

February 2010

## NEW COLONY NEWS

Love God                      Love Others  
Serve the World Through Jesus Christ



### **Taking Prayer to the Streets** **Saturday, March 13 and March 27**

As Christians we are encouraged to pray for one another with intention and frequency. On **Saturday, March 13 starting at 10 am** we take our faith to the streets of Billerica in a special prayer walking adventure through specific local neighborhoods. Just like last year, we will hand out lists of nearby streets and the names of the people who live in houses on those streets. As we walk through their neighborhoods, we will pray that each family whose house we pass will come to know Christ in a life changing way.

We will then go back to these same neighborhoods on **Saturday, March 27** to place door hangers on homes that will include an invitation to our Maundy Thursday and Easter services as well as a card directing those interested to a website that explains how to become a Christian. According to Pastor Phil, "This is a unique opportunity for us to saturate our community with prayer and invite our neighbors, who are weary and worn out, to come find hope in Jesus Christ."

If you would like to be involved with this ministry, show up on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, if you would like to prayer walk in your own neighborhood, please contact the church as soon as possible and we will get you a list of names and addresses to assist you. Prayer walking can be transformational to those whom we pray for on a regular basis. Your neighbors don't even have to know that you are praying for them to be reached by the power of prayer.



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#### Highlights for February 2010

- ✓ Feb. 7: Choir Ministry Retreat, 1-3 pm
- ✓ Feb. 12: Women's Movie Night at 6:30 pm. See inside.
- ✓ Feb. 20: Island Pond Sunday School Leaders Meeting. 9-2 pm
- ✓ Feb. 21: No Cross Culture tonight

See Inside For More Details!

# Haitian Earthquake Relief

Robin McGaunn

Herve Jacques, a native of Haiti and husband to New Colony member Josephine Jacques, was visiting his homeland during the earthquake. Around 5:30 in the evening on January 12<sup>th</sup>, Herve parked his car next to his favorite beach in Jacmel and started to make his way toward the water. According to Josephine, “All of a sudden he saw the ocean move quickly back and people started screaming. He tried to run but he couldn't.” The ground was shaking too hard for several seconds for him to get his balance. At the time, he didn't know that the magnitude 7.0 quake that had nearly knocked him off his feet would be the most powerful to hit Haiti in a century. Some reports indicate that more than 200,000 Haitians may have died in this disaster.



*House in Jacmel after the 7.0 earthquake*

Photo by Herve Jacques

Within minutes Herve was able to use his cell phone to contact a cousin, whom he had left just hours before in Carrefour, to find out the status of his immediate family. Most of his family, though shaken, had survived without serious injury. Many of their houses, however, now sported cracked walls and roofs that will probably not be repaired for a long time. Nineteen days after the quake, many of those family members are still sleeping on the streets at night, worried that their homes may yet fall on them in an aftershock. Josephine said, “They go inside to cook and shower, but are too scared to sleep in there.”

Josephine was relieved that her husband informed her about the disaster and his subsequent safety before she heard it on the news. Many of her relatives and other Haitian-born members of New Colony were not so lucky, waiting 2 days or more to hear reports about their family members in harder hit areas of Haiti. Gherleen Belizaire, among others, spent two sleepless nights waiting for news that her mother and sister were safe. Unfortunately, reports continue to come in that many relatives and friends have been injured or killed.



*Bainet, after the quake*

Photo by Herve Jacques

## Calendar for February 2010

### Youth and Church Wide Events

**Feb. 7:** Choir Ministry Retreat, 1-3 pm.

**Feb. 12:** Women's Movie Night at 6:30 pm. See inside.

**Feb. 10-20:** New Colony Students away for Quest mission trips.

**Feb. 15-19** February Vacation for Billerica Students.

**Feb. 20:** Island Pond Sunday School Leaders Meeting. 9-2 pm

**Feb. 21:** No Cross Culture tonight.

## Coming Soon !

**Prayer Walking—March 13 & March 27 at 10 AM**

**Africa Mission Team Fundraiser, March 5, 7-8:30 pm**

**WMU Mission's Celebration, March 6th from 9-3 pm**

**Special Challenge:** We have an offer from someone who will match whatever the church family gives for the roof, dollar for dollar, up to **\$2,500**. For example, if the church receives \$2500 for the roof by Feb. 28, then the church will receive an additional gift of \$2500. That's **\$5,000**. That's a 100% return on investment!



