



January 12, 2011

Helping Our Neighbors in Need for 28 Years

Reflections on the Past Year



Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, DDS, MPH
— Founder and President, HHF

[Click here](#) to view the latest video message from Dr. Lowney.

For More Information

We continue to update our Web site with information relating to earthquake relief. Please [click here](#) to access HHF's home page. Be sure to check out the [News & Events](#) page to see all of the recent updates and information.

Dear HHF Supporter:

January 12, 2011

Today we observe the one-year anniversary of the earthquake that struck Port-au-Prince, killing a quarter of a million people, wounding hundreds of thousands more, and leaving the city devastated.

I was in Haiti last month and am sad to report that it doesn't appear that much has improved in Port-au-Prince. I saw very little rebuilding and many of the buildings are still collapsed in place, as if the earthquake happened just yesterday. We drove past miles and miles of tent camps, with poor sanitation, poor security, and very little hope for change.



One of thousands of tent cities in and around Port-au-Prince in December, 2010.

The Difference in Jérémie

But we *are* seeing change in southwest Haiti, HHF's catchment area. It's difficult to believe that it's been a year since wave after wave of displaced people fled the horrors of Port-au-Prince, seeking shelter in our region.

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Sister Maryann Berard, OSF, speaks with a wheelchair-bound earthquake survivor in February.

At least 120,000 people came to the Grand'Anse, and I'm pleased to report that the Haitian Health Foundation has been able to better the lives of those who sought our care. Please [click here](#) for more detailed information on our comprehensive response.

More Challenges in 2010

In addition to the earthquake in January, this past November, Hurricane Tomas devastated many of the

mango, banana, and breadfruit crops in our area, leaving subsistence farmers with even less than before to feed their families.

As if these two events weren't enough, by mid-November the cholera epidemic had spread to the Grand'Anse and the Jérémie area. Our health staff has been very busy educating, preventing, and treating this deadly disease.

We are fortunate that many generous individuals, foundations, and religious and civic groups have continued to step forward with a spirit of benevolence to assist our work in Haiti—among them Catholic Relief Services, USAID, AmeriCares, Brother's Brother Foundation, Cross International, and UNICEF. It's difficult to name them all, but many reached out, providing food and other much-needed items, including medication and homebuilding materials.

Your generosity is allowing us to see progress in Jérémie.

Now, the Fight Against Cholera

Even as we continue our earthquake response, the cholera epidemic has struck our area hard—but we are making headway. HHF's health workers have been essential in our fight against cholera, educating the rural villagers about proper sanitation, hygiene, and water purification, as well as distributing and dispensing oral rehydration solution and antibiotics to fight cholera in the various villages.



HHF's cholera prevention and treatment kit, distributed to thousands of people, includes Clorox for water purification (right) and oral rehydration mix (left) for immediate treatment upon the first signs of cholera.

While no one knows how long this epidemic will plague the people of Haiti, we are optimistic that our efforts in Jérémie and the surrounding villages will minimize the mortality rate in our area.

We pray that 2011 will be a better year for our Haitian neighbors, who have lived so long in misery. Because of the generosity of so many good people, the Haitian Health Foundation stands ready to be of service whenever emergency presents itself.

I thank everyone who has joined hands with us to bring care, compassion, and hope for a better future to the people of Haiti.

Jeremiah Lowney, DDS, MPH
Founder and President, HHF

P.S. As we enter 2011, I'm proud that for the fourth straight year we have been awarded the highest [4-Star rating by Charity Navigator](#), America's premier independent charity evaluator.



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