

From: Dr. Ali Tahiri

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 8:28 PM

Subject: Haiti Update 8:15 p.m. Sunday

Dear Friends, We are monitoring CNN, USAID communications, SOUTHCOM' military briefings and sundry other communication avenues and call from those on the ground. We are receiving about 20-30 emails every 1/2 hour. We are functioning 18 hours a day...there is no let-up. Our goal is to respond quickly to emails and post pertinent info on various websites and connecting needs with resources.

In the last ten minutes, briefing we have received calls again for the most urgent needs, safe water and medical aid. Food is becoming a situation as well. A person loses as much as 25% of his/her hydration in the first day without water; the body begins to develop real physical problems by the end of day two and by day three, mental stability problems can occur. People get hungry in a day, but can go as long as a week before tissue breakdown begins, and theoretically a person can go two weeks without food. We are reaching a peak early in Haiti regarding the food issue, because of the heat which also effects the water-need time table.

From all monitored traffic the calls keep listing the needs exactly as I am reporting:

1. Safe water

2. Medical attention --but because the UN had backed out their doctors over security issues, the needs have fallen on the handful of doctors from faith-based Groups, NGO's, and news reporters who are also medical professionals, to deal with the thousands upon thousands in need of medical aid...and there is no medicine, no antibiotics, no anesthesia with which to perform surgery, no operating room, no bandages...absolutely nothing. So the call has now is changing (interpreted on my part) from wanting medical supplies and medicine, to needing doctors and nurses. But without supplies and medicine, even the best of the best physicians can not be very effective.

3. Food is arriving but distribution is a problem with debris and bodies blocking roadways. Helicopter drops cause riotous behavior. Orderly distribution must be achieved to prevent absolute chaos and riot.

4. **The shortage of fuel** means a shortage of air cargo flights (we have 2-DC-3 cargo planes and a dozen twin engine Rotarian volunteer pilots which have enough fuel to get to Haiti, but they can't refuel because there is no fuel in Haiti. Working with D-7020 we are arranging refueling in Jamaica to return to the US for more deliveries, yet we don't have money to buy more fuel for the pilots. Money, money, money is a recurring theme.

Money for water; Money for medicine and supplies; Money for fuel: and Money for Food. BUT NOTHING GETS DELIVERED WITHOUT MONEY FOR FUEL. We have Hunger Plus, Feed the Hungry, LeSea International with food to deliver but no money for warehouse overhead and no money for fuel to deliver goods to a staging point where our planes can fly the goods to Haiti.

In short, not once has the military or our communications from USAID and people on the ground requested shelter, at least not yet. The pleas are for everything I mentioned above as we have posted, and has USAID posted. Yes, there will come the right time for shelter, but right now EVERY DIME WE CAN RAISE must go to FUEL to move the goods by air to get them to Haiti. Again, no disrespect to anyone, but the priority is for **funding deliveries which is where resource dollars need to be directed.**

I have surgeons from Pakistan who I have worked with, who need very little personally, but work very long hours. These are people who I have worked with following the Pakistan Earthquake. We need to provide them with transport to the States.

The need is money, that is urgent, VERY URGENT.

My favorite quote is worth noting in times like these:

"We, the unwilling, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much, for so long, with so little, we are... now qualified to do anything with nothing". Mother Teresa

Your is Rotary service,
PP. Dr Ali Tahiri PHF