

Wednesday, Jan 13, 2010: David Nixon's DNP film crew were hit right in the middle of the Haiti earthquake. It really threw them around at the missions compound, but cameraman Bob Scott crawled back, wiped blood off his head, righted his tripod and kept the video going for four days and got mission stories the world wanted. Glad they had back-up batteries, as the power was gone.

They grabbed short naps on the trembling ground wondering if it would swallow them. This hit at 4:53pm Tuesday (Jan 12th). They were at Leogane, 40 kilometres west of Port au Prince capital, and near the quake epicentre.

(Haiti is a French-speaking island in the Carribean. It occupies part of the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. Capital is Port-au-Prince. Population around eleven million.)

All around this island paradise was death and suffering. The mission has 400 local staff and the Tim and Charlie DeTellis families, the American CEO. They lost nurses and teachers and pastors, and many children in a day. They feed and teach around 9000 children every day, have scores of native churches and seek to win the people to Christ.

After the quake Charlie handed out their whole month's reserves of food and medicals and threw themselves into saving the injured and burying the dead; keeping as complete a report as possible.

They lost everything. Most buildings were flattened. No water or power; chaos all around. When a survivor was pulled from the wreckage, there was dancing; then a holy huddle as they prayed prayers of gratitude.



Dazed and confused

But they knew they should quickly carry out the task God assigned them to do, (John 9:4), as there may be little time left before all their work comes to an end. This might be it.

Eight hundred miles away in Orlando, David Nixon received a text message from Bob Scott's iPhone on the compound, and went into top gear to get them out. Contacted politicians, congressmen, office of the President, Military, everyone heard from him. Homeland Security, Marines, everyone, but they kept pushing him back; not a priority. His studio office dropped everything to find ways. Expected take a week, or even a month!

New Missions people were only one group of tens of thousands of Americans. UN lost its leaders and buildings. But when one of David's people got onto someone in the NAS, they really popped their cork, pulled General's strings, and here's a bit of what happened

Thursday, Jan. 14th: The Military and the US Air Force, were kept flat out on recovery, and kept pushing appeals back due more urgent needs at the quake ... and stopped all of David's incoming calls. But he continued to irritate them. It was his friends he wanted to save.



Part of the mission compound

Then Dave rushed Dale Stroud, photographer with Campus Crusade off to Santo Domingo, and amidst the chaos, he hitched rides somehow into Haiti, found his way to New Missions compound in a day, making photos of everything he could see.

Terrible carnage. He found the mission people up to their ears in survival and medical help. And fighting off the locals pleading for nurses and help.

Bob and Dale at the quake site kept filming and texting. Four days of it.

Many deaths ... Bob text'd his GPS lat & long to David, and names of Americans needed evacuation, and David sent it with all pleas for help. Dreammakers business men kept pounding away at agencies. Some of the workers were on a 10-day mission from the US.

A retired General friend from Orlando paid for a ride to the com-

pound in a private R44 2-seat chopper and began calling shots from the ground, intending to uplift them in rented choppers into the (DR) Dominican Republic. But this was too slow ...

A US Navy fixed wing plane flew low along the coast, circled the compound (GPS lat & long) and waved their wings. Bob and the mission people jumped and waved sheets with excitement that someone knew they were there. It flew away, and hopes died. Back to the injured, but they exhausted all their medical supplies, and none came from anywhere. It was hopeless, and the confused people got more enraged. Riots were breaking out.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY

The missionaries knew their food and medicines were gone, and more riots would follow, and the government and police were powerless to control it. Even at the best of times, they live on a razor edge.

They knew they were in danger of enraged cult and voodoo worshipers who kill for revenge. Haiti without God is hell ... and it's only the children and families could be trusted. These people live in prayer amidst it all; more now than before. But there's scores of similar missions there, so there is hope, but for now, it's danger on every side.

But by Friday, they knew they had to abandon the mission into the hands of their trusted Haitian staff, and hope against hope against pillaging, and get out alive any way they could. Only in this way could they return with building materials to start all over again.

While all seemed like chaos, the top US Generals based in the DR had decided to include the New Missions people in an action, and while men were making plans on the compound, suddenly, a huge US Air Force Black Hawk Chopper surprised them when it swooped in on the compound. Bob video'd it all.

Five armed and ready US Troops jumped out, Bob said they were BIG dudes, and the chopper lifted and hovered. The five big dude military secured the area with machine guns at the ready, then their CO called to the 44 Americans to prepare to leave, shouted a radio call, and in a

moment four more huge US Black Hawks pounded over the treetops, loaded the 44 people and were off in 25 seconds; the #1 chopper hovering cover all the time. Singing and hallelujahs on the compound. Then it swooped in for the troops, a nurse and her patients, and plucked them out of the horror in a moment.

