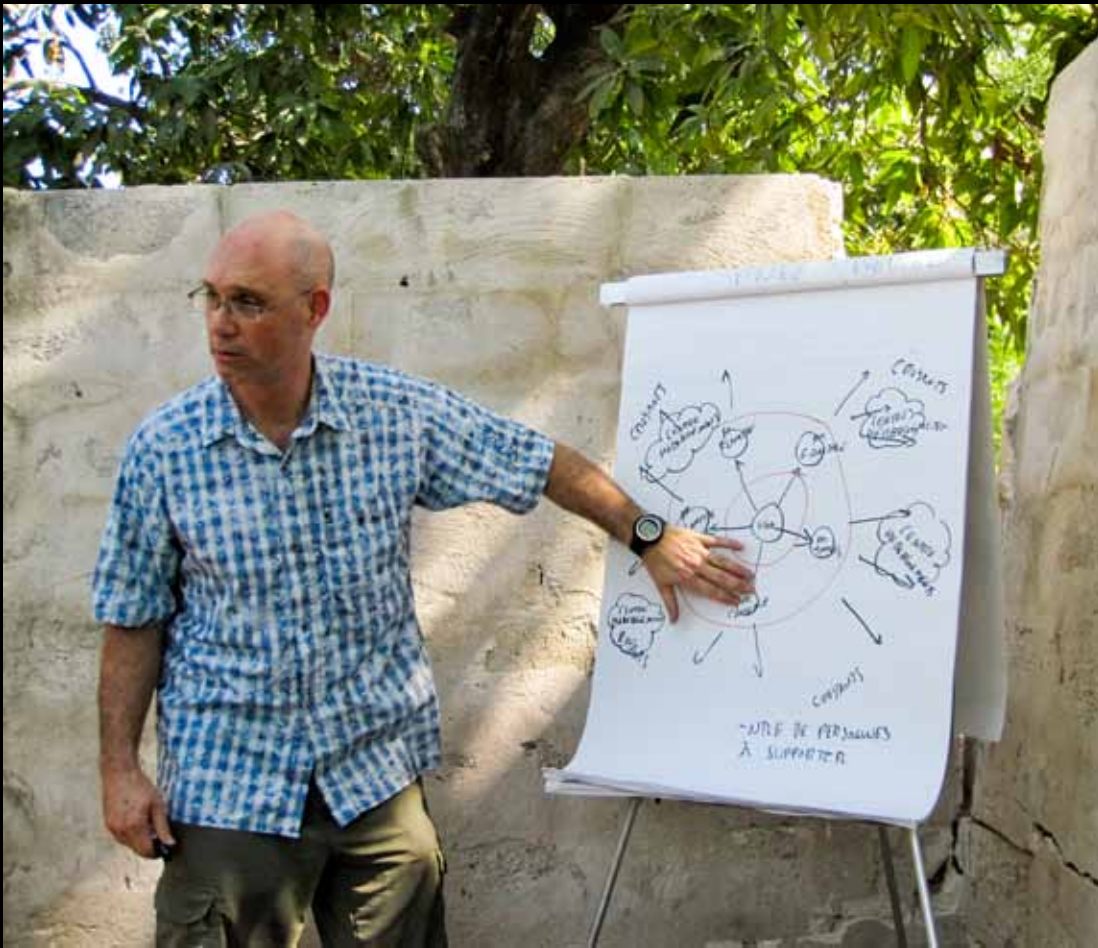


brothers. Something had to be done to make sure that whatever resources we provided would reach the Bride of Christ out there in need. After a conversation with Brother René, we both agreed that Brother Cantave was the man to head up the effort.

We spent the afternoon going around the town and saw some of the most horrible sites.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Bro. Tanis, Bro. Cantave, Bro. René, and I went to a quiet place in order to speak calmly and without all the distractions and traffic typical at the place we were staying. I made them a drawing to explain how our structure needed to work in order to be efficient. With VGR at



the center of the wheel, these brothers needed to rotate and be in action in order to reach out the believers outside the circle. These five brothers make a circle around VGR and must have an impact on the believers in Haiti. I said it might not be the wheel of Ezekiel, but they surely needed to be in action!

Because we would eventually be leaving, we needed someone inside the circle to monitor the distribution, be responsible, and communicate with VGR.

That person is Brother Cantave, and Brother Tanis would be assisting him.

We then spent the afternoon at the UN base by the airport. We filled in an order for tents and other non-perishable products. The brothers have all the info and contacts' phone numbers to follow-up. There are problems in getting these supplies, hence my request for the large tarps from VGR.

However, the UN asked those who request such help to regroup between organizations/groups by territory and then name a representative for this territory to be in charge to pick-up the products and distribute them. I have some reservations for this process. Henceforth, my reason to ask for big tarps from VGR.

For food given by the International Aid, they make an announcement on the radio since it is never at the same place (for safety). Army troops organize the distribution. It is not a process that believers without radio and transportation can rely on.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

We went by Bro. Guy Lamothe's church in the morning. Their service starts at 7:30 AM. Nobody said anything prior to our arrival at the church, so we did not expect to be recognized. Once we took our seats, Bro. René was told he was to preach the service and I was to greet the people just before him.

I spoke just a few words to encourage them, greeting them on behalf of Bro. Joseph Branham. I introduced myself as a VGR representative.



