


# LOTT CAREY Herald

Published by the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention

Summer 2011

## Helping **HAITI** Rise Again: **One Year Later**



Lott Carey 



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Cover photo: Haitians like this woman are slowly moving into permanent homes.



# Collaboration focuses on Haiti reconstruction over last year and expands its commitments

Tremendous recovery has taken place in the year since Haiti was stunned by the devastating 2010 earthquake that struck the nation.

In downtown Port-au-Prince most of the rubble is gone from the streets, which last year were littered with concrete and steel. And the roads to other parts of the island—particularly along the western leg, which was hit hardest—are fairly clear of earthquake debris.

Most striking is the decreased number of tents and makeshift shelters that were scattered on every available piece of land in the months after the 7.0-magnitude quake, which hit on Jan. 12, 2010.

Haiti is being renewed and its people are rising again.

Contributing to that recovery has been the massive support pledged and undertaken by five of America's largest historic African-American Baptist organizations, which united to aid Haiti.

The Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention; National Baptist Convention, USA; National Missionary Baptist Convention of America; National Baptist Convention of America, and the Progressive National Baptist Convention all joined forces under the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration (AABMC) to pledge \$50 million to assist the Caribbean nation.

Immediately plans got under



**Building transitional shelters and homes has been a major part of reconstruction.**

way to fulfill the group's promise to provide 5,000 homes for the homeless, 500 reconstructed churches, 50 schools, and five health care clinics.

"The collaboration understood the immediate need to respond to our brothers and sisters in Haiti and wasted no time partnering with local and international organizations to facilitate change," said Rev. Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, executive secretary-treasurer of Lott Carey, AABMC program director, and a member of the AABMC coordinating team.

"We are pleased with the progress that has taken place in the last year, particularly in terms of moving people into transitional shelters and permanent homes, and are committed to long-term

action to help Haiti rise again."

Along with reconstruction work, the collaboration is engaged in efforts to strengthen Haiti's agricultural sector and to support fair and humane immigration policies. Those, too, are priorities, and expanded partnerships are developing with members of the Haitian Diaspora and other African-American Christians to advocate in these areas.

"The collaboration will continue to evolve and bring others on board who are equally committed to pulling together for the sake of Haiti," Goatley said. "Through our shared efforts, and by listening to and empowering Haitians themselves, we will bring sustainable change to the nation." ■



# Transitional shelters, permanent development a priority in the



## One year later many Haitians are still living in shelters and tents.

In the days following the massive earthquake that hit Haiti a year ago, Joseph Pradel Leger and his family lived under trees and the sky. Their home had been destroyed, so open land was their resting place.

Little by little Leger built a tin shelter, but it was hardly sufficient for his family of four. He knew of Habitat for Humanity International, which has worked with Haitians in the republic for years, and applied to receive one of the transitional shelters being erected by the organization. Habitat is being joined in Cabaret, where Leger lives, by the African-American Baptist Mission

Collaboration (AABMC), and together they are enabling families there to benefit from transitional shelters.

In May Leger, his wife, and their two children moved into a sturdy transitional shelter built next to the tin structure the family had called home for so many months. It was a witness to what can happen when individuals and groups with a shared commitment come together to facilitate change. Leger, a farmer, wants to eventually return to a permanent structure, but for now he said he is pleased and has a renewed hope for his country.

That hope seems to be

universal among most Haitians now one year out from the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake that damaged some 190,000 homes and left more than 1.5 million residents without shelter. Moving people from makeshift structures and tents has been a priority this last year as the nation and scores of aid groups have been working diligently.

The partnership between Habitat and the AABMC also is providing permanent homes in Leogane, the earthquake's epicenter, and has been central to the recovery effort. In fact, the AABMC, which represents more than 10 million Christians and 40,000 churches in the United States, continues to seek partners to assist with its pledge to build 5,000 homes for victims of the quake.

"Helping Haitians move into more stable shelters and permanent housing requires diligence and the ability to work hand in hand with others, and first and foremost Haitians," said Kathi Reid, AABMC program manager. "The AABMC is committed to developing healthy partnerships that ultimately empower Haitians to restore their nation."

