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Wash Post: Some Religious Haitians see 'the hand of God' in.., on: 2010/1/18 8:07

This is a very interesting article. If we look past the distraction of Robertson we can get a glimpse of what some Haitians are thinking. This is why we must pray... I see a glimmer of light here. Roman Catholicism isn't filling the void of Christ. Let the Holy Spirit convict, redeem, and restore. May eyes, ears and hearts be open to what the Spirit is saying.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/17/AR2010011702321.html?hpid=sec-religion>

Matthew 9:38

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Re: Wash Post: Some Religious Haitians see 'the hand of God' in.. - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/1/18 9:38

I read the article. It appears like the devil is still alive and well on planet earth...looks to me like the true Believers will still have a tough battle to fight. So let us pray more fervently for grace and strength for them to stay the course.

Regardless what the ungodly will say, we do know God will use everything to demonstrate his honor and his glory - in God's economy nothing goes to waste, not even an earthquake.

Many years ago when hurricane Camille hit the MS gulf coast, my parents went down there to assist in the the clean-up. While there a local lady gave her take on the disaster. She said that for many years they have prayed about the places of sin that were located on the coast. But now in one brief moment, Camille destroyed them all. And she was praising God! However, as time went on, man does not learn and they have come back and built casinos...and they are better built than ever. SIGH

ginnyrose

Admst the rubble....., on: 2010/1/18 9:58

January 18, 2010

Amid Rubble, Seeking a Refuge in Faith

By DEBORAH SONTAG

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Five days after Haiti's devastating earthquake, an evangelical pastor in a frayed polo shirt, his church crushed but his spirit vibrant, sounded a siren to summon the newly homeless residents of a tent city to an urgent Sunday prayer service.

Voice scratchy, eyes bloodshot, arms raised to the sky, the Rev. Joseph Lejeune urged the hungry, injured and grieving Haitians who gathered round to close their eyes and elevate their beings up and out of the fetid Champ de Mars square where they now scrambled to survive.

"Think of our new village here as the home of Jesus Christ, not the scene of a disaster," he called out over a loudspeaker. "Life is not a disaster. Life is joy! You don't have food? Nourish yourself with the Lord. You don't have water? Drink in the spirit."

And drink they did, singing, swaying, chanting and holding their noses to block out the acrid stench of the bodies in a collapsed school nearby. Military helicopters buzzed overhead, and the faithful reached toward them and beyond, escaping for a couple of hours from the grim patch of concrete where they sought shelter under sheets slung over poles.

In varying versions, this scene repeated itself throughout the Haitian capital on Sunday. With many of their churches flattened and their priests and pastors killed, Haitians desperate for aid and comfort beseeched God to ease their grief. Carrying Bibles, they traversed the dusty, rubble-filled streets searching for solace at scattered prayer gatherings. The churches, usually filled with passionate parishioners on a Sunday morning, stood empty if they stood at all.

In a sign of the importance of churches here, President René Prévval gathered religious leaders along with political and business leaders at the police station that has become his headquarters. He asked the churches in particular to focus

on feeding people, but he gave little guidance on what the government would do to help.

Not far from the makeshift evangelical church at Champ de Mars, parishioners gathered outside the ruins of the capital city's main cathedral to hear an appeal for forbearance from a bishop.

"We have to keep hoping," said Bishop Marie Eric Toussaint, although he acknowledged that he had no resources to help the many who were suffering and that he found it hard to state with any confidence whether the cathedral would ever be rebuilt.

Built in 1750, the cathedral, once an architectural centerpiece of the city, is now but a giant pile of twisted metal, shattered stained glass and cracked concrete. Bishop Toussaint said the quake had toppled the residences where priests stayed, crushing many of them.

The Sacre Coeur cathedral, another grand structure, also lay in ruin, with a large, perfectly preserved Christ on a cross bearing witness to the destruction below — and a woman's body lying across the street atop a mattress, her head resting on a pillow, sheeting draping over her.

"It may seem like a strange moment to have faith," said Georges Verrier, 28, an unemployed computer expert, his eyes moving from the body to the church. "But you can't blame God. I blame man. God gave us nature, and we Haitians, and our governments, abused the land. You cannot get away without consequences."

Sounding a similar note, a self-appointed preacher at Champ de Mars stood on a crate during the makeshift service and proclaimed the earthquake punishment for a long list of sins that he enumerated in a singsong. "We have to kneel down and ask forgiveness from God," he said.

Vladimir Arisson brushed the self-appointed preacher away with rolled eyes. Mr. Arisson stood propping up his severely wounded girlfriend, Darphcat Charles, whose head was wrapped in bloody gauze, her eyes bruised and her face swollen, infected and grimacing. "My position is God bless, and send us, please, oh Lord, a doctor to plug the hole in my beloved's head."

Another man attending the evangelical service introduced his wife, eight months pregnant, who sat on the pavement blank-faced. "A concrete block fell on her stomach, and we don't know if the baby is still alive," said the man, Ricot Calixte, 28. "Prayer can help, I think. As I still breathe, I have faith."

Around them at the service, the clapping and amens intensified in the tent city that boasted no real tents, only tarps at best. The central encampment at Champ de Mars is Mr. Lejeune's makeshift church, which in its now destroyed home counted 200 active members, three of whom had been killed and many of whom are missing.

"Here we start every day with what I call my 'cup of hot coffee service,'" he said before the Sunday prayers. "We don't have the real beverage, of course. This is a prayer to wake us up and fortify us as we look ahead and think, 'What, oh what, next?'"

He paused, wrinkling his nose at the wafting odor of human waste, and added: "A church in a bathroom, that's what we are. For the moment."

