

# Lexington Baptist Association

## Haiti Update

### Haiti Earthquake

On January 12, at 5:22 p.m. local time, a series of earthquakes with magnitudes of 6.5 to 7.3 struck Haiti in the highly populated area of Department Ouest, 10 miles from Port-au-Prince. Aftershocks are continuing to occur.

Current media reports indicate collapsed buildings including hospitals and government buildings, and that the earthquake was felt as far away as Cuba. Haiti's population is more than 8.5 million people with approximately 75 percent living in rural areas. Eighty percent of the population is Roman Catholic while approximately 10 percent are Baptist.

There are no International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries in Haiti, but Southern Baptist work is done through national partners. Florida Baptist Convention has an ongoing work in Haiti and currently employs a Haitian national director and five regional directors of missions to direct the work there. In addition, Florida Baptist has a mission house in Port-a-Prince, which is about 17 miles from the reported epicenter. Florida is currently trying to make contact with people on the ground. South Carolina Baptist is fourth on the list of state conventions to be activated. However, Lexington Baptists can still play an important role in the recovery and rebuilding phrases of Haiti.

### **What can LBA churches do at this moment?**

**First**, help people understand the magnitude of the need. **Second**, mobilize the churches to pray. **Third**, make financial gifts.

## **Where can I donate?**

International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board, as well as our South Carolina Baptist Convention are receiving donations designated for Haiti relief.

The Lexington Baptist Association also set up to receive donations. All contributions earmarked for Haiti will be used for relief, recovery and rebuilding Haiti. Individuals can send a check to Lexington Baptist Association, 255 Two Notch Road, Lexington, SC 29073. Please make it payable to Lexington Baptist Association for "Haiti Disaster Relief."

## **Are there warnings we should give our congregations about giving channels?**

Yes! I have received many warnings from government agencies about organizations soliciting funds for Haiti who are illegitimate. Internet users who receive appeals to donate money in the aftermath of Tuesday's earthquake in Haiti should do research prior to responding to those requests. Before making a donation to any unfamiliar organizations, individuals should adhere to certain protective guidelines. For further information, please visit FBI's web site,

<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel10/earthquake011310.htm>

## **When can we take a mission team to Haiti?**

At present, only military, medical and specially trained search and rescue personnel are allowed in the country. There will be a time for church groups (lots of them) to help Haiti in the recovery and rebuilding phases.

1/14/10

**You can contact the Association at (803)356-2543 or at [lba@missionlba.org](mailto:lba@missionlba.org)**