Bro. René took the service, putting the emphasis on the Message in its purest form. We had a great time; it was good to be in His presence and worship.

We went to Bro. Conserve's church after that. Their service is at 10:30 AM. Again we had no expectation, but Bro. René was asked again to take the service. I was also provided the opportunity to greet the people on behalf of VGR. Also, Bro. André Petit, Bro. George Lamarre, and Bro. Hébert greeted the people before Bro. René took the service.

I spent the rest of the afternoon on planning and the evening on sending pictures with Bro. René. At very slow speed, we were able to send the first few pictures that were posted on the web.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

We met the five main pastors. This was the most important meeting, as we had to announce our structure for the emergency fund management, and also see for ourselves what has been done with the money we distributed on Friday. I had given some homework for the brothers to establish some kind of expenses tracking report and budget.

What a joy when we sat down after prayer and see what the brothers have done.

They went around the most affected assemblies and provided mostly food with the money I gave them: \$3,200 of the \$10K sent by VGR through Western Union. Everywhere they go, they mentioned this is provided by the efforts of VGR and all the believers around the world. There is no way we could have done a better job getting the food ourselves. In fact, being white, we would have been caught paying way too much or simply would have been robbed. Even money exchange from US dollars to Haitian gouds, brothers like Bro. Paul Lamothe (he's a lawyer!) know where to go to get the best rate.



All Message churches were included without discrimination. It proved to everybody that we were on the right track. I had no church list with me, no info at all on the believers there, but we built a tracking spreadsheet.

Pétion-ville, according to them, has 450 believers. They still don't know exactly how many are missing or dead. This is going to take some time, people are still under piles of concrete and there will be no identification of bodies. They know 40 are affected by the earthquake, which represent 10 to 15 families.



Following this exercise and to be able to move forward after we leave, I explained to them the structure we put on place on Saturday morning. I used the same drawing (the wheel) and same explanations, officially naming Brother Cantave in charge of the distribution/management of resources/dollars. I emphasized also the tactical role Bro. Tanis must play in order to support Bro. Cantave. The brothers were very happy and appreciated even more our approach: making them responsible for the action plan.

They are also aware that they need to be accountable and to keep track of expenses in order to forecast better for the future. This reconstruction of Haiti is going to take years, and we need to be efficient in order to provide support to the Bride of Christ in Haiti over that time.

I asked Bro. Cantave to keep moving ahead with the project and to add all assemblies on the list and work their way through with the info we need.

Based on the \$3,200 they used for the assemblies mentioned above, we can easily forecast \$7,000/week for food and urgent supplies. It will be a huge advantage if we can ship tarps, tents and other non-perishable products from Jeffersonville in the near future and use the cash money for perishable products that are available on the market already here in Haiti.

My heart was full of joy as we realized the work done and the position we were in order to move ahead. Bro. Guy Lamothe expressed his satisfaction on such work being done so fast. To conclude, I made them a drawing on my flip chart starting with the walls first and then the water:

I mentioned Bro. Branham when he talks about the little ducks who wanted to fellowship together but had to wait for the water to come up in order to reach each other above the fences (I mentioned walls) of separations.

I told them: "Brothers, you just had an earthquake, you don't need a flood to reach each other! Plus, the walls are already down around here!"

We all laughed and closed with a word of prayer. What a good time we had.

We went back to our base at Bro. Tanis' house.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

We spent the day with Bro. Guy Lamothe, his brother Bro. Paul Lamothe, and Bro. Guy Cantave. We visited the assemblies most affected by the earthquake where people had to relocate for the mean time. We saw firsthand the results of our plan and distribution, by the brothers themselves!

We went to Léogane at the end of the day, which has been 90% destroyed. We really had a good time in the Lord with the believers there.



Brother Paul Lamothe testified to them how they took us places that he himself thought were really bad with bad smells and everything. He said we did not complain and came to see for ourselves what needed to be done to help them. I did not realize it until he said it, since I was focused on the work at that time.

He mentioned Bro. Joseph and VGR providing all that help. He asked them if they had any questions. Everybody was silent, so I told them what we were here for and encouraged them. We then had a little service, and we all sang together. Then it was back to our base in Croix-de-Bouquet.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Bro. Tanis and Bro. Cantave took us across the border in Jimani and then we headed back to Santo Domingo. It's not over until it's over!

At the roadblocks, normally the military just let us go by, but this one stopped us. There was nobody around on the road. My window was down, but the guard kept knocking on the passenger door behind me, asking us to open the door. I did not have a good feeling about that one. I thought for sure he was going to rob us. At the same time, the cell phone rang. I answered the phone, and it was Bro. Mathieu (VGR Montreal) with Bro. Isaac Branham on the line. When I did that, he kind of stepped back and waved us to go ahead. Yes the angels were still around us.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

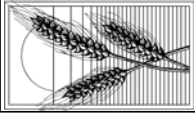
We flew back to Montreal with no problems. I am at home now, but a part of me is still in Haiti with the believers.

Thank you for the privilege to be at His service,

Brother Guy Berthiaume

The relief effort is still full speed ahead. For the latest updates, please visit our website at www.branham.org and click on the Haiti link at the bottom.





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"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." REVELATION 10:7

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