

From June 2011 until October 2011, these are just a few of the accomplishments my team have achieved in Haiti, helping a lot of families to recover and rebuild their lives after the devastating effect of the earthquake:

- 315 families have received new shelters, after they lost their homes in the earthquake.
- 119 families have had their home repaired, to a standard which will withstand future hurricanes and earthquakes.
- 3,189 farmers have received seeds, tools and training in environmental protection.
- 33 schools have received new classrooms and latrines. These, and a further 77 schools, have received training for their teachers, on subjects of health, hygiene, psychological support, and how to prepare for/respond to natural disasters. This has impacted more than 13,000 schoolchildren.
- 15 small business cooperatives have been supported, including bakeries, community shops, grain milling, and a chicken farm.
- More than 23,000 people received training on how to protect themselves against cholera, in the weeks after the epidemic was discovered.
- 15 natural springs were captured at the source, and this clean water piped to the local communities.
- More than 70,000 tree seedlings were grown in community nurseries and planted in the local area, protecting the environment

31st December 2011

Dear friends and supporters,

It is that time of year again, for sending news and updates – and this year I have decided to join in that tradition. It seems that, as 2012 starts, my life will change direction once again, and I would like you all to know what I have been up to for the last 18 months, and also where I am heading in the coming year. When I look back over the last 7 years of my life, since I left the UK to join Mercy Ships in West Africa, I can see that it would not have been possible without the support of family, friends, churches and colleagues. I am hugely grateful for everything that has happened in my life since that time, and am filled with hope as I step into the next stage of my life – knowing that all the support I have felt through these last years will go with me, as I face the most daunting step yet; coming back to the UK. But I am jumping ahead! Let me tell you what I've been doing recently first

"The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land. .. you will be called repairer of broken walls, restorer of streets with dwellings" – Isaiah 58 vs. 11,12.

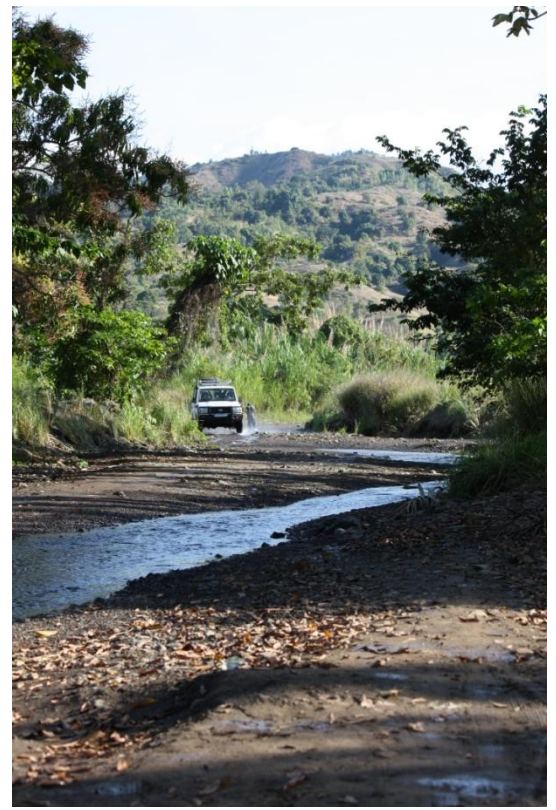
In May 2010, after only 4 weeks rest in the UK after leaving a 2 year posting in Darfur, Sudan, I set out to work for Tearfund in Haiti as the Area Coordinator of a large disaster-relief programme, following the massive earthquake which hit the country in January 2010. The earthquake was followed in October by a hurricane, in November by a cholera epidemic, and in December by political violence; what started as a 'simple' earthquake response became something much more complex, and with that came longer hours and harder work. I cannot look back and say that it has been an easy 20 months, but I can look back and say that, despite the pressures and challenges, I am extremely proud of what my team have accomplished, and that in the process I have made many friends, have many wonderful memories, and have learnt a lot, both about Haiti and about myself.

In the last couple of weeks I spent in Haiti, we were joined by a media team from Tearfund's Netherlands office, who had come to make a short video about the work Tearfund has been doing since the earthquake. Accompanying them as they interviewed the people who had benefitted from our work, and seeing again the beauty of the landscape and the people, I was reminded what a privilege it has been for me to work in Haiti and to do the work that I have been doing. It gave me the opportunity to reflect upon my time in Haiti with Tearfund, and provided me with a wonderful sense of closure as I now move on.

Here are just a few photos of my time there



Our first 'home' – in tents, in a convent/orphanage in the mountains.



The drive to work!



Teaching children at clubs, with puppets.



Happy memories of the weddings of our staff



Visiting field sites often meant wading through rivers
,or walking up and down mountains!



I love this photo of one of our shelters – the family
planted a luscious garden outside it!



Children learning in some of the classrooms we constructed, with blue school bags we gave to them.

So, what comes next for Kate?

My most daunting assignment yet; living in London. In February I will start work with Haiti Hospital Appeal, who are based in the Bromley area, as their Programmes Manager. They are a much smaller organization than Tearfund, operating one hospital in a city called Cap Haitien in the far north of Haiti, currently specializing in working with mentally disabled children and rehabilitation for spinal injury patients. In January they will be opening a pediatric and maternity unit, with special care baby facilities, in addition to the general drop-in and mobile clinics they also run. Based from the UK, working with funding proposals and organisational procedures, I will be making regular trips back to Haiti next year, meaning that my farewell was really only 'Au Revoir'! If you are interested in finding out more about HHA, you can look at their website – www.haitihospitalappeal.org.

I am really excited about this new position, and about working for this organisation; they have a passion and a vision for quality healthcare in Haiti, which I respect and want to support. I am not quite so excited about living in London, but I dare say I'll get used to it and, perhaps even, after time, grow to like it! I am not sure yet if this move back to the UK is a permanent one, or if it is just for a season, but while I am here for at least a year or more, I am looking forward to rebuilding old friendships and spending time with those people who I haven't seen much of in the last few years. I would love to meet with you, and hope to travel around the country as much as I can – just get in touch and we'll arrange something! Or if you are passing through London, let me know and we can meet up. I really mean that!

I don't yet have somewhere to live in London, but you can always get in touch with me at my email address – katebeck@hotmail.com – by mobile phone – 07950062277 – or at the office address; Haiti Hospital Appeal, 25 Coney Hill Road, West Wickham, BR4 9BU.

I hope that you passed a wonderful Christmas season with your family and friends, and that you are full of joy and hope for 2012. May you know the love of God in this coming year,

Kate xx