



# Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

*Haiti.* If you haven't been there, you cannot imagine. Economically insulated from the rest of the world through most of the "highs" of the recent past, Haiti at its *best* has struggled more than most Americans could fathom. Their fragile poverty has now been toppled by a natural catastrophe that impacted them more than our recent economic collapse impacted us.

I serve on the board of **Samaritan's Purse** - the international evangelical relief organization headed by Franklin Graham. A key dimension of SP's work is through **World Medical Missions**, offering the coordination of Christian medical professionals and critical supplies to front-line missions and crisis points around the world. SP and WMM were among the first responders to the Haitian earthquake. My friend Dr. Richard Furman, a surgeon from North Carolina and one of WMM's cofounders - just returned from service there. His brief account of the stories of some of the patients he treated has pulled me from the



passive CNN screen to a Kingdom compassion that allows the Holy Spirit in me to let me know what God's response to the agony of the anguished really is.

It's worth six minutes to read Dick's firsthand observations; to get his insider perspective, go to:

<http://www.mastersprogram.org/link/sp.html>

One informed estimate is that 1000 amputations were being performed each day in Haiti; heroic efforts to save limbs were not possible in many cases where life-or-death decisions were made more difficult with the backup of people needing care and the absence of sufficient medical capacity.

We're Americans; we're worried about restoring our retirement portfolios, and the decline in home values

that push our estimated equity toward zero. In Haiti, life is hanging in the balance... and will be, for only-God-knows how long. The American military presence will be gone in Baghdad long before it leaves Port-au-Prince.

*Are you on crisis-overload?* Does your attention drift from the coverage because you are already lacking bandwidth to deal with what's already on your plate? I suffer from that myself. How do you find a way to intervene? Have you asked yourself that tough, tough question: *What would Jesus do?*

Whatever He will do, He will do through people like us. If that's His delivery system, is it open or closed? Is His love and care flowing freely, or dammed-up?

Allow me to suggest two possible responses. First, you could make a gift to Samaritan's Purse, designated for Haiti. Go to their website and follow the prompts: [www.samaritan.org](http://www.samaritan.org).

Second, you could support me in my Run for Mobility this (*Super Bowl Sunday*). To benefit the **Free Wheelchair Mission**, I'll run the Surf City Marathon in Huntington Beach to raise money for wheelchairs. My goal was 1000 chairs (\$59,600, or \$2,274 per mile). About \$18,000 has

been pledged or donated thus far; if you'd like to make my *pain* someone's *gain*, join my support team. Every chair goes out with the Gospel, to people who have no alternative solution for mobility. You can give at:

<http://www.mastersprogram.org/link/donate.html>

Even in our Recession, our abundance is unmistakable when viewed against the backdrop of the desperate needs just off our shores. I've come to understand that it's not my money; it's His... and it's my job to do with it what He wants done. The Bible calls it "stewardship." *It's not an option...* Not enough training, *but I'll be at the starting line on Sunday,*

Bob Shank

*Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).*

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