

## News and Current Events:: Religion Remains Heart of Haiti 3 Years After Devastating Earthquake

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Three years after one of the most devastating earthquakes in recorded history struck Haiti, killing more than 300,000 pe ople, survivors are still facing critical problems and struggling to rebuild their lives – but are turning to God in even bigg er numbers.

"Religion is at the heart of Haitian society. The level of suffering has been so high that clearly people feel dis-empowere d to cope with the situation and the earthquake has led to an increase reference to religion and to churches," Haiti Program Director for Oxfam Yolette Etienne told The Christian Post in an email on Friday.

The catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake that decimated the Caribbean nation struck west of the capital, Port-au-Prin ce, on Jan. 12, 2010. Three years later, more than \$12 billion has been collected through international charities and fund raisers to help Haitians recover from the tragedy, but a lot of work still remains to be done. Nearly 358,000 people are still living in over 500 camps scattered around the capital and rural areas. The people in these camps often lack access to basic services, such as health care, sanitation and education, and they are suffering from outbreaks of cholera and other diseases – although a flood of missionary groups has been working hard in assisting them to rebuild their homes and g ain better access to food and water.

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