

# Thought for a Wednesday

January 13, 2010

I'm sure you've heard by now about the devastating earthquake in Haiti – Just as that country was beginning to pull itself out of the ruins from Tropical Storms and Hurricane, now an earthquake of 7.0 magnitude rocks the capital of Port-Au-Prince. The pictures coming out of Haiti are saddening and shocking...

My thoughts today are of my friend, Brave Lavedure, who I worked beside in Atlanta in the mid-90's to plant a Haitian church. I remember the day I received a call from Nyack, NY and spoke with a former missionary to Haiti who was then the acting District Superintendent for a fledgling Haitian District in North America. He asked me if I'd meet with him and a Haitian pastor who was looking to plant a church in Atlanta in the location of the church I was pastoring (Northside Alliance Church). We met and they shared the vision for planting a Haitian church with the assistance of a local Alliance Church. About 6 months later Brave and about 12-15 people met for the first time in our facility and over the next couple of years a friendship and partnership grew as both English-speaking and Haitian/French-speaking congregations met periodically for joint worship services and meals together, Missions Conference, VBS, etc...

By the time my family and I left Atlanta in 1997, the Haitian congregation was about double the size of the English congregation and by the time we visited some friends while on vacation, the Haitian congregation had taken over facility and the English speaking congregation had relocated. Also by that time, Brave had become the District Superintendent for the Haitian church in America. I've always felt privileged and honored to have been a part of that Kingdom venture and consider Brave to be a good friend as well as colleague in ministry. I know that part of Brave's ministry dealt with refugees coming to the United States and helping them find housing, employment, etc. Brave would make periodic trips back into Haiti for ministry purposes as well as to visit family.

As I watch the news today and look at the pictures coming out of Haiti, my thoughts are of my friend Brave – I hope that he is well and his family safe. I hope and pray that the loss of life in Haiti will not be as devastating as it could be. I don't know what you do when you hear news like this, but as I'm sitting at home today on my day off, I am praying for my friend Brave and I'm praying for the people of Haiti. I ask you to join me in prayer and if the opportunity arises in the days to come, get involved...

Be strong... Be courageous... Be fearless...

Christ is All,  
*Pastor Mark*