

**Special
Interest
Points**

- **Injuries to St. Joseph's Family kept to a minimum following earthquake**
- **Broken Wings founder returns from recent Haitian visit**
- **Broken Wings tops \$500,000 in Earthquake donations**

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Demolition & Reconstruction Underway

from Peter Eyvindson

Before I begin, I want to thank all of you for your generosity to our mission work in Haiti. I will let you know on a regular basis the progress we are making towards reconstruction.

It has now been four months since the quake hit Haiti on January 12. It is difficult to describe or to imagine the death and destruction caused by the quake other than to say that the relief effort will be massive and long term. After three months, little progress has been made towards reconstruction. Cramped and crowded tent cities are everywhere and now that the rainy season has begun, these

'cities' have become quagmires.

Rather than dwell on the magnitude of the problem, I would like to assure you that our small mission in a very small way is making progress. To summarize what is happening, I've offered a brief update on each of our homes (inside).

For those of you who are first time donors, check the last page -- I've enclosed a brief synopsis of our work in Haiti.

Yes. The prospect of rebuilding is daunting — almost overwhelming, but step by step, day by day, we WILL rebuild to provide safe homes, good food and education for the children under our care.



Tent cities stretch as far as the eye can see.

Photo by Walnes Cangas

Interested in Travelling to Haiti to Lend a Hand?

Many of you have expressed an interest in going to Haiti to help with the reconstruction process. I am very happy to announce that it is now possible for able-bodied, hard working individuals to come to Haiti. With the purchase of the home next door, we now have the space to house volunteers. You would be expected to work onsite alongside our Haitian workmen and eat the same meals as the workers receive.

For those of you—like me—who are less able bodied, financial contributions will be gratefully accepted. Although final estimates on rebuilding our homes have not been completed, we expect the final cost will be well over two million dollars.

For further information contact me by email at petereyvindson@sasktel.net or by regular mail Box 51 Clavet, SK S0K 0Y0.

St. Joseph's Home for Boys



Workers hard at work demolishing St. Joseph's.

Photo by Rene Dietrich

Every morning and every evening at 5 o'clock, the bell summoned the children to climb the stairs to attend chapel on the seventh floor of St. Joseph's Home.

The quake occurred at 4:52pm. Consider — had it happened eight minutes later, every child at St. Joe's would have perished.

Following the earthquake, the residents of St. Joseph's made their way across the mountain to the relatively undamaged Trinity House in Jacmel. Michael Geilenfeld and Walnes Cangas stayed behind, living in the damaged, but secure, St. Joseph's Art Center.

Meanwhile, the undamaged house next door to St. Joseph's became available for purchase. A portion of the donations has been used to buy this building. On April 6th, shortly after my arrival in Haiti, St. Joseph's took possession of the house and was able to begin moving in on April 7th. Two large tents have been erected (our children are still afraid

to sleep indoors) and eight of the older residents of St. Joseph's have returned from Jacmel.

Demolition of St. Joseph's also began on April 7th. Michael Geilenfeld tried to but was unsuccessful at hiring a large machine to knock down the remaining structure—so instead, approximately twenty workers have been hired. Using shovels, sledgehammers, shovels, picks, wheelbarrows and five gallon buckets, the workers have begun clearing the rubble, carrying it up the hill and loading dump truck after dump truck with the debris. By the end of June demolition will be complete.

A portion of the donations is being used to pay these workers. The workers begin work between five and six o'clock every morning and work until four o'clock each afternoon. The going wage for clearing rubble in Haiti is \$5 per day. We are paying our workers \$20 per day and feeding them breakfast and dinner.



Wings of Hope Temporary Residence

Photo by Rene Dietrich

Wings of Hope

Immediately following the earthquake, the Wings of Hope residents were moved to a relatively safe room nearer the front of the building, but when it too became unsafe, the leadership miraculously found a home for rent—one unscathed by the earthquake. This home is certainly inadequate, but will serve as shelter until the new Wings of Hope building is constructed.

Demolition using manual labor has begun. It will take about two months and cost about \$60,000 just to demolish the building.

Trinity House

Coming out of the earthquake with minimal damage, repairs and new construction at Lekol Sen Trinite have been completed. After a three month delay, classes for Le-cole Sen Trinite resumed on April 6th.

