

Orlando Sentinel

'PRAY FOR HAITI'

NATIONS MOBILIZE MASSIVE AID AS QUAKE'S TOLL RISES



EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

A woman reacts to the devastation Wednesday from the quake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Untold thousands are feared dead after the presidential palace, schools, hospitals and hillside shanties collapsed, leaving the Caribbean nation appealing for international help.

In his own words

Robert Poff, disaster-services director for the Salvation Army in Haiti, sent this account of the earthquake's destruction Wednesday. Poff and his wife, Vicki, serve as caretakers of the army's Children's Home there, and his brother-in-law, Gene Daniels, is the army's operations manager in Orlando.

When the earthquake struck, I was driving down the mountain from Petionville. Our truck was being tossed to and fro like a toy, and when it stopped, I looked out the windows to see buildings "pancaking" down, like I have never witnessed before. . . .

Thousands of people poured out into the streets, crying, carrying bloody bodies, looking for anyone who could help them. We piled bodies into the back of our truck and took them down the hill with us, hoping to find medical attention. All of them were older, scared, bleeding and terrified. It took about two hours to go less than one mile. . . . Devastation was everywhere, and suffering humanity was front and center.

All of the children, and hundreds of neighbors, are sleeping in our playground area tonight. Occasionally there is another tremor — another reminder that we are not yet finished with this calamity. And when it comes, all of the people cry out and the children are terrified.

As I am sitting outside now, with most people trying to get a little sleep, I can hear the moans and cries of the neighbors. One of our staff went to a home in the neighborhood, to try to be of assistance to the woman who lived there. But she was too late. . . .

God bless Haiti.

How to help

Charities, churches and agencies in Central Florida and nationally where you can donate for Haitians, **A2**

By Jonathan M. Katz | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The earthquake spared neither poor nor powerful: The president was homeless, the U.N. mission chief missing, the archbishop dead. Whole neighborhoods were flattened and perhaps tens of thousands of people killed in the latest catastrophe to befall impoverished Haiti. Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers searched collapsed buildings for signs of life.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed in Tuesday's quake. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peace-keeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

At a triage center improvised in a hotel parking lot, people with cuts, broken bones and crushed ribs moaned under tentlike covers fashioned from bloody

sheets. "I can't take it anymore. My back hurts too much," said Alex Georges, 28, who was still waiting for treatment a day after the school he was in collapsed and killed 11 classmates.

"This is much worse than a hurricane," said doctors assistant Jimitre Coquillon. "There's no water. There's nothing. Thirsty people are going to die."

Bodies were everywhere in Port-au-Prince: those of tiny children adjacent to schools, women in the rubble-strewn streets with stunned expressions frozen on their faces, men hidden beneath plastic tarps and cotton sheets.

PLEASE SEE **HAITI, A2**

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More online

Check for updates, photos and video at **Orlando Sentinel.com**



The injured leave damaged buildings Tuesday after the 7.0-magnitude quake struck about 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince.

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8 A.M. 45°



NOON 63°



4 P.M. 70°



8 P.M. 61°



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