

Helping Haiti

The pain and misery continue as the people of Haiti work to recover from the devastating earthquake and aftershocks of the past two weeks. Although current estimates are that some 150,000 people have died as a result of the tremblers during the past two weeks, deaths continue from the quake's resulting injuries, hunger, and illness that add to the troubles of the original survivors. Aid is still needed and will be for some time as those that remain try to rebuild the country and their lives.

How you can help....

....Donate Money



Financial donations continue to be needed as efforts in Haiti shift from searching for survivors to treating the injured and sick and rebuilding the country. If you have already given, can you give more? The need is great.

Unfortunately, fraudulent organizations claiming to represent fund-raising efforts crop up whenever disaster relief efforts take place. Please take care. Suggestions for donating money to any group are located on the opposite page.

Two safe organizations to donate to are our church, Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, and Lutheran World Relief. How donations are handled and how they will be used differ between these two organizations. These differences are outlined below. Donate in the way and the cause that best fits your needs and wishes. But, please give what you can.

Servants of Christ Lutheran Church

- **Accepts cash or checks that can be dropped in the special Haiti offering basket each Sunday or mailed to the church. The church cannot accept electronic payments of any kind for Haitian relief.**
- **All money given to the church will be directed to the Lazarus Project in Haiti with which our church has a relationship. Each week's collection is sent the following week to ensure that money gets to those in need as soon as possible.**

** Many of you may remember the Lazarus Project as the mission that Karen Rider visited last summer or from the presentation by Pr. Larry and Margaret Bollinger.



Here is how Project Lazarus is using donations:

1. Ensure that there is food, water and medical supplies for staff.
2. Rebuild the wall around Hope House and bring Hope House up to the standards prior to the earthquake.
3. Provide an "Earthquake Relief Package" for teachers and staff.
4. Provide an "Earthquake Relief Effort" for students and families.
5. Provide funds for teachers and staff at Village of Hope to assist in rebuilding their homes.

For more information see www.lazarusprojecthaiti.org.

Lutheran World Relief

- **Can accept not only checks, but also online and phone text donations also. Do not send cash through the mail.**

Text **LWR** to **40579**
to make a **\$10**
donation now.

Remember to **reply YES**
to the confirmation.

Messaging and data
rates may apply.



- **For every \$2 donated to LWR, Thrivent donate \$1.**
- **Although it is fairly simple to donate to LWR, please note that it may take several months for money to reach the people of Haiti, especially those donated by phone texting. For more information, visit: www.lwr.org.**

Late-breaking News: Legislation has been passed that will allow eligible taxpayers to claim a deduction on their **2009** income tax returns for certain contributions to quake relief efforts in Haiti. Please talk to a tax advisor for more information.

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...Make Hygiene Kits



Lutheran World Relief has issued an urgent appeal for donations of Hygiene Kits to survivors of the Haiti earthquake. In a situation like Haiti's, cash donations are still urgently needed. However, these small emergency kits are a very important, yet tangible way, to meet the needs of the survivors.

What is in the kit?

- **One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)**
- **One washcloth**
- **One wide-tooth comb (large, not pocket-sized)**
- **One nail clipper**
- **One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)**
- **One toothbrush (in original packing)**
- **Six standard size Band-Aids tied with a rubber band.**

All items should be NEW and placed in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure. Remove excess air from bag and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Do not include personal notes, money, or additional materials in the kits.

Where to drop off assembled kits?

New Joy Lutheran Church (corner of Springmill Road and 156th Street in Westfield, IN) is serving as a community drop-off point. Kits may be brought to this location **between now and Saturday, February 13th** at the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 9 AM—4 PM

Wednesday: 6 PM—8 PM

Saturday, Feb. 6th & 13th: 9 AM—noon

Kits will then be properly packaged and transported to the national distribution warehouse.

Additional information about this project can be found at www.churchworldservice.org or by calling New Joy's church office at 896-1402.

...Purchase Haitian items from SERRV



SERRV is a nonprofit fair trade and development organization whose mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides. One of the artisan partners SERRV represents is Comite Artisanal Haitien. You may know of SERRV through our church's annual SERRV Gift Event. Please consider buying Haitian artisan products directly from SERRV for upcoming Valentine's Day or other special events. For information go to www.serrv.org.

Tips for Safe Donations

Reprinted from *The New York Times*, January 15, 2010

- By Jennifer Saranow Schultz

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has urged Internet users to be cautious and do their research before giving money to help the relief effort in Haiti.

Tips from the Better Business Bureau and the F.B.I.:

- *Don't automatically trust the numbers your friends and networks pass along. Instead, confirm the text message number directly with the charity by checking the charity's Web site. The American Red Cross, for instance, mentions the 90999 number on its site.*
- *Do not respond to any unsolicited e-mail messages about giving to Haiti, and be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as surviving victims or officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites.*

- *Be cautious of e-mail messages that claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files, because the files may contain viruses.*
- *Don't assume the links your well-meaning friends are sending you are legitimate or represent the best organizations. Before giving, vet the charity you're giving to to make sure it's not fraudulent and is best equipped to actually help and use the money responsibly. The Better Business Bureau offers six tips on how to vet charities at www.bbb.org/us/article/bbb-advises-donors-on-how-to-vet-haiti-earthquake-charity-appeals-14644.*
- *If you're looking for organizations to give to, check out BBB Wise Giving Alliance's list of charities providing assistance in response to the earthquake. www.bbb.org/us/article/charities-providing-haiti-earthquake-relief-14690. (Note that Lutheran World Relief is among those listed)*