



Plain Compassion Crisis Response

1 - 2023 | a helping hand in time of need

1st quarterly
Newsletter

bringing
hope
into disaster



behold, I am doing a new thing,
now it springs forth, do you not see it?
I will make a way
in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 43:19

Updates from the
director's desk

Hello from Lancaster, PA! I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. Spring is in the air and the foliage around us gives evidence of that as our eyes take in the beauty of the green grass, pink blossoms and blue sunny skies. Ahh, at last, spring time has come!

The last time I wrote to you, I mentioned that one of our goals for this year is to fully stock the tool trailer that we purchased last year. It is now fully equipped and we are so thankful for all of you who have made that possible!

Our First Response Training is also being developed further. To date, we have trained four teams with a total of 32 trainees. This year, we plan to have our first retreat for all the trainees to continue developing teamwork and other skills needed in first response. We're always looking for more people to help us carry out the work, whether in the office or by going through the training and developing people to lead our responses.

The work in Mississippi and Arkansas was mostly led by trainees and it is so exciting to see young people rise to the challenge of leadership while helping those in need.

I also want to express a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have supported us in the work abroad in Haiti and Ukraine. Many lives are being transformed by Gods love, whether it's a prisoner in Haiti, a civilian in Ukraine who has lost everything in the war or a soldier who is being forced to fight for his country. Your support extends to the farthest corners of the earth and is making an eternal difference.

Thank you and God bless you all!

Meru King

Table of
Contents

- Ukraine - Pg. 2
- Tornado Response - Pg. 4
- Haiti - Pg. 6
- Volunteer Testimony - Pg. 8



Ukraine

medical evacuations - a new part of the project

Several weeks ago, we started transporting injured soldiers from a stabilization point close to the front lines to a hospital. A stabilization point is a small medical facility where they stabilize injured soldiers and civilians before they get transported to the hospital.

Someone gave us an ambulance to use, and today was the first time we were able to transport the injured in an ambulance instead of our van.

Most of the patients at the stabilization point come under one of these four categories.

1. The people that arrive already dead from their injuries.
2. People who are critically injured but still alive.

3. Minor injuries or people who are sick and need to go to the hospital (these are the ones we transport.)
4. People who have concussions from being too close to an explosion or the guys who had a mental breakdown because of the things they witnessed or were required to do.

It's sad seeing the soldiers and civilians who had a mental breakdown. They are shaking, staggering, have a wild look in their eyes, and are totally dysfunctional and disconnected from reality. I was told these men usually had most of their friends killed right in front of them.

The mental condition we see in them is an attempt to mentally cope with the trauma.

We meet and transport men who have horrible stories of violence and death. Most of them are still acting normal although they usually have a hard countenance. Many of them are angry, sullen, and quiet. Occasionally, there are some that start talking and talk the whole way to the hospital. They usually need someone to listen as they talk.

Our goal with the work is to assist these people with their physical injuries and to impact them



emotionally and spiritually. We believe we are sowing seeds for an eternal harvest. That is our why for doing this work.

Continue praying for protection for the people working at this stabilization point. All the other stabilization points in the area have evacuated because of the risk. This place is still operational, although the building itself has gotten hit numerous times.

by Daniel Beiler
Field Director in Ukraine

Samaritan's Purse

One of our long-standing partners in Ukraine, Samaritan's Purse helps us by providing food and supplies to distribute.

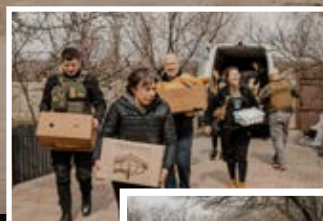
Thank you!

Recognizing our partners in the ministry:



March 2023

Food & Med distributions in Ukraine





US Response

Mississippi and Arkansas

Rolling Fork MS

I drive slowly through the cluttered debris filled street, keeping one eye out for anything that would give me flat tire. I notice an elderly gentleman beside the street looking at a house that has been “nuked”, our internal code word for a house that needs to be demolished.

I stop, get out, walk up to him, and ask how he is doing and if he needs help cleaning up. “I just don’t know what to do.” is his response.

I survey the situation and start asking questions. Did you have insurance? Has the insurance adjuster been here? Is there anything in the house that you still want? What about those messed up trees, do you want those taken down?

As I ask the questions, I can see light coming into his eyes. All of a sudden he has next steps. He isn’t stuck

any more. He knows what to do next.

Together we come up with a plan. The trees need to go, the house needs to be demolished, the yard needs to be cleaned up. In every case my response is the same, “We can do that for you.”

I tell him that I will need him to sign a form giving us permission to work on his property. I walk back to my vehicle to get one and, uh-oh, I am out of forms. I go back and explain the situation to him. I will need to run over to where some of the other guys are working and get a form. I explain that traffic is bad and it could take me a while. The light is dying in his eyes, He does not believe that I will be back. I give him my number and reiterate that I WILL be back. He still does not fully believe me.