Grace International Inc. is one Haitian-run organization with a long history of work in the nation, including assistance now with earthquake recovery. In the year since the quake the Christian-



# Permanent homes, community year since quake and beyond



**Joseph Pradel Leger and his wife now live in a transitional shelter built by Habitat and the AABMC.**

centered nonprofit has been working in the area of community development and homebuilding.

Operated since 1974, Grace International is a mainstay in Haiti, facilitating such things as health care, education, and spiritual guidance. After the devastating earthquake, when more than 25,000 people poured into Grace compounds, resettlement was added to the organization's priority list.

Partnering with the Americus, Ga.-based Fuller Center for Housing, which was already working in Haiti with the AABMC's Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, Grace International is creating small, sustainable community development for Haitians.

"We build communities as

opposed to homes," said Jonny Jeune, Grace's program manager. Governed by the tax-paying residents, Grace's communities are culturally appropriate developments meant to empower the people, he said.

"Getting it right is so important," said Jeune, the son of Grace International's founders. "We want to transform our people."

At one recent dedication ceremony, the Grace International-Fuller Center partnership presented two families with the keys to new homes in a community under construction. Labor from the homeowners, volunteers from the United States, and others went into the making of the side-by-side houses.

"This is truly a partnership of many hands," said Ryan Iafigliola, director of international field operations for the Fuller Center. "I hope today is a joyful day, and that you'll let us share in your joy." ■

**The Leger's new transitional shelter is next to the makeshift shelter they built after the quake.**





## Earthquake recovery work provides H



With unemployment in the Republic of Haiti above 70 percent, putting people to work is paramount for the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Yet statistics hardly compare to what you see traveling Haiti's city streets and rutted country roads, where scores of residents wander aimlessly without work or try desperately to sell the most meager goods. Farming has traditionally been an income generator for Haitians. But with more than 1.5 million homeless from the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake

**Rose Cajuste has a job working at Habitat for Humanity's fabrication unit in Cabaret.**

and more than 3 million affected in total, farming has been difficult for many.

With that as the backdrop, employing Haitians as part of the earthquake recovery process has been a major focus of aid groups and faith-based organizations in the last year.

The African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration (AABMC), consisting of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention; the National Baptist Convention, USA; the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America;

the National Baptist Convention of America, and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, has especially been committed to empowering Haitians to renew their country.

That has meant utilizing pre-earthquake partnerships already in place, such as the one between Lott Carey and L'Union Strategique des Eglises Baptistes d'Haiti (the Strategic Union of Baptist Churches of Haiti), and developing new ones.

The result: employed Haitians. After the quake single



# Haitians with much-needed employment

mother Rose Cajuste landed a job with Habitat for Humanity International, which is partnering with the AABMC to build transitional shelters and permanent homes. Working in Habitat's fabrication unit in Cabaret, where the components for homes are assembled, the 25-year-old Haitian receives a steady income and the ability to impact her community.

The same is true for Maurice Saint-Lot, a Habitat warehouse assistant. He was repairing and programming cell phones before he starting working for the homebuilding organization in April 2010, after the quake, and today he says life is good. "It's much better now than it was before I started working here," the 38-year-old said.

Empowering Haitians via jobs also is a priority for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), another faith-based organization working in the country. CBF's efforts include partnering with the members of L'Eglise Temple Baptiste in Grand Goave to rebuild its school, which was destroyed in the quake. All of the workers are church members who are employed full time, said Michael Harwood, a CBF Haiti disaster response field coordinator.

In this town if one person in the family has a job "they all are glad," said Ybsens Clark Pascal, administrator of the

church school. That one person can support perhaps 10 to 15 people, he said.

Ultimately job creation will need to be a long-term priority of the Haitian government and the assorted nongovernmental organizations working in the nation. AABMC officials understand this need, and renew their pledge in order to facilitate change.

"There is a long road of recovery ahead for the people of Haiti, and dealing with the country's unemployment is central to that process," said President Stephen J. Thurston of the National Baptist Convention of America. He also is a member of the AABMC governance team.

Lott Carey President Robert G. Murray agrees. Murray, a fellow member of the AABMC



**With few jobs available, Haitians make a living the best way they can.**

governance team, said, "The AABMC will continue to be in solidarity with its brothers and sisters in Haiti toward the goal of helping them rise again." ■

## **Employing Haitians is critical given the high unemployment rate.**







**New houses are slowly going up for those left homeless.**



**Life goes on in Haiti amid remnants of the earthquake.**

*Recovery is happening,  
but a long*



**Even Haiti's youth take part in recovery work.**



**Ever-resilient Haitians make do the best way they can.**





Available clean water is a major issue in Haiti.



