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By [Warner Woodworth](#) ✓

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Over the next several days, I began to talk with university associates, neighbors, church members, and professional colleagues about the growing crisis. Port-au-Prince, Haiti and its surrounding cities were largely demolished. More than three million people were affected by the disaster. The Haitian government reported that an estimated 230,000 people died, 300,000 had been injured, and one million made homeless.

The Haitian people needed help from lots of sources. We knew the Big Boys (The Red Cross, large churches, USAID, The World Bank, and governments around the globe) would rush in money, food, water and medical care. We began to consider what would happen after they dropped off their supplies, spent a few weeks on the ground, and then left. I realized, as I have so many times before in crises like this, that the hard work really begins after the initial shock wears off and the initial aid is delivered.

I was so inspired by the rapid response of the LDS Church to the crisis. They had ecclesiastical and welfare officials on the ground quickly, and materials began to flow from the Church's storehouses to help the people of Haiti.

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In our case, we looked at the crisis and knew that there are several phases that tend to occur after disasters:

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Sustain Haiti volunteers and LDS members at Church on our final Sunday

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In summing up those quiet acts of consecration, I would include the efforts of the 50 or so volunteers in Haiti, especially Rony Charles, a young Haitian returned missionary going to college in the U.S. He willingly gave up his studies and visa status to return to Haiti as our in-country leader for the entire four months and he has been magnificent. He coordinated all our projects with NGO partners, as well as managed up to 21 volunteers on the ground at one time.

There were another 20-plus individuals who volunteered back home in the United States, managed very effectively by Nadmid Namgur, Dustin Homer, and Zach Christensen. The three of them gave on average three hours or more a day to the cause for six months which totals some 1,500 management hours. They and the 20 or so others assisted us with recruiting, funding-raising, teaching Haitian culture to all of us and so forth. More individuals who consecrated of their monies included some who could only afford to give five dollars while others gave five hundred, one thousand, or more. In the end, we raised over \$100,000.

In conclusion, it may be most appropriate to declare that there is no conclusion. We have trained several Haitian leaders in Leogane who will keep our efforts at microenterprise, water purification, and square-foot-gardens going and growing in the months to come. When all of our volunteers are back in the U.S., we will review the various project reports, assess our strengths and weaknesses, and begin to plan for the future. Leaders such as Nadmid Namgur, Dustin Homer, Rony Charles and I will begin the process of incorporating Sustain Haiti as a non-profit in Utah, and we will seek 501(C)3 status with the IRS. We will then begin to strategize and recruit for 2011. Our ultimate commitment is to help rebuild Haiti for the next decade!

For readers who may want to learn more, or consider joining us in Haiti as we roll out our 2011 strategy and expand our impacts, please

In reflecting on these young Sustain Haiti Latter-day Saints, I see them as a superb example of our attempts to more fully practice the new fourth-fold mission of the Church. A few months ago, the Brethren began to mention in their talks and insert into the new Church handbooks an added fourth mission as to the purposes of the Church. In essence, it is a call for us to care for the “poor and needy.” This call to action has been exemplified in the life-long service of President Thomas S. Monson as he has visited the widows, the sick, and the destitute. Our commitment to struggling Haitians is our attempt to more fully practice what we preach as Mormons.

Warner Woodworth is a global social entrepreneur who has dedicated his professional and personal life to the cause of empowering the world’s poor from his hometown in Provo, Utah to far-away places like Mali, India, Brazil, and some 34 other nations. His current passion is mobilizing volunteers and change agents who are willing to help rebuild a new Haiti. For more information about Sustain Haiti, or to join our 2011 labors in Leogane, go to <http://sustainhaiti.blogspot.com> or check out <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sustain-Haiti/467764880693>. Appreciation is expressed to Douglas C. Lewis for his technical assistance and photography.

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In summing up those quiet acts of consecration, I would include the efforts of the 50 or so volunteers in Haiti, especially Rony Charles, a young Haitian returned missionary going to college in the U.S. He willingly gave up his studies and visa status to return to Haiti as our in-country leader for the entire four months and he has been magnificent. He coordinated all our projects with NGO partners, as well as managed up to 21 volunteers on the ground at one time.

There were another 20-plus individuals who volunteered back home in the United States, managed very effectively by Nadmid Namgur, Dustin Homer, and Zach Christensen. The three of them gave on average three hours or more a day to the cause for six months which totals some 1,500 management hours. They and the 20 or so others assisted us with recruiting, funding-raising, teaching Haitian culture to all of us and so forth. More individuals who consecrated of their monies included some who could only afford to give five dollars while others gave five hundred, one thousand, or more. In the end, we raised over \$100,000.

In conclusion, it may be most appropriate to declare that there is no conclusion. We have trained several Haitian leaders in Leogane who will keep our efforts at microenterprise, water purification, and square-foot-gardens going and growing in the months to come. When all of our volunteers are back in the U.S., we will review the various project reports, assess our strengths and weaknesses, and begin to plan for the future. Leaders such as Nadmid Namgur, Dustin Homer, Rony Charles and I will begin the process of incorporating Sustain Haiti as a non-profit in Utah, and we will seek 501(C)3 status with the IRS. We will then begin to strategize and recruit for 2011. Our ultimate commitment is to help rebuild Haiti for the next decade!

For readers who may want to learn more, or consider joining us in Haiti as we roll out our 2011 strategy and expand our impacts, please

In reflecting on these young Sustain Haiti Latter-day Saints, I see them as a superb example of our attempts to more fully practice the new fourth-fold mission of the Church. A few months ago, the Brethren began to mention in their talks and insert into the new Church handbooks an added fourth mission as to the purposes of the Church. In essence, it is a call for us to care for the “poor and needy.” This call to action has been exemplified in the life-long service of President Thomas S. Monson as he has visited the widows, the sick, and the destitute. Our commitment to struggling Haitians is our attempt to more fully practice what we preach as Mormons.

Warner Woodworth is a global social entrepreneur who has dedicated his professional and personal life to the cause of empowering the world’s poor from his hometown in Provo, Utah to far-away places like Mali, India, Brazil, and some 34 other nations. His current passion is mobilizing volunteers and change agents who are willing to help rebuild a new Haiti. For more information about Sustain Haiti, or to join our 2011 labors in Leogane, go to <http://sustainhaiti.blogspot.com> or check out <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sustain->

[Haiti/467764880693](#). Appreciation is expressed to Douglas C. Lewis for his technical assistance and photography.