Then a ninety-minute treetop ride into the US military base at the Dominican Republic 180 miles away, and they were on the way to safety.

Bob and Tim said it was like an apocalypse; a movie scene, out of fantasy. The Cavalry over the ridge. Split second timing, and action after days of uncertainty.

Made them feeling gratefully dizzy, and never so proud to **not** be forgotten; - to be American. But David and crew in Orlando were still in the dark, and kept pounding away for their evacuation. Then, Bob text Dave, they were 'safe-in-the-DR'. PWhewww - relief .

But it was only one of a hundred other similar operations the US military and Air Force performed in Haiti that day. And continue on a week after the quake, with little help coming. Came through with absolute efficiency and the ultimate of patriotism ...

Then Saturday came ..

An Orlando man chartered a Boeing 737 airliner to go to the DR; his daughter was one of the mission workers; - and it flew the 44 missionaries, and 80 other surprised but willing American injured and walking wounded the 2-hours flight to Orlando.

More hours were taken at the airport through US customs, - without documents and only the clothing on their backs. Huge welcome with hundreds at 1am in the airport with shouts and singing and banners - live on local TV.

The DNP team worked through the night to edit video for TV and the meetings. It may be on newmissions.org soon ...

Sunday 17th, all turned up at First Baptist Winter Garden for worship and rejoicing and 6pm a pre-planned New Missions service at the FBC Orlando. Shut doors with 7000 people inside, and showed Bob's videos and raised support for New Missions rebuild. Dave was still reeling from a

huge week of chaos, then with the with team and meetings, and the emotion of it all ...

"He spreads his wings over them, even as an eagle overspread her young. She carries them upon her wings, as does the Lord his people." Isa. 63:9

Tired but relieved, the workers and crew were home at last, but what a story. And thanking God for safety.

News reports say that the US troops guarding the Haiti streets make it safer now than it was before the quake, but there's still little signs of any real relief coming to the people, or their suffering made less.

The Air Force dropped more than 14,000 meal and water packets into the capital on Monday in an attempt to overcome some of the severe supply bottlenecks, including fuel, which are plaguing relief efforts. The airport is in logjam. It will continue long into the week.



News photo of the dead - Jan. 16, 2010

Huckabee commented on Fox Sunday that while Haiti was sold to Satan's voodoo 200 years ago, a million Christians now live in Haiti, and they grow in the face of the poverty, crooked politics, the bribery and corruption, and they believe they are making Haiti a better place. With more than 150,000 children in various Christian schools, change for the better will come when they grow into adults, and take business and government leadership.

For now, the New Missions people are heavy into preparing to return to rebuild their hospitals and schools, restock ready for action, and to carry on the work of the Gospel, into the future ...

The earthquake generated responses from many nations. The US sent supplies and personnel, Britain sent 64 firemen and hundreds of volunteers, France sent troops for search and rescue. Many other nations like Australia and New Zealand

sent money. The Arab and Moslem world did nothing.

Israel, a nation of only 7 million people sent a team of 220 Medical and recovery personnel and supplies and established the largest self sufficient field hospital in Haiti, treating up to 5000 people a day. As in previous earthquake disasters, such as in Gujarat India in 2001 and in Turkey, in the bombings in Kenya, Israel has been one of the most generous givers of aid and assistance.



Rebuilding will be uncertain

Turkey's 75-million people seems to have forgotten them, as its extreme Moslem Government is cozying up to Iran. Crisis' reveal national priorities that are concealed and conveniently overlooked in better times.

New Missions CEO Timothy DeTellis wrote: "One week since the earthquake hit Haiti, amphibious relief with the Navy and Marines are making food drops to New Missions. Our Haitian leadership at the mission is mobilized for distribution and ground support. We have begun our rebuilding efforts and the urgency of each person's involvement.

Next week Charlie DeTellis returns to Haiti with a select team of highly skilled construction team for phase 1 of our rebuild. Schools will be operational next month at New Missions. Our 22 Churches kept meeting in what was left. We will erect temporary buildings fast. Then, begin to build more secure facilities. Our priority is to serve the 9,000 children in our schools and their families.

Thankfully, all across the Leogane Plain, in our 22 locations there are wells all running and providing much needed safe drinking water. Together, with your help, we will rebuild stronger and continue to reach out to more children - for Christ."

See www.newmissions.org

les@outbackpatrol.com.au