



## TELENEWS

Special Edition: Friday, January 15, 2009

**G**reetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loses none of all that the Father has given Him, but raises them up on the last day. This is Mark Bube, reporting for this special edition of *Telenews* from the Committee on Foreign Missions of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

On Thursday OPC missionaries Ben and Heather Hopp reported the following from **Haiti**: “We just passed the 48-hour mark. It is hard to believe the earthquake happened two days ago already. The more we talk with people, the more devastating the picture becomes. On the other hand, we hear more stories of miraculous escapes from the destruction. We are very happy to report that Pastor Octavius Delfils and his family are all safe. The two-story house they were renting collapsed around them. Only Octavius’ son, Carlen, sustained a serious injury to his hand. The doctors at Messailler here on a medical team were able to save it, but he needs to come to the US for follow-up. Pray they would be able to find his passport in the rubble to enable his travel.

Many people, including missionary teams caught here when the quake hit, are trying to get out of the country. Communication is still very difficult and all you get from the embassies are recorded messages. This has made it very stressful for folks. Pray that the airport would be back to normal operation to allow commercial flights to resume. We are now considering our own situation and what we should do. On the one hand we want to stay and help our Haitian brothers and sisters. The facts are that fuel is no longer available. Soon food and water will be in short supply. In Port-au-Prince it is very likely that the desperation from hunger and thirst will drive people to violence. It may not be safe by the weekend. Help is on the way, but reports on the ground are that airplanes full of supplies are not being met by anyone who can be in charge of distribution. The United Nations is busy rescuing their own workers from the rubble of collapsed buildings. Pray that the rescue efforts would be stepped up so basic food and services can be provided.



Right now we are hoping to fly out tomorrow, and if not tomorrow then on Saturday. Pastor Steve Igo who is here visiting with us will come along on the same flight. The hope is that things will stabilize over the next few weeks and Ben would be able to return to help. Pray that God would be gracious in this difficult transition for our family.”

In God’s providence, the Hopps and Pastor Igo were not able to get a flight out today (Friday), but we hope they might be able to do so tomorrow. Please pray that our Lord would provide a way for them to travel back to the US soon, and that He would keep them safe, especially as they make their way to the airport.

Several have inquired about short-term mission teams to help relieve the suffering in Haiti. If you are interested in having your name added to a list of possible volunteers, please contact David Haney (for the OPC Committee on Diaconal Ministries—CDM) at [haney.1@opc.org](mailto:haney.1@opc.org). Also, please bear in mind that food and water are becoming increasingly scarce in Port-au-Prince; that fuel is almost impossible to obtain commercially; and that safe shelter in Port-au-Prince is problematic at best. It will probably take at least two or three weeks before things settle down to the place where it might be wise for such teams to attempt to travel to Haiti—going in before then, even if it were safe, might result in the team finding itself competing for scarce resources with the very same people they went in to help.

Finally, please pray that it would please our Lord to use even the great suffering and loss of life occasioned by the earthquake to draw men and women unto Himself, our only refuge. For those interested in helping to minister the compassion of Jesus to the saints in Haiti, the CDM has established a “Haiti Earthquake Relief” fund through which contributions to aid the saints in need may be channeled (the CDM uses the same mailing address, below).