

Official press release from the
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Five months after quake, Seventh-day Adventist volunteer group helping rebuild Haiti

ATLANTA – Months after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck the Port-au-Prince region, it seems that the world has forgotten about Haiti. However, one group is helping to rebuild the devastated island.

Maranatha Volunteers International continues to provide One-Day structures to be used as shelters, schools and churches in Haiti. The One-Day structures will be on display during the World Business session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church which is being held at the Georgia World Congress Center (Hall C Level 1) until July 3.

The organization, in conjunction with Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI), has shipped 140 One-Day structures to the country.

Thirty of the One-Day structures will be used as classrooms at the Seventh-day Adventist University. More than 1,400 of the university's 3,000 kindergarten through university level students will meet in three rows of extended One-Day structures.

The Haiti government mandated that schools begin April 6 whether or not they had adequate buildings. Most students and teachers are meeting under tents or trees until something more permanent can be found. More than 20 Adventist schools were condemned because of the quake, and Maranatha hopes to provide additional buildings to be used as classrooms at those schools.

"One of the reasons the buildings are extremely important is that parents are frightened and not willing to send their children to a concrete building for obvious reasons," says Kenneth Weiss, Maranatha vice president.

"The need for education is massive, and it's a way we can help immediately," says Kyle Fliess, vice president of marketing and projects for Maranatha.

Several One-Day structures were built at the Auditorio church, the largest Adventist Church in town and home to a three-story school that served 600 students. Half of the school was occupied with students during the earthquake. The unoccupied side collapsed, killing a janitor. The remaining part has been torn down, and 500 of the 600 students are now in school under the One-Day structures.

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Maranatha built five One-Day structures at the Adventist Hospital, which are being used for triage, ER, outpatient services and volunteer housing. Maranatha is also rebuilding more than half of the 1.2 miles of wall that collapsed around the Adventist University campus.

About General Conference Session:

The 59th General Conference Session is a business meeting of the global Seventh-day Adventist Church from June 24 to July 3, 2010 in Atlanta. Occurring every five years, General Conference Session gathers representatives from the church around the world to elect leadership and determine the focus of mission. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a mainline protestant denomination with over 16.3 million members in 206 nations around the world. The church's headquarters is in Silver Spring, Maryland.

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