## Birthdays for January



Rachel Zizza	3	Clara Marshall	27
Kathy Gero	5	Eddie Jankowski	28
Judy Hollcraft	8	Ella McGaunn	29
Miriam Zizza	10	Andrew Drenas	29
Janet Waite	14	Daryn Marsh	29
Mark Chmiel	21		
Brad Harrington	22		



## Birthdays for February



Chris James	2	John Hollcraft	14
Cassandra Hilpert	6	Terri Wentzell	17
Herve Jacques	8	Rebekah Varghese	17
Luke Hartwell	8	Zach Alley	20
Anastasia Harrison	9	David Lasky	21
Vincent Dalai	11	Annegret Zizza	22
Young Nae Oxner	14	Peg Marrocco	24

## Women's Movie Night

Friday, February 12th at 6:30



Bring a snack and a friend to Women's Movie Night on Friday, February 12th at 6:30. We will meet at Sue Alley's house in Billerica, MA for a time of fun, fellowship and stimulating discussion. Email Robin McGaunn at [rmcgaunn@comcast.net](mailto:rmcgaunn@comcast.net) or call the church office for directions.

**Coming Soon: New Colony Cookbook**  
 Start writing down your favorite recipes to  
 include in this special community-wide  
 ministry opportunity.

## Haitian Earthquake Relief from page 2

Please pray for the Jacques, Belizaire, Leon, Victor, and Fontaine families as they continue to discover the status of many family members and friends affected by this severe natural disaster. We grieve with the family of Emmanuel Fontaine who has learned that his sister was among the dead.



*Jacmel, photo by Jacques*

Eventually, 10 days after the earthquake, Herve was able to drive to Port-au-Prince on hastily repaired roads and board a flight reserved for American citizens going back to Florida. The drive to the airport was excruciatingly slow at times, since gas was rationed to 3 gallons per customer and, normally about \$3.35 a gallon, cost \$12 US per gallon. Herve was horrified to drive by so many demolished homes, schools and businesses, but relieved that some rumors about impassable bridges and roads proved to be unfounded. Herve often had to rely on information from U.S. channels for objective coverage about the conditions in Haiti, because local coverage was either nonexistent or filled with misinformation. For example, early reports from the Dominican Republic indicated that there were no survivors in many regions of Haiti.

### Relief Efforts

Many organizations have been raising funds to help people injured and misplaced during this tragedy. The Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE) has committed to send 100% of funds earmarked for Haiti directly to victims, with none spent for administrative costs. Supplies have been steadily arriving to help people in need. Unfortunately, many injured have not yet received medical care. Josephine's uncle, Roger Belizaire, from Texas is one of many neurovascular surgeon volunteers who returned to Haiti to help the injured. Since arriving several days ago, he has performed countless amputations for minor injuries which have become severely infected due to inadequate care. Frequent power failures make it difficult to operate and maintain safe conditions for sick and hurting people. Medical supplies, food, personnel and plenty of prayer are desperately needed. Please give generously.

## Community in Action “One Bethlehem Night”

Thanks to all who participated in the production of *One Bethlehem Night* our Christmas-themed dinner theater that took place on December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. It was truly a community-wide event. Over 235 people attended the dinner theatre during the course of two evenings. More than 76 individuals and 14 local businesses participated in the ministry in one form or another.

For a church of about 200 members that means almost 40% of you actively helped behind the scenes to make this ministry happen. Many more of you supported the ministry by attending the dinner theatre and inviting your friends to come hear the good news about Jesus Christ and the miracle of his birth. Now that’s exciting!

When Pastor Phil Wilkes was asked what he thought about the community response to *One Bethlehem Night* he replied. “Our people are willing to work and are engaged in serving Christ and serving others. We have local retailers that are willing to support what our church is doing.”

Pastor Wilkes later observed that people were personally touched by the message of *One Bethlehem Night*. “We’ve had people come to church as a result of our dinner theater and our gift wrapping



*Thanks to the entire cast and crew of One Bethlehem Night who truly gave their best for the cause of Christ.*

## Quest 2010

Quest is a student leadership experience for selected high school juniors. Students join together from across the Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE) to form ministry teams commissioned to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ through learning about spiritual gifts, sharing their faith stories and developing a spirit of servant leadership. This, year long, mentoring experience culminates in a mission trip to the Dominican Republic or to South Africa.

We would love to thank each and every one of you for your support! You gave so generously financially and have been so encouraging to us. We are blessed to have such a great family of God!

Bradley Wilkes and Josh Harrison will be going to the Dominican Republic. Katie Waters and Stephanie Potter will be going to South Africa. Please pray for us and follow along our journeys on the Quest blog: <http://questne.blogspot.com/>

*Quest Participants Bradley Wilkes, Josh Harrison, Katie Waters, and Stephanie Potter will be gone from Wednesday, February 10th to Saturday, February 20th*

## WMU Annual Missions Celebration March 6th from 9 am-3 pm

The annual Women’s Missionary Union (WMU) Celebration and Meeting will be held at the Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE) headquarters located on Lincoln Street in Northborough, MA. It is Free!

Diana Davis will be our guest speaker and will speak on how to integrate missions and Women’s Ministries along with some other selected topics. We will have a time to learn about missions in different track times and then will end the day with a mission’s project. Lunch will be served! We can meet at the church Saturday morning and carpool together.

New Colony women have been asked to do the registration for this event, since this will be Jen Hamilton’s first official meeting as newly elected, WMU BCNE president. Come show your support!