Marc Lacey and Damien Cave contributed reporting

Re: Admist the rubble..... - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/1/18 10:08

This article made me weep for the people of Haiti this morning. I was in Dominican Republic on a short term mission trip after High School, and I saw first hand in the homes of people there this abominable mixture between Roman Catholicism and Voodoo, it was so ugly to me that even as a young Christian who did not know the Bible all that well, I was so repelled by it I could almost feel the spiritual oppression in that nation everywhere I went. When I read an article like this where a non-believer cannot even recognize how foolish of a statement it is to say that the vast majority of the populace is "Christian." I then weep for the glory of God. I beg God to bare His righteous arm of true salvation for the Haitian people to show the world who He really is. It is God's reputation that is on the line, and the way this article was written proves that to me. Because true religion has been boiled down to assertions of association...

May God show Himself strong and Mighty to Save.

Brother Jeremiah , on: 2010/1/18 10:58

Quote:

-----This article made me weep for the people of Haiti this morning.

Quote:

-----..... this abominable mixture between Roman Catholicism and Voodoo, it was so ugly to me

me too, amen. Forced "conversion" to romanism was part and parcel of the "Black Code" instituted by the french king in 1685.

the real reason i wrote back to you was to pose one question i feel LED to ask of you, and you do NOT have to answer me or anyone else back in response:

Is Jesus and God the Holy Ghost pressing you to go to Haiti, bearing the Good News of the Resurrected Messiah Who's Blood cleanses every sin?

you dont have to answer man.

much much love in Christ Jesus, neil

Re: Wash Post: Some Religious Haitians see 'the hand of God' in.., on: 2010/1/18 11:19

Quote:

-----PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Deeply religious Haitians see the hand of God in the destruction of Biblical proportions visited on their benighted country. The quake, religious leaders said Sunday, is evidence that He wants change.

You know, I am glad that they are saying this and not us. They are judging themselves in the light of God's word, which can only mean good. These people have lost everything, rich and poor alike. My God! My God! Have mercy! Have Mercy!:-{

Re: , on: 2010/1/18 11:26

"You know, I am glad that they are saying this and not us. They are judging themselves in the light of God's word, which can only mean good. These people have lost everything, rich and poor alike." snuf-

Amen. The Spirit of God enlightens and reveals. May the revelation of the Spirit resonate as eyes, ears, and hearts are opened to His Truth.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2010/1/18 11:32

Here is a link to an article and video showing a church that was practically untouched by the earthquake:

(http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/01/18/haiti.earthquake.faith/index.html?erefignore_cnn) Link to CNN News Report

Many Haitians' religious faith unshaken by earthquake

By Arthur Brice, CNN - January 18, 2010

Port-au-Prince, Haiti (CNN) -- The steeple clock at Port-au-Prince's St. Pierre Catholic Church is stopped at 4:53, the hour at which a devastating earthquake struck Haiti nearly one week ago.

The church gates were closed Sunday. The doors shuttered. But it seems Tuesday's quake has only strengthened the religious fervor many Haitians carry in their souls.

"A lot of people who never prayed or believed -- now they believe," said Cristina Bailey, a 24-year-old clerk.

In parks and backyards, anywhere a group gathers, the prayers of the Haitians can be heard. Last week, the call-and-response chanting and clapping that accompany those prayers pierced the darkness of night and the pre-dawn hours -- so metimes as early as 4 a.m. The singing and praying was particularly intense in Champs de Mars plaza, where hundreds of people have taken refuge. But the scene was repeated throughout the city, with preachers on megaphones exhorting the faithful, who responded with lyrics like "O Lord, keep me close to you" and "Forgive me, Jesus."

Many preachers are telling followers not to lose faith, that God remains with them regardless of what's happened.

Most Haitians don't feel abandoned, Bailey said.

"People don't blame Jesus for all these things," she said. "They have faith. They believe that Jesus saved them and are thankful for that."

Perhaps few personified that deep belief better than 11-year-old Anaika Saint Louis, who was pulled from the rubble Thursday night and later died. Her leg had been crushed, and doctors thought they might have to amputate her feet. She said she didn't care.

"Thank you, God, because he saved my life," she said. "If I lose my feet, I always had my life."

Jean Mackenle Verpre also suffered a crushing leg injury and was freed after 48 hours underground.

Asked what kept him going, he answered without hesitation: He believes in Jesus Christ and put his life in God's hands.

Colonized by France, Haiti is a strongly Catholic country. Christian motifs are everywhere in Port-au-Prince. Many vehicles bear signs like the one painted on the windshield of a truck on Rue Delmar: "Merci Jesus," it said. A woman passing by on Avenue Christophe chanted softly: "Accept Jesus."

"In Haiti, you have Protestants and Catholics, and you have your percentage of each," said J.B. Diederich, a native-born Haitian who now lives in Miami, Florida, but returned to the Caribbean for several days after the earthquake. "But everybody is 100 percent voodoo."

Voodoo is widely acknowledged but practiced only behind closed doors, with practitioners often placing candles and icons on the floor of a home and dancing to music and drums.

Followers believe the world is under the power of loa -- spirits and deities who act as intermediaries between humans and God. In voodoo, disasters like Tuesday's quake are not the result of natural forces, but displeasure by a loa.

"It's in every apartment. The voodoo is our culture," 25-year-old Alex Gassan said. "It's like the folklore."

Gassan proudly calls himself a Catholic, pulling out a crucifix necklace from under his shirt to show a reporter.

Many observers have a simple explanation for what makes Haitians so devout.

"Because in all poor countries, you have to believe in something," said Agnes Pierre-Louis, the Haitian-born manager of her family-owned hotel. "If they don't have that, they don't have anything."

Added Diederich: "They leave everything in the hands of God. When you have so little, what else can you turn to?"