

January 16, 2010

Dear Friends of Haiti,

My heart is broken over the recent events in Haiti. I'm sure many of you feel the same as me in that you want to do something right now to make a difference. Unfortunately, time and space keeps us from being first responders. My experience by serving on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance committee in the Presbytery of Arkansas is that it is nearly impossible to be a first responder without highly trained technical skills that most of us don't possess. The question now is how do we channel our need to help in an effective and productive way?

Living Waters for the World <[livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://livingwatersfortheworld.org)> and Solar under the Sun <[solarunderthesun.org](http://solarunderthesun.org)> in meetings this last week have come up with a plan of action to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Living Waters currently has 20 water treatment plants in country; one is solar powered. We estimate that we have lost at least 50% of them. So, our three pronged approach is to send a survey team into Haiti this coming February or March to assess damage and to determine what plants are salvageable. Reconstitute these plants with solar power and to retrofit the others with photovoltaics. Power is non-existent and fuel for generators is scarce, so our plan is to solarize everything. Water-borne diseases will grow each and every day and exacerbate the problem and make health care much harder to dispense. 100% of your contribution to Living Waters and Solar under the Sun will go to the Haiti projects. Please go to the websites above and memo your gift for the Haiti Network. The last approach is to donate money to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and to earmark your gift for Haiti relief. This option will have a more immediate short-term effect.

In one or two weeks the television cameras will be turned off and reporters will return home to cover the next burning issue, but Haiti's problems will continue for years. Living Waters for the World and Solar under the Sun are there to stay. All God's people need safe drinking water. For most, it's an urgent matter of life and death. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are depending on us. Together we can make it happen.

In Christian Partnership, Chris McRae

PS Please feel free to forward this message to others.