



Who We Are

The Children's Medical Mission of Haiti is a 501© 3 organization committed to providing support for the delivery of medical and educational services to the people of Haiti through St. Vincent's Centre for Handicapped Children, Port-au-Prince, and Hopital Ste. Croix, Leogone. It also serves as an umbrella organization for related missions in Haiti and facilitates and organizes the Haiti Connection Conferences.

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Children's Medical Mission of Haiti

• St. Vincent's Centre for Handicapped Children • Holy Cross Hospital • The Haiti Connection

C M M H N E W S L E T T E R

J U N E 2 0 1 0

St. Vincent's Children and Staff Killed in Earthquake; Center Heavily Damaged

At least eight students and two staff members of St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children were killed when the 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Port-au-Prince on Jan. 12. Several buildings in the complex remained standing but sustained extensive damage. Thankfully, Pere Sadoni, center director, and many of the children escaped without serious injury.

Following the earthquake, Pere Sadoni and about 130 students made their way to the soccer field at College St. Pierre, an Episcopal high school, where a makeshift camp was set up for an estimated 3000 people.

The Rev. Bill Squire, CMMH board president, visited Port-au-Prince within days of the earthquake. He reported that debris from St. Vincent's littered the street and although some buildings were standing, they had irreparable damage. The Boy's Foyer, housing the boys' dormitories and clinic facilities, was also severely damaged.



A view of the medical clinic and classrooms of St. Vincent's in the Rue de St. Paul.

About two weeks after the earthquake, Pere Sadoni moved most of the children to the former Episcopal Seminary at Montrouis about 40 miles north of Port-au-Prince.

Although the boys salvaged a few pieces of clothing from their dorm, the girls fled with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Through a fortunate turn of events, Bill Squire got a shipment of needed supplies to Pere Sadoni who delivered six boxes of clothing, flashlights and batteries, towels, toiletries and games to the children at Montrouis.

About a month ago the children moved from small back-packing-type tents to larger two person tents that provide each child a separate sleeping area. The new tents were donated by the Red Cross of France.

As of mid-May the children moved back to Port-au-Prince and are living in an undamaged building next to the Boy's Foyer and a provisional structure next door. Classes have resumed, and are held out-of-doors in the school yard/space where the collapsed building



CMMH President Bill Squire and some of the children from St. Vincent's are seen on the soccer field behind College St. Pierre where they camped out following the earthquake.

used to stand.

Work continues on a temporary classroom structure as well as on remodeling a building for use as classrooms. The health clinic opened in early May with two doctors, one nurse, and one physical therapist.

Father Sadoni says he hopes to open the brace shop soon. The French army is demolishing the damaged structures at St. Vincent's. When they finish, a provisional structure will be built to house the materials and tools. Also, a security wall will be constructed around St. Vincent's to protect the buildings and the supplies in them.

UPDATES

For the latest news and information about St. Vincent's and Holy Cross Hospital please visit our website at www.cmmh.org

St. Vincent's to be Rebuilt at Current Location



Plans are underway to rebuild St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children and the Boy's Foyer on their present sites in Port-au-Prince.

In a meeting in late February, Bishop Zache Duracin informed CMMH president Bill Squire of his intention to keep St. Vincent's in Port-au-Prince to serve the large number of handicapped students who live at home and commute to the center. Bishop Duracin and a diocesan planning team are developing a master plan for the reconstruction or restoration of the

many diocesan institutions destroyed or damaged in the earthquake. The Bishop asked Bill Squire to serve as the coordinator of the groups interested in working on the restoration of St. Vincent's.

Work has begun to assess the extent of damage to the school complex. Debris in front of St. Vincent's has been mostly cleared, and an initial assessment of the structural damage of the buildings conducted. Engineers determined that the medical clinic building was beyond repair. The building

housing the brace shop, dental office, eye clinic, director's office, several classrooms and the guest area might be able to be restored but that has not been determined yet. Plans are to include the brace shop in the overall reconstruction plan for St. Vincent's.

Several buildings in the Boy's Foyer must be removed, but the main dormitory may be salvaged. Temporary structures have been built at this location for classrooms and a medical clinic.

Top: At the Montrouis camp, Bill and student Dieumene Claristin modeling a new dress.

Right: President Bill Squire with some of the children in their temporary camp at the former seminary at Montrouis, about 30 miles north of Port-au-Prince.



A view of Rue de St. Paul shortly after the earthquake. St. Vincent's is the blue building on the right about halfway down the block.



Top: A more recent view of the front of St. Vincent's.

Left: This temporary structure on the grounds of the Foyer serves as the offices of St. Vincent's. The building seen in the rear is being renovated to serve as temporary classrooms and later to be used as a medical clinic.

Holy Cross Hospital Damaged but Not Destroyed

Initial reports after the Jan. 12 earthquake on the condition of Holy Cross Hospital, Leogane, were dire--the hospital was gone. Upon closer inspection, however, it appears that although damaged the hospital is not a total loss.

In a recent interview, the Rev. John Talbird, president of the hospital's board of governors, said the older, one story section of the hospital was standing but was unsafe and must be demolished. Fortunately, the newer three story building was damaged, but is considered safe, he said. The eye clinic and the waiting area for the clinic were not damaged.