Notes from KC Beresch - Educational Coordinator for Lekol Sen Trinite

Though Haiti is somewhat out of crisis mode, life is far from ideal or normal. Psychologically, the people are not ready to move back into schools and the government has declared that schools are not allowed to be indoors. So, we resumed Lekol Sen Trinite in tents. The leadership of the school asked the parents to clear space in our future garden area and put up tarps to serve as the temporary area for the school. Such an amazing sense of cooperation came from our parents! Unfortunately, it is unbearably hot. School is not in full session simply because it is not good for the children to take such direct heat and be in such dense quarters. They are doing the best they can with what they have. The best part for our students is that the morning and noontime meals are being served, which assures us

that in these hard times, our students are receiving a proper diet.



Tents set up on Trinite House Soccer Field

Photo by Rene Dietrich

Many of the homes of our students suffered damage. Some of the poorest of the poor, who lived in tin and wooden shacks, have already recovered simply because they did not have much to begin with. Many of those who lost their homes are living in the tents in the soccer field next to the school. Some students were sent to the countryside but when they heard that school was starting again, they came back. Others, we have heard, are coming back soon.

Though the reigning chaos has died down, it still exists in various ways — the focus of the children — the loss of school uniforms — the half days of school — but the sense of community is overwhelming and the children are just happy to gather together and interact.

Saskatoon Resident Visits Haiti

Stuart McIntosh, a Saskatoon resident who was recently in Haiti, describes his experiences during his visit

Leaving the airport in a taxi bound for Wings of Hope, we were immediately bombarded with a whole range of experiences—broken buildings, piles of rubble, people everywhere carrying things to or back from the market or back home. We arrived at Wings just as a ceremony of washing the children's feet was underway, commemorating the humility of the Healer. It gave me a remarkable image of a dedicated, devoted staff serving the little ones, those needing care.

My introduction to the replacement buildings for Wings of Hope would

have to wait! A vehicle was going to Jacmel early in the morning. We arrived in Jacmel and saw that it was not without its challenges. The Trinity House staff and youth greeted us warmly and set about getting acquainted. The following day two workshops using art therapy to address distress and possible post traumatic stress was held with the youths.

On Easter Sunday, we got to participate in hiding Easter eggs that the youth had decorated in the morning. When all the eggs were hid, thirty or forty youth ran excitedly in through the gate when the

bell sounded to begin the search. The eagerness was emblematic of the energy and passion that the youth showed throughout my time with them. I enjoyed basketball games, saw their skill and focus when using art materials, enjoyed their smiles, laughter, and was grateful for their trust and confidence to share aspects of their journey with me.

Profound devotion and grace in the circle of people who care for these children was so evident. Their respect and passion for their work and the children who depend on them was inspiring.



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Broken Wings Missions Inc. is a registered Canadian non-profit charity that was founded in 1998 to support the work of the St. Joseph's Family of Homes established by Michael Geilenfeld, a former brother with Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity.

Broken Wings Missions Inc.'s mission is to provide relief from the hardships experienced by impoverished children in Haiti through the provision of housing, food, education and health-care.

Broken Wings Missions Inc. accomplishes this with the development and promotion of books or products about the homes and the children, and creating annual touring opportunities throughout Canada and the United States for The Resurrection Dance Theatre of Haiti (or more often, if opportunities arise).

www.broken-wings.ca

St. Joseph's Family of Homes

A piece of living history.....

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR BOYS

St. Joseph's Home for Boys was established on January 31, 1985 in Port au Prince. Street children were given a home, an opportunity to grow as a family and to receive an education. As a close-knit family, the group learns first to support one another and to search out ways and means to support others in their community. The family at St. Joseph's consists of about 20 children.

WINGS OF HOPE

Wings of Hope is a home for physically and mentally challenged children in a country which often considers people with disabilities as manifestations of evil spirits. Wings of Hope was established by three teenagers from St. Joseph's Home and has become a premium facility for 32 children cared for by a staff of about 36. Soni's Mended Wings, a book written by the founder of Broken Wings Missions Inc., details the founding of the home.

TRINITY HOUSE

Trinity House is a home for about 20 street children, staffed by former graduates of St. Joseph's, and based on the St. Joseph's model. Located in Jacmel, this home is working on establishing businesses to create employment for its residents. A bakery and a coffee roasting facility are presently being developed.

LEKOL SEN TRINITE

When one of our young leaders noticed there were so many poor children in the community of Jacmel, he determined that Trinity House should establish a school for the poorest of the poor. By this fall, approximately 150 children (mostly girls) will be given the opportunity to attend school. The young leaders hope to make LST the best school in all of Jacmel — so wonderful that the rich would want to send their children to our school. "But," the young leaders would say, "This school is only for the poorest of the poor."