

Children Rescued from the Earthquake

March 2010



EARTHQUAKE DESTRUCTION IN PORT AU PRINCE, JAN 2010

Dear Friends and Family,

I have so many stories to tell you, and so many things I want to share with you. But I first want to thank you for helping me to be here for such a time as this. I am looking forward to introducing you to the new members of our family, the children whose lives were torn apart by the earthquake. But before I do, **I would like to take you on the journey I took to Port au Prince.**

As soon as I was able to physically make the nine-hour drive to Port au Prince after the earthquake, I began a two-and-a-half-week journey to search for children needing our help the most. When I arrived, the smell of death and the sights were physically challenging and emotionally gut wrenching. But through determination and what I know were the prayers of many, my team and I were able to continue our mission, to see where we could help the youngest victims of the earthquake.

All around me were buildings and homes completely destroyed. It sounds cliché, but truly, words cannot accurately describe the grotesque scenes. As I looked at the toppled buildings, my mind couldn't help but think about the thousands of lives that

were buried underneath. **Only God knows how many children became orphans that day.**

As we began to search for children needing refuge, my team and I went from hospitals to tent cities, from orphanages that had collapsed to make-shift medical clinics in tents. Doctors and nurses introduced us to children with crushed limbs, amputations or who were orphaned or abandoned. Orphanage directors, whose buildings were destroyed in the earthquake, were sleeping outside with children. Most had very little food and water. It was a priority to help them.

Some of the children who were placed in my care in Port au Prince were far too sick or injured to travel back by bus. The nine-hour journey would have been more than their fragile bodies could have taken. The most seriously injured children with recent amputations or surgeries, as well as some physically handicapped children were airlifted to our orphanage in Ouanaminthe.



DANITA IN PORT AU PRINCE, JANUARY 2010



SERIOUSLY INJURED CHILDREN WERE AIRLIFTED FROM PORT AU PRINCE TO OUR ORPHANAGE IN OUANAMINTHE.



To date, we have 77 people who have found refuge with us since the earthquake.

Of these, 53 are children, and so far, only three of these are children still waiting to hear about the fate of their families. These three children have been registered with the Red Cross in an effort to reunite them with any remaining family members.

Many have asked if and when we will take more children. Daily, children and families are showing up at our front door seeking help. We have a saying at Danita's Children,

"There's always room for one more."

Please pray for us as we continue to open our hearts and prepare a home for children that do not have one.

For the children,

Danita



We've added many new children into our care, several who have very special medical needs. We've taken in several adults and family members who were displaced by the earthquake. We've stepped up the pace to complete our medical clinic and to build new housing for all of our new children. Doctors, nurses, and teams of volunteers have been reaching out to help us.

As you can suppose, it's been a very challenging month; a month full of tears, death and grief. But also a month of miracles, joy and hope.

Danita's children
HOPE FOR HAITI CHILDREN'S CENTER

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Life in Haiti and at our Children's Center has drastically and forever changed since the *earthquake* struck in January.

Danita with Johnnie in January when she first found him in Port au Prince



Johnnie and Danita Today