

Haitian Support Ministries Newsletter

December 2016

October 4th saw Hurricane Matthew strike the southwest coast of Haiti. The center of landfall was about 70 miles west of Jacmel, the home of Pastor Jean-Claude and Calvary Church. Matthew's counterclockwise winds and up to 30 inches of rain washed away crops of the subsistence farmers who live in the mountains surrounding Jacmel and made worse the cholera outbreak, which resulted in approximately 29 deaths.

On November 5th, a team made up of Pastor Jeff Zigler, "Haiti" Joe Zebell, Sean Yech, Phylis Schuster, Bob Hiser, and my granddaughter Maggie Gormaly from the U.S. went to Jacmel. Sunday provided Pastor Jeff his first opportunity to preach while Pastor Jean-Claude interpreted. Since 14 of our 16 suitcases carrying deworming and clean water system supplies had not arrived with the team, Pastor Jean-Claude and I made the 8-hour round-trip to and from the airport to retrieve them.



On Monday the team began working with young Haitian leaders from Calvary Church who served as interpreters, and they continued the annual effort to deworm over 1,400 of the more than 3,000 children who receive a hot meal in the school-lunch ministry. Because of the sanitation conditions, virtually all children in Haiti suffer from pinworms.





The Areguay mountain church, a satellite church of Calvary served by Pastor Maxim, is in an area where many crops were washed or blown away by Hurricane Matthew. Hunger is widespread in this area. While there, we had a chance to see the new kitchen next to the church being built after the hurricane. Upon arrival, we were greeted by the children who were waiting for lunch singing at the top of their lungs in the church. After lunch we were able to dispense deworming medications. The little girls were fitted with “pillowcase” dresses. Fortunately, we had some bigger sizes, as several women asked for them too.

The need for additional food at our feeding centers in 2017 will continue to exist as farmers replant and wait. We thank God for your continued prayers and financial support to help our Christian friends in Haiti.

Lou Hoekstra
Haitian Support Ministries

