



Prayer prepared by the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office – Marie Helene Halligon
- Winifred Doherty



Tragedy and Prayer in Haiti

At 21:53 UTC on January 12, 2010 an earthquake with a magnitude 7.0 struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti. The US Geological Survey (USGS) says that it was the most violent earthquake to strike the impoverished country in a century.

Already impoverished, Haitians grappled with the impact of four hurricanes last year. Added to natural hardships were sharp hikes in food and oil prices, the global recession, poor government and abject poverty. The world - through social networking twitter - has seen images of the devastation first hand coupled with the resilience of the people who survived to dig out with their bare hands people whom they heard screaming for help. The world weeps with the people of Haiti and makes a response. While slow to start because of the damage caused by the earthquake rescue teams and provisions are beginning to arrive. Let our prayer join with the people who are suffering in Haiti and with the world wide community that this catastrophe will lead us all to solidarity with each other, result in the building up of a people and nation where human rights are respected, resources equitably shared, and social inclusion a reality.

January 15, 2010 - The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon said he would travel to Haiti to show solidarity with quake victims and UN staff and to assess the situation for himself. He noted that the international community's response has been generous and robust.



Pray alone at your computer – click on the link and enter into solidarity with the people of Haiti as you review the 15 photographs. If you have a projector then you can use them for community prayer http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2010/01/14/world/0114-HAITI_12.html



« I heard my people cry » said the Lord

Millions are crying in Haiti for loved ones caught in the rubble, for injured ones for whom no medical attention is available, for their dead, for pain and loss of limb and loss of livelihood and the loss of all except life. Soon, they will be crying with hunger. A reporter noted that at night the people sing psalms. Unite your spirit with theirs in this moment of desperation! - **Here we are, Lord**

Refrain: We hear the cries of the Haitian People!

Sing or recite Psalm 130





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- This week's devastating earthquake in Haiti is a prime example of the need to close the technology gap between developing and developed countries. We have the technologies. Do we have the political will?

- Here we are, Lord

Refrain: We hear the cries of the Haitian People!

- Many Member States and the international community are extremely focused, mobilizing with all possible speed to get the aid to Haiti as quickly as possible. What could you do, wherever you are, to help our Haitian brothers and sisters? "Disaster risk reduction measures must not be a luxury that only some states can afford" said Ban Ki Moon at the Global Colloquium of University Presidents on Friday January 15, 2010

- Here we are, Lord

Refrain: We hear the cries of the Haitian People!

- Hospitals and clinics are badly damaged and overwhelmed by the number of people injured. Medicines are practically non-existent. Basic necessities such as water, food and emergency shelter will be needed in great quantities... What can you give? What can the community give as we have more than we need?



- Here we are, Lord

Refrain: We hear the cries of the Haitian People!

Final prayer

Our Lord, how great is your Haitian people's pain! Because of going globalization and our greed, they are living in abject poverty. In these days, when Port-au-Prince has been destroyed by the earthquake, we ask you that all your people be strengthened, the Haitian people to endure these frightful days and we compelled to share our resource. May you urge us to be real sisters and brothers to the afflicted, as we challenge this disaster and in so doing build a world of social inclusion, solidarity and shared societies. We ask this through Christ, your Son and our brother.

Action: How will you move from prayer to action? What action will you take? The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur have a community in Haiti. May I suggest that you contact Leonore.Coan@sndden.org Leonore and the Congregation Finance Office are sending the donations directly to and through our Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Haiti.

