

20 January 2010

### **IBC Help for Haitian Earthquake Victims**

Greetings from Frankfurt. We have all heard and seen news of the devastating earthquake in Haiti last week. Some IBC church members have been directly affected. We are all affected as we see people suffering and dying. We have been eager to help in some way. Several pastors have asked the best way to do that. I make three suggestions:

1. Actually, **you are already helping**. As you have given to the IBC Cooperative Program, a certain amount has been designated for emergency and urgent needs. The IBC Missions Ministry Team has agreed to release immediately **500 Euros** from our Urgent Needs fund to go to Baptist World Aid, the humanitarian and relief arm of the BWA. One of the benefits of working with BWAid is that we know all funds get to the people who need it, and are being used by Christian churches and organizations that are sharing the Gospel of God's love for hurting people as they give practical help. Already BWAid has sent teams into Haiti to work with the Baptist churches there to provide food, clothing, shelter and other help. Please pass on our thanks to your church for supporting the relief effort already. You can see what has been done and is being done by going to the BWA site, [www.bwanet.org](http://www.bwanet.org). Thanks to Billy Tully, Missions Ministry Team Coordinator, for making these funds available.
2. **If your church would like to give additional funds** to help with the Haiti relief effort, you can either **send the money to the IBC office**, marked "**Haiti Relief Effort**" or **you can give directly to the BWAid fund**. Here is information for giving directly to BWAid:

Relief donations may be made at [www.bwanet.org](http://www.bwanet.org) or sent to:

Baptist World Aid  
405 North Washington Street  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
USA

If you **send money to the IBC office**, we will forward it on to BWAid.

3. Several have asked if **it might be possible to send people to help in the aid effort**, perhaps even to have an IBC team to go there. As you can imagine the logistics of such an effort are a challenge. We are in touch with First Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida. They have said that IBCers could join the teams they are sending to Haiti. FBC Orlando already has logistical support for this effort, so additional people would be an added help. We will also check with others if there is an interest. Let us know if you have people who are interested in being part of a team to help in the relief effort, and we will try to assist you in making the necessary contacts.
4. One way that we can all help is to **pray now and in the future for those who are suffering**. The aid effort will be ongoing. We can watch for ways to help as individuals, churches, and IBC-wide.

We encourage you to give your church an opportunity to help in some way.

Blessings on the Way,

*Jimmy Martin*  
*General Secretary*