I head over towards the other team but almost

immediately start running into clogged streets. Some are blocked by police, some by the power companies, still others are simply clogged with volunteers and sight-seers. I keep going around the location I am trying to get to, trying street after street, until it soaks into my head that I have gone half a circle and am now closer to the base than to the team I was planning to meet up with, so I head for base.

At base, I grab the forms and head back out. By now, over an hour has passed. I wonder if the elderly gentleman will still be there. I stop watching for things that will give me a flat and just DRIVE. Somehow, getting back to my elderly friend has become VERY important to me and come hell or high water I intend to succeed.

He is still there. We talk, and he signs the form. We go over the list of things that need to be done. By now he is wiping his eyes and he gives me an awkward hug. "We got you man. We will take care of this," I tell him. He breaks down and cries, wiping his eyes on his shirt. He thanks me profusely through his tears as I move off to the next house to repeat the process.

In the chaos of a disaster area, I see many organizations and people talk a big show, but not deliver. I



To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them
beauty for ashes

The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for
the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of
righteousness, The planting of the Lord,
that he may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3

believe it is important for us as Christians to mirror the consistency of God's heart. To keep our promises, and to simply show up and be the hands and feet of Jesus. Little things can make a big difference.

In the case of my elderly friend, I believe that he had lost faith somewhere along the line. Me simply keeping my promise in the middle of all the chaos brought him sense of stability and I believe his faith was renewed. At the very least, the experience affected both of us deeply.

by Joseph Miller

Volunteer Coordinator in Rolling Fork, MS



Volunteers at work
in Rolling Fork, MS



How you can help:

Ways to donate:

Card: Visit our website:
www.plaincompassion.org
OR: scan the QR code to the right.

Check:

Make the check payable to:
Plain Compassion Crisis Response
Write First Response on the memo and mail to:
PO Box 356 - Honeybrook, PA 19344

Scan to donate:





to make
survival
 possible, without creating
 dependency

Haiti

a visit by our Field Director

A single gunshot rings out as we are sitting on the porch. We are waiting on the prison kits to arrive. These kits have just been transported through the

worst gang parts of Haiti and the drivers had to pull over and wait for the fighting to end. Earlier this day, we had been in the prison for a prayer service. We had a amazing time of worship and singing, after which I preached from Matthew 14. Approximately fifty people participated in this service and they all were attentive and blessed by our sharing. The atmosphere in the prison is open, people are confessing and forgiving those who wronged them. They are repenting of the things that

landed them in prison. There is a awesome moving of the Holy Spirit there.

The day before, we had taken a trip up the mountain to do a food distribution. This part of Haiti has always been a very poor, but now, a vast part of the country is under a severe drought. In the past, this community relied on their animals as a source of income, but now these animals are dying from starvation and thirst. I was shocked at all the dead vegetation, even the coconut trees are dying. In this area we were able to bless 80 people with food.

Later this week, we went out to the island where we are working. This is also a very poor part of Haiti. It seems their situation is even worse than the mountains. This is a isolated island off the coast and the only way to get back and forth is by boat. Boats are very expensive and there are little to no jobs to be found. So you can only imagine the difficulties to make a living there. There are no cars and motorcycles, some of the children don't even know what

Thank you!

with your help, this was made possible, and we are honored to have your trust and support.

