



Evangelical Missionary Church  
of Canada HIS MISSION - OUR MISSION

## **Haiti Update: Hope in the Midst of Sorrow**

Dear EMCC Family,

The apostle Paul echoed the teaching of Jesus when he said, 'We do not sorrow as those who have no hope.' The many followers of Jesus amongst the Haitian people are living this truth out in the midst of great testing. The news outlets continue to provide an unending stream of commentary and images that demonstrate this 'hope in the midst of sorrow.' Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Medical Team and for your partnership in responding to the need in Haiti.

### **The Medical Team**

Marilyn McIlroy and the medical team arrived safely to their homes last Friday, January 17th. No doubt the media clips of the team are still fresh in your memory. We are proud of the way they handled intense media scrutiny. Huntley Street featured a couple of short segments of a longer interview with Marilyn. We will bring you a fuller telling of Marilyn's story in a later communication.

As you can appreciate the next days and weeks will be important for the Team in dealing with the post traumatic stress. Please pray for them as they meet with counselling specialists at Missionary Health Institute. Thanks to counselor Ron Hallman who has also made himself available to the team and to the Martin family.

### **The Yvonne Martin Funeral**

Yvonne Martin was a member of the EMCC medical team to Haiti. The others returned, but Yvonne perished. Yvonne's memorial service was held at Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church. The facility that probably seats 1,000 was packed. The volunteer team members who were with Yvonne in Haiti, plus others from previous teams to Haiti and a good contingent from the EMCC National team also attended. We are thankful for the strong sense of caring evident in Yvonne's home congregation for the family.

Yvonne embraced life fully, loved her family and friends and had a passionate desire to give of herself to help the unfortunate and needy of the world. She especially cared for the people of Haiti. It was a tribute that honoured the Lord Whom she loved and served. 'Blessed are they who die in the Lord'. Thank you, Lord, for each one who lives a life that brings glory to you and encourages us in the race not yet completed. Please continue to pray for Yvonne's husband Ron and their three sons and their families.

Our thanks to the Martin family for establishing the *Martin Memorial Haiti Fund* that will support EMCC's long term projects in Haiti.

### **Thanks for caring and contributing: How the funds will be used.**

Many have responded significantly to the need in Haiti. There is a great need and there will be no lack of good places to spend the donations. There is a generous outpouring at this point for Haiti for which we are thankful. There are many large agencies and governments that are in there right

now leading the charge. The logistics have been extremely difficult, but reports are that the flow of aid and relief is improving.

The monies raised by EMCC will be part of a joint response from member partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). It is estimated that there will be a need for food aid for more than six months for a minimum of three million people.

At the same time CFGB is assessing what the need will be for seed for the upcoming rainy (growing) season in March. These two efforts will be matched by the Canadian Government's offer to match funds at a one-to-one ratio. In order to qualify for the matching grants, the paperwork is considerable.

### **Can I go now?**

We have received many requests from people who wish to go to Haiti to become involved, either in rebuilding or in medical assistance. At present the need is emergency response. For example, the Canadian Forces response in Jacmel, Haiti is to use existing agencies working in that area.

Because we do not have a permanent staff in Haiti, it is logistically difficult for a smaller group such as ours to mesh with the large international government efforts. We are monitoring the efforts closely so that we can respond at the right time in the right way in a cooperative manner. EMCC is better positioned to deal with the second and third phases of the relief effort.

We will communicate the opportunities for involvement as they develop.

For medical personnel who are available to go right now, we recommend contacting larger organizations such as Mennonite Central Committee <http://mcc.org/> or World Relief Canada <http://www.wrcanada.org/>. These organizations have permanent staff in Haiti and the capacity to handle the logistics in the present situation.

(If your congregation has found a good way to deploy to Haiti please tell us.)

### **Fundraising Events**

We want to thank our family of churches that have raised \$49,500.00 already for the Haiti Disaster Relief.

Here is a list of some particular responses that we are aware of: East Edge and Centre Street Church in Calgary held a benefit concert on January 20<sup>th</sup> that featured Kelsey Plowman among others. Markham Church is holding a benefit concert on January 31<sup>st</sup> which will be an evening of music with the Honourable Ruth Anne Onley, wife of the Lieutenant Governor. The municipality of Callander, ON is donating funds to Haiti through EMCC. They were pleased to find out that our admin fee was a quarter to a half of what other agencies charge. The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Waterloo Chapter is holding a fundraising breakfast and will send the proceeds through EMCC.

May God bless all of you for your expressions of love for those who are suffering.

EMCC has been involved in Haiti for many years and continues to be committed to the work of the L'association Eglise Missionnaires – our sister church in Haiti. We have received word from one of our Pastors in Port au Prince. He has asked us to pray earnestly for the church and its mission to all Haitians in their area. Most church members are safe but they have nothing and are sleeping on the streets. He reports that aid activity is nearby, but to this point has not yet reached them.

**Thank you...**

When a crisis hits, the regular work goes on needing to be done as well as responding to the urgent demand. I want to say a special thanks to our entire team who have once again demonstrated a servant attitude in responding to the crisis in Haiti. It is amazing to work with people who care and show that in their everyday work. Thanks to Lou Geense, our Director of Global Initiatives, who has been coordinating our efforts – and the work is just beginning! Thanks to Andrew Epp, Pam Hicks, Jean Winker, Elsie Skorek who have been answering phones, responding to requests, tracking your donations and also praying for the needs. Thanks again to Marilyn and the team for their exemplary response to a devastatingly chaotic situation including the heart wrenching loss of Yvonne. Thanks to Sandra Tjart for giving extra care to Marilyn.

Thank you for your part in giving and helping and caring and praying.

Our thanks to God for the opportunity to be His hands and His feet in this present situation.



Phil Delsaut  
His Mission – Our Mission

**To donate online for disaster relief:** please go to our website [www.emcc.ca](http://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***.

**To donate online to the Martin Memorial Haiti Fund which will support EMCC's long term projects in Haiti:** please go to our website [www.emcc.ca](http://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 ***Martin Memorial Haiti Fund***.