

**Wednesday's Currents:** Took a look at Haiti's lone free pediatric hospital -- St Damien's, founded and run by a US-born Passionist priest, Fr Rick Frechette, C.P.

A Doctor alongside his Passionist calling, who's built 18 schools and several street clinics alongside the hospital, Frechette was caring for his dying mother in the States when last month's 7.0-magnitude quake devastated much of his adopted country.

Afterwards, so he wrote, the missionary's mom ordered him "to go [back]. The problems there are worse than mine."

He did... and the demand for care at the Hospital been overwhelming (and supplies running out), but a report in the quake's wake showed the staff working outside in make-shift tents to avoid aftershocks.



To aid the ongoing efforts, an impromptu medical team of eleven -- all members of a Passionist-run parish in North Carolina -- left for St Damien's last week.

So they wouldn't add to an already pressing food shortage, the nine docs and two nurses brought along their own meals -- and, thanks to the local medical community, a "massive" infusion of supplies.

Bottom line: the news-cycle might've begun to move on. As always, though, with every gift and from every part, this Church, this Hospital is in for the long haul.

Missionaries like this rarely get the credit they deserve... but, in a word, it's what our kind do best.