30,929 lbs of rice

4,350 lbs beans

480 gallons of oil

111 cases of milk

were distributed directly to
 2,472 households

...a total of
 60,848 meals

as well as
 27,980 meals
 for inmates in two prisons

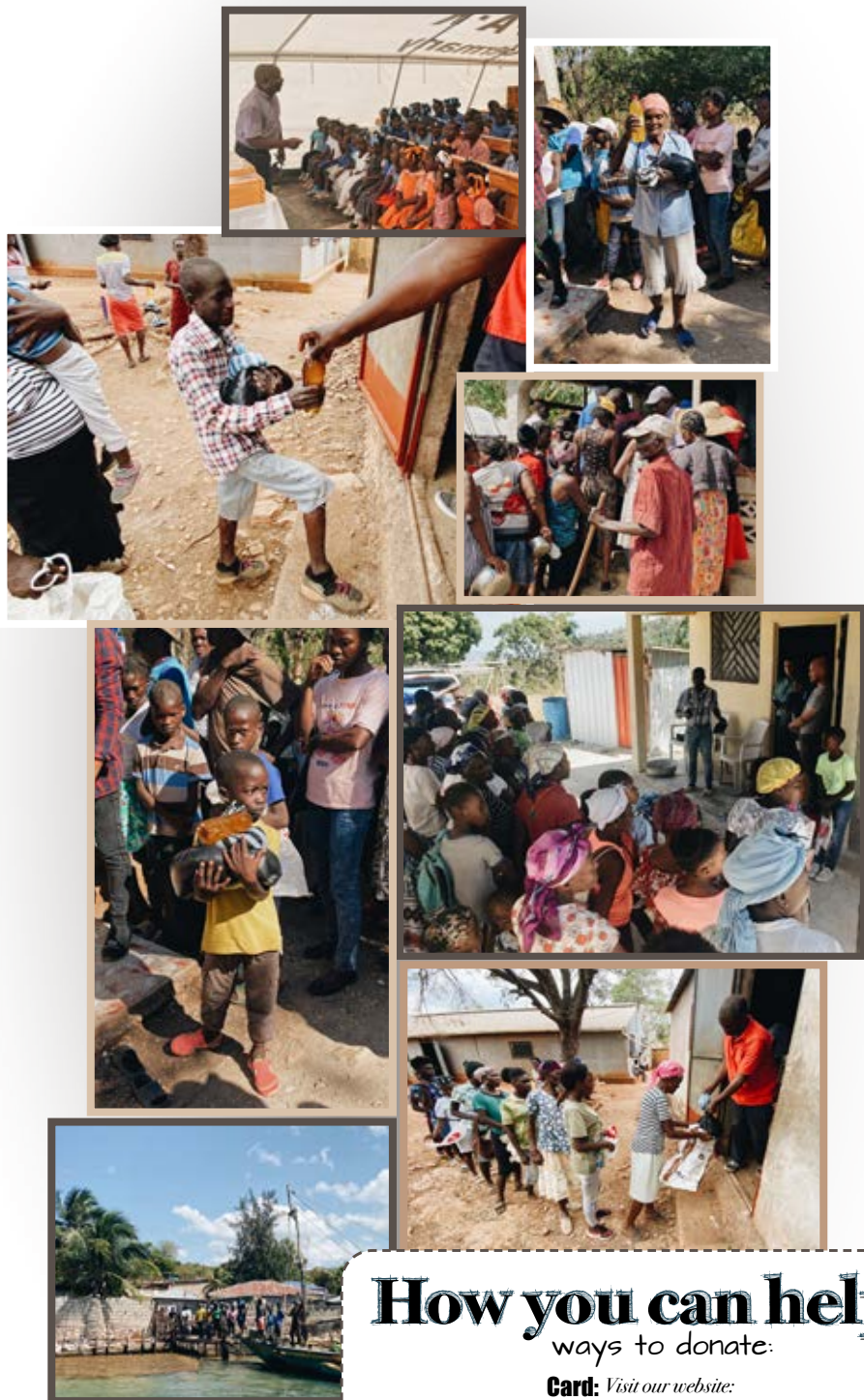
that is. Here, we visited a village where we distributed food to 105 families and went on to another church in the next village. At this church, we held a small children's program. Eighty children sang and heard the gospel. After the program we handed out drinking water, a pack of crackers, and a Children's 101 Bible Stories book to each child.

The past week has been a true blessing. To see the work here first-hand and to be a part of it, to travel

up and down treacherous mountain roads, over rocks and through valleys. Seeing these people's hardships as their crops die in the scorching, dry weather.

Please continue to pray for our team and the work in Haiti. The situation here is very dire, according to many people, the worst ever seen. May God bless you, and thank you for supporting our efforts in Haiti.

by Kendall Nolt,
Haiti Project Director



Prisons

since we started bringing food into the prisons, we've had the opportunity to start Bible studies and witnessed several conversions, including one of the inmates who is now leading a Bible study with some of the other inmates. Their hearts are open and changing, one person at a time. It deeply touches them that people care and it makes them turn to God.

\$2 feeds one inmate
one meal per week
keeping them alive

Food Distributions

in the rural mountain areas and the island, we're focusing on the areas that are off the worst. Our efforts are concentrated on the people that really need it and we're careful to keep from damaging the local economy with the aid that we're bringing in. Only in rare cases do we give food to the same families twice and we work closely with local churches and trusted contacts to ensure that the resources get to the right places.

\$0.46 covers a meal,
gives them hope
to keep going

How you can help

ways to donate:

Card: Visit our website:
www.plaincompassion.org
OR: scan the QR code to the right.

Check:
Make the check payable to:
Plain Compassion Crisis Response
Write *Haiti* on the memo and mail to:
PO Box 356 - Honeybrook, PA 19344

Scan to donate





Tornado damage in Mississippi

Plain Compassion Crisis Response

PO Box 356

Honey Brook, PA 19344

written by one of our

Volunteers

It's been a few weeks since I left Ukraine. And I miss it so much. I miss the smiles of welcome as we entered a village. I miss the hugs and tears as we told them goodbye. I miss seeing faces light up as we handed them a loaf of bread. I miss the wonderful tea we were given every time we went to Dronivka. I miss spending time with my team. I miss seeing crowds of people gathered around to hear the Gospel, sometimes with missiles flying overhead. Mostly I just miss being part of what God is doing in that country.



My life is forever touched by the things I saw and the people I met there. I saw God working in ways that I had never witnessed first hand before. He brought me to a place of surrender in areas that I had never faced before.

In the midst of war and chaos, He is working.

His light shines brilliantly in stark contrast to the darkness there. Because of the conflict, there is an openness there that you don't see in a lot of places. People are so drawn to the peace and joy of a Christian. Truly, the fields are ripe for harvest, and the laborers are few.

~ Leona T.