

Haitian Project News

Charism Holds Us Together



Louverture Cleary School Volunteers & Staff leading the students through the catastrophe

“On Tuesday, in my first conversation with Patrick Brun [THP Board Chair in Haiti] after the earthquake, he said he does not know how he is keeping it together. Last night, two days going on three, after the shock, Patrick Brun felt it was the Charism of The Haitian Project and the Holy Spirit making it possible and enabling us to do much more than keep it together,” said THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan.

Brun is working closely with the Red Cross to establish a relief center at his hardware store, Batimat, in Port au Prince. Since the summer, Brun has been distributing Mobile MaxPure Water

Purification Systems (WorldWater & Solar Technologies, Inc.; Mickey Ingles, VP Operations) that run on solar energy, and he fortunately had one in storage. The system is capable of producing 30,000 gallons of potable water each day, serving 6,000 people. THP Board Member and solar expert Mickey Ingles, who is VP of Operations for WorldWater & Solar Technologies, Inc., the maker of the MaxPure units, is corresponding with Brun from the U.S. and said, “We hope to have the unit up and running by today.”

Our community in the States is coming together in service as they have for the past 22 years. Using photos of campus structures sent via the internet from the Leadership Group on the ground at the school, a team of engineering experts has been working together to assess the structural integrity of the school buildings before the school makes use of them for our students and those affected by the quake and in need of shelter. Assistant Professor Wassim Ghannoum at the University of Texas is one of the experts. His specialization in earthquake damage to concrete buildings has come at a most needed time. He said, “The buildings have performed very well, especially for a magnitude 7 [earthquake].” A team including Prof. Wassim is forming from the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and they will travel to Haiti when possible.

Because of the unique Charism of our community, we have been able to do much more than “keep it together.” We have been able to serve at a time when it is needed most.

The Haitian Project has operated without interruption for over twenty years. Having worked through boycotts, hurricanes and political upheaval, we know from past experience that the cost of operation will increase greatly during this crisis. We all also know there is no more important time to keep up our mission than now. Whatever the increase in cost, we are committed to continuing to house, feed and educate our 358 students as well as provide direct aid to the hundreds of families who live around our school. We are proud that our students, staff and volunteers are already engaged in the relief effort. More than ever, they need your support.

Donations can be made online at www.haitianproject.org or by check mailed to The Haitian Project, P.O. Box 6891, Providence, RI 02940.