

In the Daily with Diane

February 2010

January was a month of meeting new people, in both new and old places. January 10th, I flew to San Francisco to help with Apprenticeship Orientation (AO2010). Once a year, we have an orientation for people joining InnerCHANGE or those who are considering it and wanting to know more about us. This year we had 7 new people. A couple from Boston, who already live and work among the poor, 3 singles who are joining the teams in San Francisco, another single woman who is starting the process of joining the South Africa team, and one of the co-leaders from our new Miami team. This was a great time of getting to know them and helping them to understand more of what being in IC is all about. We discuss vision, values, commitments, cross-cultural issues, support-raising, prayer, living as part of a team, living incarnationally, sustainability, and much more. The last time I was in San Francisco was for my own apprenticeship orientation 12 years ago. It was a wonderful time to be back and among the new and "old" IC members I hadn't seen in many years.



While there the Haiti earthquake happened. With IC having a new team in Miami and one of their leaders with us, we were being kept up-to-date on the needs and ways to pray. This team has been living and working in Miami for several years and only joined IC as a team in December. There are roughly 400,000 Haitians living in Miami. Our team had several contacts in Haiti, as well as a team in New Orleans who have been living and working for several years now among the rebuilding still going on there. And a relief effort was born.

I was asked if I would go to Miami for a week to work with the team there to set up a system for getting aid to Haiti. I flew back to GA for an overnight to repack (much different climate!) and was on my way. They had already been going for several days and were doing well, but worn out and stretched very thin. The New Orleans team sent 4 men to Dominican Republic who met up with 3 from Miami and 2 from Haiti. While the big organizations were trying to mobilize and having supplies stuck at the airport in Port-au-Prince, we were loading trucks in DR, crossing the border and driving to PaP. Over a two week period we moved close to 100 tons of fuel, rice, beans, tents, tarps, water, diapers, medicine, equipment. Helping 23 organizations and bringing out refugees in the empty trucks.

One organization wrote: "I just wanted to thank you for your hard work in getting us out of a fuel crisis here at Baptist Haiti Mission. You literally saved lives at our hospital and it allowed us to be able to distribute much needed relief. May God continue to bless your efforts. It is great to see the body of Christ working together."





Another joy I have in my new role with IC is being able to help other missionaries in overseeing their projects. While in SF, I was able to work with the San Dimas team. Most of their work is among gang members who are either on the street or in juvenile hall. Through weekly visits and leading Sunday worship services, they have built relationships with young men who want to change their lives. This led to the need for a type of half-way house for these now former gang members. The cost of living, even in the poor neighborhoods where IC staff live is expensive. So they decided to open their home for this purpose. Years ago, someone donated a house. Now one floor of that house can take up to 5 young men, plus one of the IC staff live on the floor with them. Though these guys look tough, many have to return to school and our staff go with them, almost in a parental role. Daily meals are shared; each night they pray together. All this requires donations, accountability and reporting back. I spent several hours with the leaders of this project to help them come up with ways of tracking expenses and income, as well as formats for reporting back to donors on how their contribution is making a difference in these lives.

In closing, I'd like to share a GOD story with you. On my trip to Miami, just after boarding the plane, the pilot came on and asked us all to deplane and be sure to take our luggage with us. Seems they had just discovered a fuel leak under the plane and this plane wouldn't be going anywhere. We got off (much faster than we got on) and only had to cross the aisle and 30 minutes later we were boarding another plane. I'll never know what might have happened if the fuel leak hadn't been found prior to our taking off, God made sure I wouldn't need to know. Thanks GOD!!
With Delight in the Daily (and every daily is different lately), Diane



~Ways to Pray~

- Being back this past week has felt disconnected. Being in Miami was very intense and all about Haiti. So much is still happening there and yet it almost seems like an after-thought, even in the paper and on the news. Now that the immediate relief is working, help needs to continue for their clean-up and rebuilding. We are starting now to focus on building materials and getting them to outlying areas where refugees have been moved. Pray for those who lost everything – that we wouldn't forget them. For them to come to know God as their provider.
- Lately I have been (and will be) traveling more than usual. I am thankful for my brother being able to come and help my mom. Please pray that we can continue to work this well together.
- My brother is having to move to another location in Atlanta. Please pray for him to find the right place – where he can be away for weeks and his things still be safe, a fit for his price range and be on the bus line.

~Upcoming~

- February
- 14 – Pancake Breakfast at Vanna Church
 - 17 – Ash Wednesday Service beginning of Lent
 - 20 – Acts of Kindness, Meals to Shut-ins
- March
- 1-8 – London, IC Leaders' Community
 - 9-17 – Romania Visit
 - 18 – Fly to Atlanta

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