



ASLAN Youth Ministries

P.O. Box 270 Red Bank, NJ 07701 www.aslanyouth.org



Changing the world, one child at a time...

January/February 2010

Thank you for supporting us in 2009

Happy New Year to you all! If 2009 for you was anything like it was for us at Aslan, I'm sure you're glad to turn the page of time and look forward to a better year in 2010! The Great Recession of 2009 took its toll on everyone, and Aslan is no exception. To continue serving the children we work with in New Jersey and in Haiti we've made a lot of changes. We remain hopeful that God will use this time of pruning to grow the ministry!

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Aslan in New Jersey

After our tutoring program the other night I received a phone call from Lynn Ann. She was stranded on the side of the road in a not-so-nice section of Asbury Park and needed assistance. When I finally arrived with a can of gas I discovered Lynn Ann's car, but no Lynn Ann! Getting a little nervous, I tried her on her cell phone. When I got her on the phone, Lynn Ann was so excited I could hardly understand what she was saying. All

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Aslan in Haiti

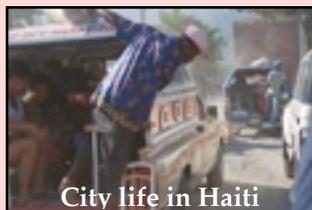
On January 12, the city of Port-au-Prince and its surrounding neighborhoods were rocked by a devastating earthquake. Tens of thousands perished and tens of thousands more are still reeling from the devastation. Craig, Aslan's founder and Executive Director, left for Haiti on Tuesday, January 19, to take stock of the situation in Ouanaminthe. Below is a letter from Haiti he posted on his blog.

See [Latest News From Haiti](#) below

Latest News From Haiti

Greetings Everyone,

On Wednesday, several friends and I set out for Fort Liberte, a city about 10 miles from Ouanaminthe. Luberto Velez, my good friend from Puerto Rico who is designing Aslan's clinic/hospital, orphanage and mission training school, arranged a meeting with the mayor of Fort Liberte to talk with him about bringing groups of doctors to help with the earthquake victims. As I suspected, the reverberations from the earthquake are already spreading throughout the country. We went to the hospital in Fort Liberte to see how we might help. The mayor and hospital administrator quickly agreed to help us in every way possible. They suggested that we transport earthquake casualties brought from Port-au-Prince to Cap-Haitien directly to Fort Liberte. Cap-Haitien is a city of over 250,000, whereas Fort Liberte is a relatively quiet city of perhaps 25,000. There are already a few earthquake victims in the hospital of this



City life in Haiti

smaller town, and there are many in Cap-Haitien. We toured the hospital and then visited a nearby hotel where the doctors and nurses will stay when they come to help.

We jumped back into the small pickup truck and immediately headed for Cap-Haitien. The picture below left tells the story of city life in Haiti. The roads are bad on a good day, and when it rains they can easily become impassable. The narrow, labyrinthine streets are a maze that only the best drivers can navigate and are an example of why it is so difficult to get aid to those in need in Port-au-Prince.

Visiting the hospital in Cap-Haitien was not for the faint of heart. We saw row upon row of beds with earthquake victims ~ some with amputated limbs and others with with horrible compound fractures. One man pictured below had managed to dig himself out of the rubble of his home in Port-au-Prince and then crawl and limp to somewhere along the outskirts of this huge, destroyed city.

Miraculously, he found a tap-tap to take him 150 miles north to Cap-Haitien to the hospital. All of this he did on his own, except for actually driving himself to the hospital. As we walked through wards, flies were everywhere and the stench of urine was strong. The patients



Man resting after arduous journey from Port-au-Prince

and any family members who had escaped with them sat in silence, obviously still in shock from what had happened to them. David Perez, a doctor and friend of Luberto's, examined X-rays and collected valuable information regarding the kind of

physicians that will be most helpful.

