



New Jersey District LCMS
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Earthquake Relief Desperately Needed

News & giving opportunities from the LCMS regarding the Haitian earthquake

Following is an update from LCMS World Relief & Human Care regarding Monday's devastating earthquake in Haiti.

Please prayerfully consider how you might contribute to the healing and rebuilding of the areas hit hardest by this disaster.

Monetary donations to the relief efforts may be made online at the [LCMS World Relief & Human Care website](#).

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Pray for Haitians affected by earthquake, LCMS missionary family

"Please pray for the immediate assistance and ongoing recovery of the Haitian people," asks Dr. Thomas Zehnder, LCMS World Mission executive director, "as well as for the continued safety of our missionary family there and our Haitian Lutheran brothers and sisters. Pray that people would not despair in this very difficult situation, but that God would use it for His purposes. Ask God to mightily use the Lutheran churches there as instruments of love to reach out to

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod responds to Haitian earthquake

Initial emergency grant on its way

ST. LOUIS, January 13, 2010 - As news of what is being called the largest earthquake to hit Haiti in more than 200 years reached The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) Tuesday, the church body began preparing to reach out to the Caribbean nation with assistance, working in cooperation with its Lutheran partners on the ground in that country.

Only hours after getting reports of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake, the Synod's mercy arm, LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC), announced it was making an initial grant of tens of thousands of dollars available to meet emergency needs. The Synod has asked its members to share Christ's mercy with suffering Haitians and to assist WR-HC in what will be an ongoing effort to help those who have lost loved ones, homes, possessions, and means of work.

"The unfolding drama in Haiti calls for unlimited mercy on the part of the people of the LCMS," said Rev. Glenn F. Merritt, LCMS WR-HC director of disaster response. "The needs are urgent and overwhelming right now. I appeal to God's people to respond as generously as possible during this most difficult time."

Early reports indicate many lives lost, extensive property damage, and terrible suffering among people trapped in collapsed buildings in a country

those suffering around them."

Read more online at the [LCMS World Mission Blog](#).



A prayer for the afflicted and distressed

Lutheran Worship, p.126

Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to you graciously come before you, so that in all their necessities they may mark and receive your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

already challenged by longtime political strife and poverty. Rev. Matthew Harrison, LCMS WR-HC executive director reflected, "God's timing is never our own. Now is the time to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ in Haiti, like never before."

Gifts to support Haitian disaster response may be made online at the LCMS World Relief and Human Care website.

LCMS WR-HC is working cooperatively with LCMS World Mission, the Synod's global Gospel outreach ministry, to assess the needs in Haiti and provide relief in timely fashion. LCMS officials are in close contact with LCMS missionaries in Haiti as well as The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, which has been a partner church of the Missouri Synod since 2001.

In addition to an LCMS World Mission GEO (Globally Engaged in Outreach) missionary and family stationed in Haiti, there are at least three short-term mission teams in the country from LCMS congregations and mission organizations in Nebraska, New York, and Wisconsin. The missionary family and these teams are all confirmed safe.

The earthquake came just as the LCMS is preparing to send a special medical team to Haiti in March. Before the earthquake on Monday, LCMS Life and Health Ministries Director Maggie Karner sent an appeal to pastors and congregations asking for physicians, pharmacists, and other medical professionals to volunteer for the team that is scheduled to serve in Haiti March 11-21. "This tragedy is certain to highlight the desperate need in Haiti. We ask our members to prayerfully consider how they can use their gifts and talents to help," Karner said.

Get the latest information about LCMS relief efforts [online at the LCMS World Relief and Human Care website](#).



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