



Church of the Brethren

Remembering Haiti Action Alert

1-11-11

On January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake ravaged the country of Haiti, particularly the capital area of Port-au-Prince. It was a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake, with an epicenter near the town of Léogâne, approximately 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince. By January 24, at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded. An estimated three million people were affected by the quake; the Haitian government reported that an estimated 230,000 people died, 300,000 were injured and 1,000,000 made homeless. They also estimated that 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings had collapsed or were severely damaged.

[The church was one of the first responders on the scene](#), having a history of work in the troubled country. The earthquake response has built on a Brethren program started following the four hurricanes and tropical storms that hit the island in 2008, and worked through a partnership between [Global Mission Partnerships](#) and [Brethren Disaster Ministries](#), with Eglise des Freres Haitiens (Haitian Church of the Brethren). The work includes building homes, temporary volunteer shelters, hosting workcamps, work with healthcare, agriculture and nutrition, and securing access to water.

As we remember the Haitian people one year later, it is important to remember that for all of the work that has been done, much work still remains. In this country embroiled in the cycle of poverty, they have dealt with a Cholera outbreak, and continue to manage the reality of other catastrophes such as hurricanes, as the effort to rebuild the infrastructure of the country continues. And there is much you can do. On Wednesday, members of the Church of the Brethren will participate in an interfaith prayer service on Capitol Hill, featuring a prayer by the [National Council of Churches](#) Michael Livingston, and calling for continued support from the US government for the Haitian people. [Join that effort by clicking here.](#)

You can also continue to support the work of [Global Mission Partnerships](#), [Brethren Disaster Ministries](#), and the [Eglise de Freres Haitiens](#). Go on [a workcamp](#), or [click here to donate](#). BDM is also [inviting you to pray for the work in Haiti, or collect a kit of needed items.](#)

The response of the church has been built on what we do as Brethren – responding to a world in need, and joining God to walk with those who struggle in the world around us. We are walking with the church in Haiti as the people work to rebuild their country. Remember, pray, and act.

Church of the Brethren Policy:

Mission of Brethren Disaster Ministries - [Brethren Disaster Ministries \(BDM\)](#), a program of the Church of the Brethren, restores hope for the most vulnerable disaster survivors by engaging volunteers to repair and rebuild storm-damaged homes, and by providing grants to support the disaster recovery efforts of faith-based partners.

1977 Annual Conference Statement – [Justice and Nonviolence](#) - We call upon all Christians and other persons of good will to join with the Church of the Brethren to reverse the widening of the gap between rich and poor. In order to conserve energy, food, and other resources needed by the poor, we must reexamine our patterns of consumption. We urge our people to contribute from their material resources, beyond a tithe, for global redistribution of wealth. We encourage one another to dissociate, as far as possible, from, or change the policies of, economic institutions that buttress elitist systems abroad or seek to take unreasonable profits out of less developed countries.

The Church of the Brethren seeks to shape its own programs and to influence other institutions in order to encourage the United States to:

- acknowledge that food is a human right and to make this right a guiding principle in deciding economic policies
- lead in creating a world food reserve system under international control and to contribute significant resources, as the world's largest producer of food for export
- relieve the economic insecurity which creates pressures for population growth and to encourage family planning aimed at stabilizing population through increased education
- contribute a fixed portion of savings from arms reductions to programs for emergency relief food reserves, and the development of knowledge needed to increase agricultural production worldwide, through the United Nations
- channel its foreign economic aid through multilateral agencies in which the poor nations enjoy equitable representation
- contribute at least one percent of its GNP annually to world development programs
- participate in the movement for a new international economic order for promoting economic well-being for all.

[Click here to receive action alerts](#) from the Church of the Brethren, and/or other e-communications.



For more information about the witness ministries of the Church of the Brethren, contact Jordan Blevins, Advocacy Officer for the Church of the Brethren:

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