From Cap, we traveled 10 - 15 miles on a horrible dirt road to Milot. What we saw there was both encouraging and discouraging. There is a wonderful hospital in Milot, administrated by a wonderful Haitian doctor and staffed with Haitian directors and other doctors from around the world. You sensed immediately that the care given to

Haiti *cont'd*

the patients was extremely good; but you also sensed that the doctors were overwhelmed by the needs. The administrator, Dr. Preval, met with us for a short time and explained that they had already received 160 earthquake victims that had been medivaced by helicopter from Port-au-Prince. We walked across the street to a school that was filled with patients. It was shocking to see scores of people laying on hard school desks that were being used as beds. One school room was set up with a hastily penned sign "Triage" taped to the outside wall.

We arrived back in Ouanaminthe about 7 pm, totally exhausted from the grueling day. What we had seen was nothing in comparison with the pictures you see coming out of Port-au-Prince; but it was still awful in every way. Particularly disheartening were the two teenagers we saw who had both lost their legs. There is so much more to write, but it must wait.

We need doctors and nurses to come here and help. Even if they can only assist for a few days, they will be able to save lives that may otherwise be lost. In particular, orthopedic surgeons are desperately needed. Dr. Perez explained that the

innumerable compound fractures we saw need to be set properly with pins to hold the bones together so they will heal properly. This picture below is an X-ray of a young boy laying in the hospital in Cap with his leg held toward the ceiling in traction. He is hoping against hope that someone will come to help. If you know doctors and nurses who would be willing to come here, please contact me by email immediately. Traveling through



X-Ray of young boy's leg

Santiago, D.R., we can have any medical personnel from JFK to Fort Liberte in 8 hours or less ~ with paved roads from Santiago to Fort Liberte! The need is overwhelming, and the time to act is now. What we saw is only the first wave of earthquake

victims to be brought north. There will undoubtedly be thousands over the coming weeks and months.

Please, please send this to any and everyone that you know. And please keep these suffering people in your prayers. I'll write again as soon as I can get to an internet signal.

Craig

Change *cont'd*

In light of the difficult economy, Aslan made several changes we believe will strengthen us for the future. Thankfully, as a result of your continued support, these changes will *not* impact our programs.

In order to cut costs, we've made two major changes. First, we moved Aslan's offices to Tower Hill Presbyterian Church. Tower Hill's generous offer to house Aslan dramatically lowers our overhead costs and means more of your dollars will go directly to changing the lives of the kids.

The second change involved restructuring our staff. Unfortunately, this included letting go of our long-serving Mentor-Tutoring Director and dear friend, Claudia. After 15 years of being blessed by her dedicated service, this was not an easy decision. In spite of this terrible loss, we are committed to doing whatever it takes to continue serving the Aslan children!

The above changes, combined with your continued support, means that Aslan will press forward, seeking God's plan for His kingdom in New Jersey, Haiti, and around the world!

New Jersey *cont'd*

I could make out was that she'd meet me by her car and that she had someone with her she wanted me to meet.

As she walked up to me, Lynn Ann's face was beaming! Next to her was a middle-aged man who had the same happy expression dancing across his face that Lynn Ann had. She explained to me that this man, Vo, had played basketball on Aslan's team 28 years ago in our Red Bank Aslan program.

Once he got going, Vo couldn't stop talking about all the wonderful memories he had from his three years in Aslan's programs. He explained that Aslan provided the support and guidance he needed at a critical time in his life. It kept him off the streets and focused his life on the importance of God.

One memory he recalled captures the essence of what Aslan is all about. As Vo recalled it, during one of Aslan's basketball games, his friend Lee took a nasty spill. Everyone gathered around to see what was wrong. Craig came over, leaned over Lee and prayed for him. Vo couldn't recall what the prayer was about, but he said in that instant he knew Craig was the "real deal."

I wish Vo could recall what Craig prayed, but I guess in the end, what he prayed wasn't as important as the fact that he actually prayed. You see, by praying in front everyone that day, Craig was making himself vulnerable before each of those kids. It was because of that vulnerability that Vo was able to recognize the presence of Jesus in Craig's life, what he called the "real deal."

Today, in the same vein of Craig's vulnerability 28 years ago, we continue to try and make ourselves vulnerable with the Aslan kids. We continue to try and bear witness to the "real deal."

**ASLAN
Youth Ministries**

Come visit us at our new office in Tower Hill:

255 Harding Road
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Please send any donations to:

Aslan
PO Box 270
Red Bank, NJ 07701

or donate online through our secure PayPal account at www.aslanyouth.org