



# HAITI FOUNDATION OF HOPE

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Haiti Foundation of Hope is a Christian organization addressing the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people in the impoverished and underserved rural communities of northern Haiti.



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## Astounded by Courage and Love

**“The cholera most forcibly teaches us our mutual connection. Nothing shows more powerfully the duty of every man to look after the needs of others.” — Titus Salt**

*Written by Leviticus Christian Cole, RN, a member of the November medical team working at the Clinic of Hope during the recent cholera outbreak:*

After you have seen it once, the diagnosis of cholera seems possible in the eyes alone. The afflicted stare into the miasma, their eyes literally sunk into their skulls, eyes that portray panic or resignation depending on the progression of the disease. Cholera is horrifying in speed and viciousness, and it is certainly inflicting that fear on the people of Terre Blanche, Haiti.

One such patient was brought into the clinic courtyard during morning devotions on a door her family used as a stretcher. She had no detectable blood pressure, was cold to the touch and could not be woken ... at first glance she appeared quite dead. Her son explained that she had been this way for some time, but he knew she was not dead for he could still hear her heart.

Dr. Todd Merrick and the team quickly set to work. We started IVs, antibiotics, poured fluid into her, and treated her vomiting and diarrhea. While touch and go, the next day she was sitting up drinking and smiling, completing what we came to lovingly call the “Lazarus effect.” This was played out again and again with similar astounding



results. A form of immediate gratification one rarely experiences in medicine.

We agreed as a team that this was a more difficult trip than we had expected and more rewarding than we could have hoped for. I am exceedingly proud of the work of Haiti Foundation of Hope and as always, astounded by the courage and love of the Haitian people.

Dear Friends,

This has been an extraordinarily difficult year for Haiti. Devastated by an earthquake, pelted by Hurricane Tomas and now suffering through a cholera epidemic. Through it all, Haiti Foundation of Hope has been there. We’ve had volunteers on the ground and continue to financially support a number of ongoing programs in areas such as education and community health. During this holiday season, please consider how you might join with us, giving a one-time gift or committing to a monthly contribution. To donate, send a check payable to Haiti Foundation of Hope or visit our secure website at [www.haitifoundationofhope.org](http://www.haitifoundationofhope.org).

From all of us at Haiti Foundation of Hope,  
We wish you and your family a **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year**.



# HAITI FOUNDATION OF HOPE

## Cholera in Haiti

Cholera broke out in Haiti in October. Thousands of people have become sick and officials report that more than 1,000 people have died. The crisis continues and is expected to worsen.



### What is Cholera?

Cholera is an infection that is caused by drinking water contaminated by the *Vibrio cholera* bacteria. Only about 10 percent of those who drink the contaminated water will become sick enough to have symptoms, but those who do fall ill can die quickly from the extreme diarrhea and vomiting that occur. A cholera victim can lose up to a liter of fluid every hour, and can die within 4 to 8 hours.

Without replacing the volume of fluid that is lost, a patient's organs will shut down – literally dying from dehydration. Therefore, the main way to prevent cholera is by ensuring clean water is used for drinking and food is cooked thoroughly. The treatment for cholera is straightforward for 80 to 90 percent of patients: oral rehydration with a specific combination of salt, sugar and water. Others will be so dehydrated that they are unable to drink fluids and will require IV fluids to survive. A single dose of antibiotics can also shorten the course of the illness.

### Why Haiti?

Cholera occurs in countries with significant poverty because of the lack of resources for proper sanitation to prevent contamination of water and the inability to obtain water from a protected source such as a well. In Haiti, including the area around Terre Blanche, the vast majority of people get their drinking water from the closest river, a river that is used for bathing and toileting upstream. Boiling water will kill cholera, but that requires a fuel source – charcoal in Haiti – which costs a lot. After exposure to the cholera germ, people retain some immunity but cholera has not been seen in Haiti for at least 50 years so most of the population is at risk.

— Dr. Steve Sethi, HFH board member

**G**reetings to you in the precious Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus who is calling you and I to meet the needs of so many in Haiti through the ministry at Terre Blanche. God is good and always great in faithfulness. When He calls His people to do things in His kingdom, He always provides wisdom, strength, protection and all the necessary items to fulfill His work.

**Y**our dedication is very much evident. Thank you very much for meeting me where I am in this very poor corner in Haiti. Thank you very much for your prayers and thank you very much for what you are.

**B**rothers and Sisters, we love each of you with the love of God.

In the Master's love,

*Delamy and Elvire, in-country partners with Haiti Foundation of Hope*

## More News

**Gift Catalog** — Included with this newsletter is the 2010/2011 Gift Catalog. This holiday season please consider purchasing a gift to help those in Haiti. With your purchase, you can provide books and uniforms for school students, help pay the salary of the Clinic of Hope staff, give a bag of rice to feed those in need and more.

**Clinic Annex** — The Clinic of Hope has outgrown its space since it opened its doors in 2007 and now construction has started on an addition to the clinic building. Learn more about the project at [www.haitifoundationofhope.org](http://www.haitifoundationofhope.org).



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