Haitians have been put to work as a result of the reconstruction process.

*road is still ahead*



Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, struggles with basics like paved roads and trash removal.



# Cholera a major threat to Haitians one year after the quake



**Water purification tablets and oral rehydration medicine are being used during the cholera outbreak in Haiti.**

Shock and awe struck the world as news spread of the devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake that ravaged Haiti one year ago, but very little information has gotten out about the suffering the country is enduring because of cholera.

“Cholera is still with us and ravaging some of the places in this country,” Rev. Marc A. Pierre-Louis, president of L’Union Strategique des Eglises Baptistes d’Haiti (the Strategic Union of Baptist Churches of Haiti), said in May 2011.

“It won’t easily leave this place,” said Pastor Louis Elange, secretary of the Strategic Union.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a cholera outbreak was confirmed in Haiti on Oct. 21, 2010—nine months after the earthquake. The acute, diarrheal illness is caused when the intestine is infected with the bacterium *Vibrio*

cholerae, and can be contracted by drinking water or eating food contaminated with the cholera bacterium.

In May the Haitian Ministry of Public Health reported an upsurge in cholera cases and deaths in some part of the country, and by mid-June there had been 344,623 cases and 5,397 deaths. The Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, a part of the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration, has helped

provide various materials to fight the illness during the last year.

Oral rehydration medicine, water purification tablets, and soap are among the items that were distributed to church and community members, said Pierre-Louis, whose organization consists of 22 churches and has a long-standing connection to Lott Carey. Hygiene education on such things as how to properly wash your hands and use the bathroom also has been a major emphasis, he said.

“These are preventative measures to help people not to get cholera,” Pierre-Louis said.

“Cholera is one of those diseases that you constantly have to be educating the people about,” Elange said.

At the same time, however, the Strategic Union emphasized the ongoing need—and supplies have been running low. “Our stock is pretty much finished,” Pierre-Louis said. Yet, “cholera is still with us.” ■

**Soap, a good tool for preventing cholera, has been distributed to Haitians.**





# Haitians now hungry for Christ need spiritual and emotional care

By all accounts Haiti's Christian churches across denominations have seen a blossoming of their memberships and an increase in people recommitting themselves to God since last year's earthquake.

"We have had a lot of people since Jan. 12 converted to Christianity," said Rev. Francois Murat, an African Methodist Episcopal pastor serving in Cabaret. "They have started to see their commitment to Christ more seriously and live their lives accordingly."

Yet along with that influx is the increased need for spiritual care, which has been challenging for churches. Many churches had meager resources even before the quake and are dealing with recovery themselves, seeking to rebuild demolished sanctuaries and church schools. Nevertheless, the message of God's everlasting love and grace is still being proclaimed, church leaders say, but help is needed to continue doing what is required.

The first thing that many church leaders have done is to seek the grace of God through prayer, said Rev. Jean Joel Maurice, AME presiding elder and pastor of John Hurst AME Church in Gressier. Then they have determined the needs of the people and how those needs can be met, he said.

Increased home visitations, social activities within the church,

Bible study, and other efforts have been implemented since the quake, and a particular emphasis has been given to emotional care.

One of the needs that have been most overlooked is the need for post-traumatic care, said Elvire Douglas, co-chair of the AME earthquake recovery steering committee. "I notice even at the church people getting upset for nothing; they have become aggressive, and even the children . . . I find that we don't see their

smile.

"For me it's an indicator that the post-traumatic sector has not really been taken care of," she said.

Maurice said the roles of pastors there include seeking out the "proper professionals" who can help parishioners and others who are struggling, plus giving people "a source of comfort in knowing the grace, love, providence, and faithfulness of God." ■

**Haitians who are now pouring into churches need spiritual and emotional care.**





# Haiti's youth, young adults find



**Young adults like these students are who the Haiti Baptist Convention is trying to reach.**

Grief from Haiti's tragic earthquake one year ago hit hard, and the country's young people were not spared the heartache.

"After the earthquake the youth in Haiti were traumatized," said Pastor Henri Claude Telusma, general secretary of the youth association for the Haiti Baptist Convention. They, too, saw and felt the deaths and devastation of Jan. 12, 2010, he said.

