

## First Email Update from GAIN Representative in Haiti

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"We finally arrived Port Au Prince about 9:30 am Saturday. Once we dropped our bags at Esperandieu's house, our national director, we went out to survey the damage.

What we experienced through sight sound and smell will forever be burned into my memory.

There is a great sense of loss wherever you turn. People are severally traumatized by what they have experienced.

We visited two hospitals and as one U. S. Military guard put it "they are stacking them up like cord wood (bodies). The suffering in these over taxed hospitals tear out your heart.

Everywhere you look you see collapsed buildings, bodies and people stunned. They stand as if on guard over their loved ones waiting for someone to rescue those they knew and loved. The evidence that they are there is evident by the odor or visible by their bodies, twisted and broken in the collapsed pile of concrete, steel and wood.

It is easy to become numb at the sight, forgetting that these were people living out their lives until suddenly the impact of the quake took their lives from them. We must now turn our attention to the living, demonstrating the love of God in Christ to them, in word and deed.

Water is a big issue, because there is not any. People stand in line for blocks to get one small bottle of water. Sometimes there is violence.

Our response to them may change their lives forever. We need to be there for them, to let them know that there is hope in the midst of hopelessness, a sure hope in the valley of the shadow of death. We need to provide this hope through our network to these needy, hurting people. We will be focusing on an area called Croix des Bouquets, an area just outside of Port-au-Prince, that will likely receive little aid from the major aid agencies. We will help the network in the area and come alongside the hurting and needy and demonstrate the love of God, in love and deed.