

January 16, 2010

Hi. Hope you are doing well. I wanted to give an update from this week so you can pray for the relief work that is being done in Haiti. The earthquake occurred around 5pm EST Jan 12th, while another pilot and I were returning from Haiti after transporting a mission work team to the northern coast of Haiti - Cap Haitian. By the time we cleared customs and taxied the DC3 back to MFI, plans were already being made for a flight the next day to bring in water purification kits and relief workers from Samaritan's Purse.

On Wednesday, we only had one airplane ready to fly so we were doing the maintenance on one plane and loading the other. The first plane made it to Port-au-Prince (PAP) within 24 hours of the earthquake (to God be the Glory!) and returned after midnight to be reloaded and go out again Thursday. We sent 2 DC3's out Thursday (I was crewing one of them) to send more relief workers down and evacuate some of missionary families that needed to get out of PAP. On the way down to PAP, the US military started taking control of the airport and we were told they were not allowing any non-military aircraft to land at PAP so we diverted to the Turks and Caicos Islands just north of Haiti with our 19 passengers. God provided in a miraculous way as one of our passengers had a connection to a Christian friend that put all 22 of us up at a couple of his houses and took all us out to eat at a local restaurant.



US "Control Tower" shown above in Port-au-Prince

Early morning Thursday, we checked with air traffic control and found out that our prayers had been answered and they would take our flight plan to go to PAP, but we were told there was no fuel available. We could only carry enough fuel to go to PAP and return to the Turks (Provo) for fuel so there wasn't a lot of extra fuel to circle if they didn't clear us to land. Well, we took off and headed to PAP but half way there the controllers said no one was getting in except military because of the lack of space available on the ramp at the main terminal. We heard a couple others trying to get in and saying they would park on the grass, but they were denied. We could hold for 2-3 hours or divert to Cap (northern airport in Haiti) We landed in Cap and all the relief workers got on their satellite phones and began to try to figure out a way to get to PAP by land but it would take at least 8 hours if the roads were clear. We gathered and prayed and called some of the guys that were in PAP and they worked on making room in the General Aviation ramp (for smaller airplanes). Then our co-worker in PAP went right up to the military air traffic controller and gave them our tail number and said there was room just for us. They cleared us to land and we were able to drop off the workers and supplies and pick up the evacuees. Currently, we are the only organization being approved to land at PAP as far as we know. Also, contrary to what everyone had told us previously, they had Jet fuel for us so we were able to take enough fuel to go all the way back to Fort Pierce, FL. God is GREAT!



When we finished our flight last night, there was still plenty of work to do before Friday's 3 flights. Ray and some great volunteers loaded over 5000 lbs in the DC3 turbine and then finally made it home at 9pm. When we got back to MFI, there was a large 45 passenger twin turbo-prop sitting on our ramp with Hendricks Motorsports written on the side - N509RH - a SAAB 2000. Praise the Lord! Rick Hendricks, NASCAR owner, had donated the use of his plane and pilots for 5 days to help us with all the extra flights. Today it will do two flights handling the passengers and we will be using the other 2 DC3's for the cargo. Thank you, Lord, for your provision of people, planes, and strength!



Thank you for praying for us. If you want to help, please go to the Missionary Flights website for a list of needed items or to give online. www.missionaryflights.org
Due to the limited phone calls we can receive at MFI, please do not call the office unless it is an emergency. For a tax-deductible check donation, the address: Missionary Flights Int'l, 3170 Airmans Dr, Ft. Pierce, FL 34946. Mark on the check "Disaster Relief Fund" and 100% will go towards the relief effort.



Prayer Requests

This week, it would be an understatement to say it is difficult to organize these flights with all the paperwork, emergency phone calls, and staying up at all hours to try to keep everything going smoothly and safely. Praise the Lord for the people He brought to help us out with telephone calls, sorting donations coming in the door, loading airplanes, etc!

Pray for the many families (missionaries and Haitians) that have lost loved ones.

Pray for communication between our office and the missionaries/churches in PAP that we may get the needed items where they are needed most.

Pray for the president of MFI as he has been constantly dealing with the media (they have been calling and interviewing live on site since Day 1). Pray that he would be a "Brit Hume" when he shares the gospel of Jesus (don't know if you heard about the great witness Brit was the other day).

Pray for the finances and donations to be used as efficiently as possible and that people would give generously as this is the way to be a SHINING LIGHT to the world and show Christ's LOVE!

Blessings,

Ray and Tammy Oostdyk

For pictures and more updates go to our websites:

www.flyforhim.org

www.missionaryflights.org