

First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit – Outreach Efforts to Haiti

Correspondence between Pastor Mathieu Ciceron and his school, Ecole Rayon D'Espoir (The Rays of Hope School) and First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit (FPCCS):

February 2, 2010 – Pastor Ciceron to FPCCS:

Thank you for thinking of means to help me with school and the kitchen establishment. I will be able to find the tents to buy or to get them from organization to reestablish the school as soon as the money is available.

Yes, I spent all the money to buy the kitchen utensils and equipments as I should begin to feed the children as soon as school was opening on January the 11, 2010. So, I can get some of the equipments, I have no funds at FONKOZE.

I think the best idea to help me to reestablish the school and the kitchen is to suggest you to come to Haiti next June or July as you get planed. The reason is, this will cost you and the church too much if you do the both things at the same time, I mean to say the expenses to help to reestablish the school and the kitchen and to payment for your trip and the group who will be with you, etc.

Other things, you will not need to come with interpreter who will cost more expense, I am able to do that and brothers and friends in Haiti, could help.

I haven't time to meet Carla and her group as yet after the earthquake, I had a chance to talk to Carla some days ago and she told me that everybody is well.

Commend: According to me, this is the best way that I can suggest you and the church to better help in this situation.

Again, thank you for your great concern for the Haitian people and may God keep blessing you, your family and the church.

Mathieu

18 Days After the Earthquake – Pastor Ciceron to FPCCS:

18 days after the earthquake, the life retakes very difficult. Many people still sleep out side on the public places, on the streets and in the yard under nice stars. There still be ruins and deaths under them bad smells, and the majority of the people don't find help of the Haitian Government and the international communities, specially the areas like Solino where access is difficult to vehicule.

The Education Ministere takes decision to open schools in other departments next Monday February the First and for Western Department, specially Port au Prince in an other date, may be on March.

A part of Ecole Mixte Rayon d'Espoir and the kitchen are destroyed, so, I have to make some preparation to receive the children. So, I Don't know what could do about, even I have project to make some actions at the Dominican Republic border in favor of repatriated children those one in difficulties as I already have land to do that, but I still like to help those one at Solino as you know, my financial means are very limited and difficult.

Anyway, I am waiting for your advice and what the church can do in this case. Please, write as soon as possible.

Many blessings to you, your family and the church.

Pastor Mathieu

January 22, 2010 – FPCCS to Pastor Ciceron:

Mathieu,

Wow, now I have a lot of questions.

I will request that people at my church and college collect the items you suggest, but I am concerned that shipping them might be too expensive. I will try to figure out the cost of shipping. If it is very expensive, is it better for you to have the money to buy what you need, or are the items not available for purchase and you truly need them shipped to you?

I would like to bring some people to volunteer to help. If you can give me a clear idea of what we can do to help, so I can best prepare a group to come. Do you need handy-people for construction and demolition work, people to feed the hungry, doctors to mend the injured, people to work on water lines or water filtration systems?

I want to make sure that we would not be taking away necessary food and water and shelter if we come too. I need you to assure me that we will be useful and that we will be able to get food and water for ourselves too. Several want to come and help, as soon as possible, but we do not want to be a burden on you and your community.

If you can use us as volunteers, perhaps a group of five to ten people, I can try to arrange a group to come down during the week of March 6 to 14. Otherwise, I will work on a group to come down June 28 to July 8. My goal there was to work with Carla Bluntschli, Ari, and Dja with DOABN, as well as with you. I am worried about the coordination of our efforts to do some good for Ayiti. Is it best to send people or to send the money that would have paid for their travels, so that you can buy more resources, pay staff, etc...?

I am sorry to ask you so many questions, because I know if I come all will be fine, but others wanting to come need some assurances. If we come through the Dominican Republic, will we have to rent a vehicle to take us to the border? How lightly should we travel? If we are bringing all these items your request we will be quite burdened on a long trip from the airport.

I am sorry to be full of so many questions, but I think we need to clarify some things to arrange for volunteers to come to you. Let me know what you think on these matters and we can keep dialoging about it until we come to a conclusion. Also, can you give me a description of where you are located? An address, or city or village you are near of in for instance?

January 22, 2010 – Pastor Ciceron to FPCCS:

I think also this happens the country (Haiti) for good that means to rebirth it. As you say, this is a very good idea to work with the children in difficulties and repatriated at the Dominica borders as I thought long ago but money keep me from doing that. I already have land to do whatever project to help the Haitian people and if need more lands, the government will give Fondation Rayon d'Espoir more. I would like to ask you and the church to collect food, clothes, shoes, medicines, money, etc. If you can ship them and Fondation Rayon d'Espoir (ONG) has exemption from the Haitian government and I will not pay the custom. You can send them to Dominican Republic and I will pick up them to Haiti to share to the needy people.

If the church wants to send volunteers to help, they may trip by Dominican and I will come for them and they will stay with me at the borders.

Thanks again

Mathieu

January 20, 2010 – FPCCS to Pastor Ciceron:

Mathieu,

Thank God. This is wonderful news to know that you and your family are OK. We do not know what to do to help, but we will pray and await some call to come and help with our muscles or love or whatever you need. Many are funneling their funds to Ayiti now to help FONKOZE, Beyond Borders, or the Red Cross to have the things Ayiti needs. Somehow I cannot bring myself to call it Haiti anymore. It seems like it should rebirth as its original Ayiti, but that is just my feeling about it I suppose. I do hope you learn of many survivors that attended your school. First Presbyterian Church includes you in their prayers constantly. Do not worry about the kitchen. We tried. We will try something else. Maybe this is your chance to develop that program on your land near the Dominican

Republic for repatriated children. That was always a good idea. I have been working with Keytone College faculty and students to come up with a creative fundraising program that will be ready to help Ayiti rebuild for a new life. "Out of the Ashes" is not that term one of your historic figures speaks of? It is music to me to know you are not killed. Be well. Help others as best you can. Let me know what can be done from Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.

January 19, 2010 – Pastor Ciceron to FPCCS:

I haven't word to describe this catastrophe (earthquake) but my family and I are alive miraculously but all that we have and the school are almost destroyed I don't know yet if there are children who are victim but the area is destroyed. I am coming to the Dominican Republic border to send this message because phone communication is not good.

I count on your prayers and share this message with church to say that my family and I are alive.

I am at Dominican border, with my family, because there is no condition to stay at Port au Prince for right now.

Pastor Mathieu

January 13, 2010 – FPCCS to Pastor Ciceron:

Mathieu,

Are you OK? Many people are asking me if I know if the people I know in Haiti are OK.

You are certainly one of my main people there. Any information you can get to me would be helpful. There seem to be many who want to help now.

Perhaps it takes an earthquake to get the help Haiti needs.