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LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

N° 106

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« *It is worth living when you help others to survive!* »

Dear Friends,

We want to help the disaster-stricken Haitians.

As you probably know, **the Swiss Association of Friends of Sister Emmanuelle has been present for 14 years in Haiti, and is funding 85% of the programs of Haiti-Cosmos.**

Founded in 1993 in Geneva, Haiti-Cosmos has been supported by many municipalities since its creation: It is chaired by Mrs Françoise Aebi since a few months.

ASASE got organized and very rapidly launched an appeal for emergency aid (on the 19th in La Tribune de Genève, on the 21st in Le Temps and L'Echo magazine).

We are also contemplating the dispatch of medicines and medical equipment with a logistics company chaired by Cedric Ricou and the support of a group on Facebook founded by the President of the Christian Democratic Party: « *Genève solidaire avec Haïti et sa population* ».

A few days after the earthquake, **Jean-Claude François, the person in charge of running the programs, was able to briefly contact us by mail**, from the Plateau of Hinche where we focus our action. As you can read from his message hereunder, Haitian survivors need our help there too, now and probably for several months.

MESSAGES FROM OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS FROM HAITI-COSMOS

Jean-Claude François, the person responsible on the spot for the programs financed by ASASE:

"Many thanks for all these efforts.

Here we are facing complete disaster.

Many survivors from Port-au-Prince have taken refuge in Hinche. The hospital is overcrowded with casualties evacuated from the capital. An estimated 200 000 corpses are still under the rubble of the city, not including homes. 70 000 are already buried in mass graves. The disaster victims (around 300 000) have started to trek to surrounding provincial towns. The capital reeks of the smell of corpses.

This situation makes it difficult for the relief workers to operate. As for the aid sent by many countries, it has not arrived yet. Either because it is inappropriate (in Hinche, we need food, shelters and medical doctors, especially orthopaedic specialists) or because the real needy are still under the rubble, or because the civil servants who could have given instructions are ill, do not have any workplace left, or cannot enter the city anymore. Finally, because bandits, like hyenas, try to snatch everything.

The survivors of the Central Plateau currently amount to 60 000. It is estimated that this figure may double over the next few days...

We must feed them (rice, pasta, oils, sugar), provide shelters (tents, blankets), clothing (clothes, shoes), and treat them (see medication list)...

Françoise Aebi, President of Haiti-Cosmos

« I have a dream that one day, we all will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope »
(Martin Luther King)
and we are this stone of hope.

We are getting organized so that Jean-Claude gets quickly the aid he is expecting from us, but we must not act in haste; the immediate emergency is being monopolized by the Americans, and we should let them intervene.

In Hinche, oh miracle, the earthquake was only slightly felt, and has made no casualties. Nevertheless, the news we receive from Jean-Claude is very alarming, because the injured and victims are coming from Port-au-Prince and its surrounding cities to the Hinche hospital, and that is where our support will be crucial: ASASE is seeking to organise aid for the long run, and we also must try and give a firm footing to the projects that will be initiated (the Americans are not present in Hinche).

We receive many calls from people who want to support us financially and organize a collection of drugs. All aid and suggestions are welcome.

We are now trying to establish some regular connection with Jean-Claude. We rely on his guidelines and advice, and I thank the Lord for his presence there: we shall try and meet whatever requests he makes. The television, the radio, all the media will keep you informed of the developments on the spot.

We, Haiti Cosmos and ASASE, are together to meet this urgent call for help and strengthen our ties.

*Without you NOTHING would be possible.
THANK YOU for being part of us.*

TO HELP THE DISASTER VICTIMS IN HAITI



Sister Emmanuelle, surrounded by the Haitian Jean-Claude François (left) and the Sudanese deacon Kamal Tadros, both in charge of ASASE programs on the spot.

You can donate :

- by postal check CCP 12-5593-0 (please mention « for Haiti »)
- by credit card via Paypal on our site www.asase.org
- by bank transfer on our account Crédit Agricole :
IBAN CH53 0874 1013 8320 0000 3

Please be aware that 95% of your donation will directly finance the actions carried out.
To conclude this letter, thank you for your wonderful response to our call in Christmas.

Michel Bittar
President