



## Haiti Earthquake 2010

March - April 2010



The Jan 12<sup>th</sup> earthquake in Haiti affected thousands and shocked the world. Already set up with a base and an

aircraft hangar in Haiti, MAF has been swift to respond in more ways than one ...

### Logistics and Communications

Relief cargo from around the world arrived at the Port-au-Prince airport soon after the 7.0 earthquake struck the Haitian capital on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. MAF assumed a central role in receiving disaster supplies at the overwhelmed airport, and the MAF hangar became crucially important to the work of major international relief ministries. It is serving as a cargo warehouse for Operation Blessing, Samaritan's Purse and others. It has also become a key logistics support base for Operation Blessing and Samaritan's Purse, both of which have staff sleeping at the MAF hangar to support and manage their relief operations and coordinate trucks that pick up relief for distribution.

MAF also received an urgent appeal from the UN Disaster Assistance and Coordination (UNDAC) for use of MAF's inflatable GATR VSAT communications system to aid Search and Rescue (SAR) groups. In response, MAF installed a GATR system at the Port-au-Prince airport, providing reliable internet and wireless data



### Reports from Haiti

"The Canadian military is focusing some of their aid in Jacmel, southern Haiti, but they are not able to get their large Hercules planes in... so MAF has been pretty vital in flying our smaller airplanes into this airport."

*Jason Krul, MAF pilot in Haiti*



"(Jan 21) The grassy field in front of MAF's hangar has been a hive of activity as our facility is the centre of operations for receiving and coordinating delivery to many missions and aid organizations. ...we unloaded our first DC-4 with some 30,000 pounds of food, medicines, and other relief cargo. At the end of the day, our grass is almost empty, signifying that life-saving food and medicine is being supplied to hundreds of thousands of desperate Haitians. Cargo...has been delivered to a mission station, orphanages and hospitals, all of which had run out of supplies."

*John Woodberry, MAF Disaster Response/Security Manager*

"I was able today (Jan 21) to fly more than 2,000 pounds of food

connectivity, including VOIP (internet telephone service). Because many roads throughout the country are difficult or impossible to use, and access to Haiti is extremely difficult, MAF serves as an essential airbridge of relief for other ministries. "...MAF has been on the front lines from day one and provided priceless strategic support for OBI in our efforts to help the people of Haiti."

*Bill Horan, President/COO of Operation Blessing*

## Air Support

In one day alone, MAF facilitated around 200 passengers and handled 35,000 lbs of cargo. MAF ramped up its assistance to aid agencies by coordinating the storage, distribution, and transportation of blankets, food, water, medical supplies, tarps and water purification systems.



Will White, MAF Pilot in Haiti wrote on Jan 23: "Earlier today I was contacted by Danita Estrella, who runs *Danita's Children* in Ouanaminthe. She was in Port-au-Prince visiting collapsed orphanages, collecting



children to transport to north-eastern Haiti, and said three children could not go with the rest by road. One young boy had just had a metal plate put in his leg (both parents were killed in the earthquake), a young girl had an amputated right arm, and

a boy had an amputated left leg. We loaded the kids and two workers [into the aircraft] and took off for Ouanaminthe. Upon arrival, there was a large crowd and several staff from *Danita's Children* to receive the children. They are now in good hands in a Christian environment. Without MAF, the children would have had a very difficult and painful overland trip, bumping across the unimproved roads of Haiti for several hours."

Let us remember Haiti in its time of devastation, and lift up in prayer the many who are in need, as well as those who are giving selflessly of their time and energy to alleviate the suffering of others. Yours to help transform the world,

*Mark*

Mark Fox

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to the island of La Gonave....the 100,000 islanders have been cut off from food for the past week."  
*Will White, MAF Pilot in Haiti*

"Among groups the GATR is assisting is *Instead*, which receives SMS messages from Haitians and aid workers in the streets. These messages are encoded onto electronic maps for UNDAC, which sends relief or SAR teams. Also using the GATR is *MapAction*, a team that creates maps during emergencies to help coordinate relief efforts. MapAction's high-resolution imagery is too large for the group's own VSAT to handle efficiently, so they requested extra bandwidth through the MAF GATR. Maps show where SAR teams have already cleared buildings, as well as field medical hospital locations, collapsed bridges and obstructed roads. MapAction daily distributes maps pinpointing vital areas of need to relief groups."

*MAF Communications Team*



Photo courtesy of **Operation Blessing**  
Photographer Tony Cece

## Lindsey Family Update

In 2009, the Lindsey family returned to NZ to raise more support so they could continue service with MAF in Aceh, Indonesia. Whilst in NZ, the situation in Aceh changed. This led the Lindseys to make the decision to resign from MAF. We wish them all God's best as they embark on a new phase in their lives in Alice Springs.

**All photos courtesy of MAF US**

(unless otherwise specified)