

Just a quick word,

The hurricane veered away from Port au Prince, and went pretty much between Cuba and Haiti. Lots of rain and flooding, lesser winds. Gardens destroyed, lots of flooding, goods and possessions ruined, minimal loss of life thank God. We were unscathed at our mission, but there is major flooding in our vicinity (neck high waters).

The day after the storm we were able to send by land and helicopter supplies to Dame Marie (a costal town in Jeremy), the costal area of Les Cayes (through Bishp Poulard), to Gonnaives (through Bishop Pean), and to Port de Paix by truck. We will continue doing this to other areas as well. Augusnel is delivering supplies to the tent villages near our hospital.

We have been working hard against cholera. We drove through 4 high and strong rivers to get to Port de Paix to help the sisters. We found about 20 half dead people all along the 7 hour drive. They were severely dehydrated. We gave IV fluids all along the way, pulling the people into our trucks and leaving one truck by the Marcel River to be a temporary IV station.

Tony Alessi, Conan and others of our team can tell you stories that will make you cry. The sickness is an enormous hardship for the people. Those who struggle to get their loved ones to some kind of care are real heroes. Often they take donkeys, then canoes, and then walk for miles only to have their child die on arrival.

We were very fortunate that Dr Jeff from Ohio came with IV catheters that you put directly into the bone. We flew a team to Port de Paix yesterday to teach the sisters and their staff how to use it. So many small children have cholera, and it is nearly impossible when they are so dehydrated to find a vein for IV.

Statistics now say over 6000 are infected and over 500 have died. There are more and more cases in Port au Prince. We are ready to receive up to 400 cholera patients next to our St Luke hospital when Doctors without Borders, our neighbors, have no more space.

Thanks for your prayers and support.

Fr Rick Frechette

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