

# Episcopal Diocese of Arizona

Although there is still very little information after the massive earthquake in Haiti on Tuesday, Jan. 12, it appears that this will be a disaster of incredible death and destruction. Recent estimates are that the death toll may exceed 100,000.

The Episcopal Church has long involvement in this country, and sponsors many hospitals and schools. It may surprise you to know that the Diocese of Haiti is the largest in The Episcopal Church with nearly 200,000 members. It is part of Province II of our own Episcopal Church. We have received word this afternoon that the Bishop of Haiti, Jean-Zache Duracin, and his family are safe, although his wife sustained a minor foot injury. Yet he estimates that most of the church buildings have been destroyed.

In addition to prayerful support, the easiest and best way for you to aid your brothers and sisters in Haiti is through Episcopal Relief & Development. It is simple to donate online and you will be sure that your money gets to where it is needed immediately with no overhead.

I have also included here links to other websites to help you follow the events there.

- *Diocese of Haiti:* <http://www.egliseepiscopaledhaiti.org/>
  - *Episcopal Relief & Development:* <http://www.er-d.org/HaitiEarthquakeResponse>
  - *ER&D donations:* <https://www.er-d.org/donate-select.php>
  - *Episcopal Café:* <http://episcopalcafe.com/>
  - *The Episcopal Church:* <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/index.htm>
  - *EpiscopalLife online:* [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal\\_life.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal_life.htm)
- Presiding Bishop's statement:* [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901\\_118405\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_118405_ENG_HTM.htm)

I commend the people of Haiti to your intercession, your charity, and your compassion.

**+Kirk**

The Rt. Rev. Kirk S. Smith  
Bishop of Arizona

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The people of Haiti have suffered a devastating earthquake, and it is already clear that many have died and many more are injured.

Even under "normal" circumstances, Haiti struggles to care for her 9 million people. The nation is the poorest in the western hemisphere, and this latest disaster will set back many recent efforts at development. I urge your prayers for those who have died, been injured, and are searching for loved ones -- and I urge your concrete and immediate prayers in the form of contributions to Episcopal Relief and Development, who are already working with the Diocese of Haiti to send aid where it is most needed.

**The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori**  
**Presiding Bishop**  
**The Episcopal Church**