

## **News from Guerino St. Simon in Haiti: February 19, 2010**

Guerino St. Simon and his son Guersley just returned from a weeklong trip to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Guerino reports that the situation on the ground remains difficult. Aftershocks still spread fear among the people who continue living outside of their homes. Many sleep in the streets or in any open space that they can find.

Thanks to the strong international, mostly American, military presence, criminality is not posing a major problem. Politically, Haitian people are divided over the international military presence, but most accept it as a necessary, though temporary, evil.

Guerino came into contact with a man building good tents. Guerino used part of the Harvest relief money to purchase a number of from this man to distribute to those with the greatest need, e.g. some women who lost their husbands in the earthquake. Another amount of money was granted to families to purchase enough food to last them several weeks. The Harvest Haiti team is doing a good job of overseeing this distribution.

Guerino commented about the recent news that churches Haitian are overflowing with people. He confirmed the news, and asked us to pray that people will not just turn to God temporarily to save them from the current disaster, but will truly turn their lives over to God and be transformed in their own lives. Further, we need to pray for transformation to be evident in their families, their neighborhoods and in the nation as a whole.

Earlier this week, Protestant church leaders called everyone to three days of prayer and fasting for their nation. A main gathering took place in a large city-center park which overflowed with people worshipping and calling out to God. At the same time, churches opened their doors for worship and intercession, and were also full to overflowing.

Guerino plans to travel from Santo Domingo to Port-au-Prince next Wednesday. He will continue the work of distributing aid and bringing hope to his fellow Haitians.

Thank you for your interest, your gifts and your continued prayers on behalf of the people of Haiti.

- John Wood