Yet healing is taking place, and with the help of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention—a member of the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration—Haiti's youth and young adults are recovering.

A major piece of that recovery is the result of a youth camp held by the Haiti Baptist Convention with funding from Lott Carey. Most of the roughly 450 young people attending were from the southern part of the country, which was hardest hit by the quake. The camp was held at Universite Chretienne du Nord d'Haiti (North Haiti Christian University) in Limbe.

The university, situated on a large, wooded campus, is a private, Christian four-year institution offering a core program of general studies plus four majors—agriculture, theology, business and computer science, and fine arts and Christian leadership. The university is a member of the Haiti Baptist Convention, among



# healing with help from Baptists

other organizations.

Divided into small groups, youth camp participants reflected on the theme of reconstruction and what it means for Haiti's youth to get up and rebuild, Telusma said. The time also was spent in recreational activities, including sports and drama, he said.

"After the camp we had an 'evolution,'" said Telusma, a professor of pastoral ethics at the university. "Such activity helped them recover from their grief."

More youth camps are planned if funding is available. Other possible themes include leadership development and environmental care.

Helping Haiti's youth to rise again is so significant, said Rev. Joel Dorsinville, coordinator for disaster relief for the Haiti Baptist Convention and a professor at the university. He said the nation needs the energy and spirit of its young adults, and they must be enabled to thrive. ■

*"After the camp we had an 'evolution.' Such activity helped them recover from their grief."*

— Pastor Henri Claude Telusma,  
a professor of pastoral ethics at the university.

**Haiti's youth and young adults were affected greatly by the quake.**





## AABMC partners with members of Ha



**This statue of Christophe Henri, King Henri I of Haiti, is located at Champs de Mars in Port-au-Prince.**

Many Haitians and people of Haitian descent live outside the Caribbean nation, and the energy and knowledge of a significant number of them are being used to address issues that plague the country.

Among those working to aid the republic is the Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti, an Illinois-based nonprofit group committed to mobilizing Haitians in the Diaspora in order to help develop the nation. The Haitian Diaspora is currently partnering with the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration (AABMC) and other faith leaders to advocate for Haitians on several key issues.

In March the Haitian Diaspora and the AABMC came together for a Summit on Advocacy for Haiti, and a number of goals were outlined during the gathering.

The Summit delegation's mission statement: to build an advocacy movement among the Haitian Diaspora and African American Christians to influence significantly policies and legislative agendas of the United States towards Haiti in various areas.

The AABMC and Haitian Diaspora have committed to three areas of focus: transparency, accountability and inclusion in reconstruction; self-sufficiency in the agriculture sector; and fair immigration policies.

At the conclusion of that



# Haitian diaspora to advocate for change

meeting, “it was a new day; it was a new beginning,” said Aline Lauture, executive director of the Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti. “Doors are opening and we are so, so grateful for the Collaboration.”

Members of the Congress, as well as representatives from the AABMC, continue to work on the ground in Washington, D.C., and in Haiti, gathering information and championing the cause of recovery and restabilization for Haiti, which suffered from numerous problems before the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake.

“Haiti’s history is so rich. . .

Haiti broke the chains of slavery for all black people,” said Lauture. “The people got up and said, ‘We can’t suffer anymore; we refuse to suffer the indignation and the tortures.’ So we set a precedent; we laid the groundwork for black people to feel a sense of freedom, a sense of liberation.”

Now, she says, those outside Haiti can honor that precedent by contributing to recovery efforts. The country needs people “to build, to teach, to provide medical services,” and to ultimately empower Haitians to liberate themselves, Lauture said. ■

## Learn more

For more information on the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration, go to [www.aabmc.org](http://www.aabmc.org). To contact Kathi Reid, program manager, email [kreid@aabmc.org](mailto:kreid@aabmc.org); or for general inquiries, email [info@aabmc.org](mailto:info@aabmc.org).



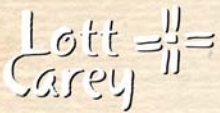
**African American  
Baptist Mission  
Collaboration**

*Laborers together for Christ*

**La Citadelle La Ferriere, a legacy of King Henri I of Haiti, sits atop a mountain near Cap-Haitien.**







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