

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you know all oblation collected through the 7th of February will go directly to the great need in Haiti. I remember how we were blessed by the out-pouring of oblation assistance in 2005 after the devastation that was wrought by Hurricane Katrina. It is important that we remember the assistance that was provided to many in our mission center in the aftermath of that terrible disaster as we contemplate how we might help others in similar and worse circumstances.

Brother Steve Jones, Presiding Bishop, shared some statistics with us on the 17th of January last as part of the communication of counsel to the church from Prophet/President Steve Veazey. This data helps put a face on the need of our Brothers and Sisters in Haiti. I trust that you will share this information in all of our congregations in the next couple of Sundays so that we can underline and emphasize the great need that exists; and so that our people will be given the maximum opportunity to share out of their bounty.

We have over 300 Community of Christ congregations in Haiti accounting for approximately 25,000 members. So far it is known that 20 of our members have died, 250 are in the hospital and 20 Community of Christ churches have been damaged or destroyed.

Of course these are only statistics of temporal value and we can, with our resources, assist in the reclamation of physical things. The spiritual and emotional consequences are impossible to assess; but by the sharing of our resources along with the faithful exercise of our prayers and continuing concern, join with our Brothers and Sisters in the unity of Spirit that can provide the special healing that is so imperative.

My prayers are with you as well as the Saints in Haiti as we move forward together in the mission and the message of the Master.

Peace,

Geo