



News Release: Update on Haiti and the EMCC Medical Team in Haiti

Dear EMCC Family,

By now most of you are aware that an EMCC medical team led by EMCC World Partners missionary, Marilyn M. is stranded in Haiti. The earthquake has leveled much of the capital city of Port-au-Prince and the very fragile infrastructure of the country has brought communication to a virtual stand still. Nevertheless, we are able to state that six of the seven of the team are safe and sheltered in the Canadian Embassy compound. One team member, Yvonne Martin, was in the guesthouse when it collapsed. Our sympathies and prayers go out to the Martin family in their bereavement. Yvonne is part of the Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church. She had served on a number of Haiti teams with Marilyn in the past.

CBC, CTV, Global, the National Post, to name a few, have been very active in seeking information concerning the team and so on. Virtually every member of the EMCC National Team has received multiple emails and phone calls from reporters. It has been very demanding dealing with this intense interest beyond the concern of the situation in Haiti. Executive Assistant Jean Winker, has been fielding calls non-stop and providing information to me and the team throughout.

Because we have had very little certain information we released a brief statement to the press that has been picked up by a number of news outlets. We did not want to release Yvonne Martin's name until we had clear confirmation and we had the consent of the family to do so.

Lou Geense, EMCC Director of Global Initiatives, is our designated point person in managing the Haiti situation. Lou Geense was in Haiti with Marilyn the week prior to the team's arrival. His flight back to Canada left Port-au-Prince just 90 minutes before the earthquake hit. Upon landing in Montreal the news of the disaster was everywhere. Since that time and with very little sleep, Lou has been working to piece together information and to make contact by phoning several numbers that might have been able to provide information. Marilyn R., also part of the team, has been able to text through to her husband, Bob. It was Marilyn who informed her husband of Yvonne's death once she arrived at the Embassy. Bob has also been very active assisting the Martin family and keeping us informed.

Kitchener MP Harold Albrecht and his office have been very helpful in doing what they can to secure and pass on information. It was through his office that we learned that the remaining team members were safe at the Embassy compound. Steps are being taken to evacuate the surviving members of the team as soon as possible and to transport Yvonne Martin's body back to Canada. Our thanks to MP Harold Albrecht and his office in these days.

As followers of the Lord Jesus, we take heart in the words that He uttered to Mary and Martha when their brother, Lazarus, died: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:25, 26). These are more than words to us who have surrendered our lives in service to the King. We have taken Him at His word that life does

not end at the grave. We have staked our lives on it. And so we live differently here and now. And we hope differently, believing that our lives count in the eternal order of things. And we avow the same confidence the apostle Paul did when he wrote, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38, 39). None of knows the time of our going, but we know the Master may call us home at any time and say the words, 'Well done. Enter into the joy of your Lord.' The Lord has called Yvonne Martin home ahead of us.

As we express our sympathy to the Martin family, we also express our thanks to the team for modelling the servant attitude that touches and blesses people's lives. I know that the entire team would agree that the earthquake that has taken one of their number must not distract us from the plight of the Haitian people. The reason the team was in Haiti was to serve others in His Name.

Our sorrow for the Martin family in their loss is mixed with the tears for the plight of the people of Haiti. Many have lost their lives. Many have lost loved ones. Many more are destitute. No one person or agency can fix it all. But let's do what we can. Let's make a difference.

Let me close by expressing thanks to those who have already indicated their active interest and support for the team, and for the Martin family, and for those who have already given to the Haiti Disaster Relief Fund.

Here are some things that I will ask you to do:

Pray:

for the safe return of the team led by Marilyn M.

for the Martin family in their bereavement

for Lou Geense as he coordinates our response

for the people of Haiti, for the many families in their bereavement

for our sister church in Haiti, and all God's people as they seek to respond to the needs around them

for our Haitian congregations in Canada and the larger Haitian community

for our government and the governments of other nations that the aid will be judicious and generous

for restraint of violence and looting

for the safety of workers

for weather conditions conducive to rescue efforts and for the cessation of aftershocks

for effective and efficient distribution of food and water and medical care

for the meeting of immediate needs

for generous response to appeals for funds and help

And pray that God will make His people responsive to when and how they are to be the answers to prayers prayed.

Lord, teach us how to respond. Have mercy upon us all. Amen.

Pastor Phil

His Mission -- Our Mission

To donate online please go to our website www.emcc.ca and use your VISA or MasterCard. **Cheques** should be made payable to EMCC, 130 Fergus Ave, Kitchener, ON N2A 2H2. Please indicate your donation is for ***Haiti Disaster Relief***.