



## News Release

December 30, 2010

### UMVIM Haiti Response Plan resumes work in Haiti

By Susan J. Meister, US-based Calendaring Coordinator

**New York** – Staff and volunteers are returning to the Methodist Guest House in Petionville, as the Haiti Response Plan resumes its work in Haiti.

Tom Vencuss, Volunteer Management Coordinator, and Deanna Hawkins, Finance/Hospitality Coordinator, arrived early in the week and prepared to welcome today the first team since the holiday break – missionaries sponsored by the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Ireland, led by Laurence Graham.

“The primary project we are undertaking is to complete two half-finished apartments, begun some years ago but never finished,” Graham explained. “The Methodist Church of Haiti has requested that they be finished as soon as possible so that they can provide a rental income which can help towards the paying of the ministers and other aspects of the work of the Church.”

In addition to the construction work, the Irish team is looking forward to building relationships with adults and children, including a **“mini vacation Bible school”** for the children on the Freres campus, where the Methodist Guest House is located.

Four more teams from the US will be traveling to Haiti before the January 16-27 period; they represent the Northwest Texas, Alabama/West Florida, Upper New York and West Ohio conferences. After January 27, the Haiti Response Plan plans to continue full implementation of the UMVIM team schedule, which includes three additional teams in January and 28 teams in February.

In mid-December, the Haiti Response Plan staff, in consultation with GBGM and the Methodist Church of Haiti, postponed mission trips for teams who would have been in the country during the presidential run-off election and the following ten days. The twelve teams affected are working with Susan Meister, US-based Calendaring Coordinator, to reschedule their mission trips.

The Haiti Response Plan staff continues to closely monitor the situation in Haiti related to the political unrest surrounding the presidential election and the continuing cholera outbreak.

Since the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the Haiti Response Plan has been working with the Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti (EMH, the Methodist Church of Haiti) to host volunteer teams to address the humanitarian needs and priority projects of the EMH. Eighty UMVIM teams traveled to Haiti in 2010, and nearly 180 teams are scheduled for 2011. Seventeen teams are on the books for 2012.

More information is available at the web site [www.umvimhaiti.org](http://www.umvimhaiti.org).