Other buildings in the Holy Cross Hospital complex were damaged or destroyed. The hospital guesthouse for visiting doctors and missionaries was a total loss as was the hospital apartment, the living quarters for John and Suzi Parker, guesthouse managers. The Parkers escaped serious injury, although John had to be rescued from the rubble of

the apartment. With no place to live, the Parkers have set up a residence on the second floor of the hospital, Talbird said. The couple are busy trying to re-establish the guesthouse for visiting doctors and are overseeing repairs to the hospital.

The residence of the hospital administrator was damaged, and the school was destroyed, Talbird said. The church will likely be demolished although the chapel is in good condition.

Across town, the FLIS Nursing School and the Filariasis/Gates House were not seriously damaged, but three nursing students were killed.

Immediately following the earthquake, Dr. Coles and Dr. Delience, who have been working at Holy Cross Hospital along with the Parkers, began treating injured people as best they could. They were joined the next day by the staff of the Children's Nutrition Program, which is housed at the hospital. Nurses from the nursing school also established an emergency clinic and began caring for the injured on the nursing

school site. "The nursing students did wonderful work at the school," Talbird said.

Today a mobile hospital operates on the grounds of Holy Cross and is staffed by Doctors Without Borders. The facility sees 300 to 400 people a day, Talbird said. Clinics set up in tents and in the Holy Cross chapel are providing tetanus vaccinations and pediatric care. Two Cuban doctors are working in these facilities along with Haitian doctors.

A smaller satellite hospital is operating at the nursing school and cares for about 100 to 200 patients a day. On March 5, Bishop Duracin blessed the new field hospital, which has patient beds, a maternity ward, a children's ward and a surgical unit.

The number of injuries being treated has decreased, and doctors are now seeing an increase in wound infections. "It's not that anything was done wrong," Talbird said, "it was just a lack of resources. Some broken bones were set with splints made of cardboard."

Late in January, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance approved a \$200,000 grant for Holy Cross Hospital and the Nursing School.

"The grant will be used to take down damaged parts of the hospital, reworking plumbing and electrical work for the remaining parts of the hospital on a temporary basis, doing repairs to re-open the hospital on an interim basis until we can reconstruct, and pay workers to do all this," Talbird said. "One of the first priorities is to rebuild the wall to secure the whole complex."

"Immediately following the earthquake, students from the nursing school established an emergency clinic and began caring for the injured."



A view of the damaged guest house at Hopital Ste Croix in Leogane.

Earthquake Destroys 85% of the Institutions of the Diocese

The extent of the destruction to the people of Haiti from a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on Jan. 12 may never be known. According to the United Nations, as many as 230,000 people may have been killed. More than 1.3 million people remain homeless.

Bishop Zache Duracin reports that 85 percent of the Diocese of Haiti institutions have been destroyed or severely damaged. The bishop reported that most of the diocese's churches were de-

stroyed and many schools were "heaps of stone." Holy Trinity Cathedral was destroyed as were the elementary, music and professional schools located in the complex. The Convent of the Sisters of St. Margaret in the cathedral complex was destroyed. College St. Pierre, an Episcopal high school, was destroyed but the school's soccer field has grown into a tent city for survivors, including the Bishop.



Haiti Episcopal University, in the background, collapsed. The older, wooden building housing the administrative offices remains standing.



College St. Pierre, the Episcopal High School, collapsed. Temporary classrooms have been constructed on the grounds, and some classes have resumed.



Holy Trinity Cathedral, seen here, along with Holy Trinity School, was completely destroyed.

How You Can Help

CMMH has provided a steady and reliable source of support for the Children at St. Vincent's Centre for Handicapped Children throughout the ordeal of the earthquake -- from a personal visit from our president, Bill Squire, four days after the earthquake, bringing supplies and cash, to on-going wires for food, clothing, health care, salaries for teachers, a generator, and the first phases of reconstruction.

We are now approaching the end of the recovery phase. Reconstruction is beginning. Initially, temporary structures have been built on the courtyard of the Foyer, and the diocesan-owned building next door is being renovated to house seven classrooms. Eventually, as rubble and damaged buildings are removed, reconstruction will begin on the main campus. The "new" St Vincent's, we believe, will be rebuilt better than ever.

Your support will be needed both for current operating expenses, but also for the larger, capital construction projects. All gifts, large and small, are welcome.

The Children's Medical Mission of Haiti is a 501(c)3 organization. Tax-deductible gifts, allowed to the fullest extent of the law, may be sent to:

The Children's Medical Mission of Haiti
925 Hertzler Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Please call Ken Quigley at (717) 796-1852 for information on making a planned gift for the benefit of St. Vincent's or Holy Cross Hospital, such as a charitable gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust, or a provision in your will. CMMH currently maintains endowment funds for St. Vincent's, Holy Cross Hospital, and area of greatest need.

Thank you for your generous support during this period of unprecedented crisis. Now comes the longer phase of restoration and reconstruction. Please remember the children of St. Vincent's and the people of Haiti.