



HBS Newsletter

Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti



Spring 2010

Haiti Earthquake

12 January 2010



Shortly before 5 PM, January 12, 2010 a major earthquake struck the capital of Haiti, Port au Prince and surrounding area causing major devastation. Seventy miles north, in Limbé, at Hôpital Bon Samaritain, the buildings shook and a violent rolling motion was experienced for close to a minute. About ten minutes later, an aftershock, though less powerful, repeated itself. Though the earthquakes were the hardest we have ever felt, we are thankful that the hospital buildings which were well built by Dr. William Hodges, sustained little or no damage.

It took less than a minute to plunge Haiti into the worst nightmare of recent history. Following a series of socio-political upheavals, foreign interventions and natural disasters,

no one believed that it could get worse. January 12, 2010 4:53 PM, will be etched forever in the memory of Haitians as the day their earth shook and in an instant life changed forever. Decades of life and work were extinguished in an instant.

Port au Prince, the capitol and seat of government has always been the center of all activities, economic and otherwise. Possessing the better schools, the larger businesses and possibility of jobs, Port au Prince has lured those with more means to resettle there. With an estimated 3 million persons living in Port au Prince prior to the earthquake, it is only to be expected that at least a third, about 1 million persons, will seek refuge back where they came from originally all over Haiti.



Though we can't resolve all the problems of Haiti everyone can be a part of rebuilding and reconstruction, helping in the areas where they already support. Please help out those institutions which are an integral part of Haiti. HBS needs help to rebuild its infrastructures, change failing equipment and improve the medical care that it provides the community.

HBS wants to thank all of you who have come together to keep the surgery and hospital operational throughout these last few crisis weeks. We thank all the surgeons, anesthetists, nurses, doctors, PAs, pilots, owners of aircraft and the contributors/donors, who behind the scenes, worked relentlessly to provide support, medical supplies, medicines and financial aid. We also thank our local staff for working overtime which without their cooperation and compassion, all this would not have been possible.

Please continue to send your much needed support during this difficult time to:

HBS Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1290
Lake Worth, FL 33460

Tel: (561) 775-0260
E-mail : hbsfl@bellsouth.net
Registration No: CH21155

For more detailed updates and pictures please visit our website at:

www.hbslimbe.org



Ariel

A few days after the major earthquake hit Port au Prince, room one of the surgery ward at HBS had been home to Ariel, an eight year old girl, who has had to endure more suffering than most of us could possibly imagine. She was trapped some 24 hours in the rubble of a fallen school building.

Tuesday 12 January 2010 had begun just as any ordinary day for Ariel who goes to school in the morning. Her father is an employee at the school she attends and had left her in the cafeteria that afternoon while he went back to work. When the shaking started some other people and her sought shelter under a table. A concrete wall came crashing down on the table seconds later crushing her left leg and her right arm. When her father was finally able to

pull her out from the debris she had severe burns in patches all over her body. Apparently hot oil from the nearby kitchen had spilled all over her.

Even though Ariel was one of the first earthquake victims to arrive at HBS, gangrene had already set in forcing the surgery team to make the life or death decision to amputate her left leg just below the knee. Sadly she is one of the many amputees in Haiti as a result of this terrible tragedy.



Madame Dupera



Madame Dupera was sitting on the front porch of her three story house with her 18 month old baby and 9 year old son when the earthquake hit. She heard a loud buzzing sound and then that's when everything started shaking, the ceiling and the blocks from the house came crashing down. All of a sudden they were encapsulated in complete darkness. Her baby was miraculously untouched but a wall had fallen on her 9 year old son fracturing his pelvis. He was crying for her to save him but a wall had fallen on her leg and left her pinned down. She found the lid of a pan nearby and started banging it screaming for help. Her two brother's in-law dug them out from under the rubble. There was no available hospital nearby, so being from Camp Coq, a town near Limbé, they traveled by bus to Hôpital Bon Samaritain for help.

Madam Dupera had a bad open tibia fracture of her right leg. The surgery team placed a metal rod with screws into her leg. Placing a rod directly into the bone is high risk for infection but the alternative would be amputation. However there is a special product made called bone cement which is used to fill the space between the implant and the surrounding bone, and is made up of various chemicals including antibiotic. We are very grateful for a very special donation of bone cement that was made by Zimmer Pharmaceuticals.

