



# Media Advisory

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Office of Public Information  
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**To: All Media**

**Contact: Sean Collins, Public Information Officer (661) 330-0133**

**Subject: Firefighter travels to Haiti**

Last week Leyland Davis, a firefighter with the Kern County Fire Department travelled to Haiti as part of a spiritual/assistance mission for Firefighters for Christ International. Leyland was joined by 13 other firefighters, both serving and retired from around the State to provide spiritual support and assistance where possible to those affected by the devastating earthquake. Please find below statements from Leyland sent to me via text messaging.

“Tuesday, January 26, 2010. On the road with State Dept. escort to the Embassy in Haiti. We made it to Carrefour.”

“The smell is horrible. There are bodies burning in the streets and no rescue teams coming to our area of Carrefour. This is the Epicenter. We had two pretty good aftershocks today. We went to church with the people we were helping. You should have seen how happy these people were. It was unbelievable. I was teaching some of the little kids at the church the sheep song that I do with kids.”

“It is overwhelming, but we are in the Lords hands. We had a huge earthquake this morning about 5 a.m. It was pretty scary. Some guys from the Canadian Navy said they felt their ship rocking and waves splashing. This one has people even more freaked out. (Apparently the earthquake was a 5.9)”

“My team traveled to Graciere which is about an hour southwest of PAP. On the road we passed massive devastation with few buildings standing and followed numbers of buses transporting people to the country. We were driven by a governmental escort who stepped out of the presidential palace right before the earthquake. He was the only survivor of his team of 10. We met up with a Pastor of a Church School who ran an orphanage where 1600 people went to school. This 3 story collapsed and miraculously no one was hurt. We then met up with another Pastor’s orphanage where one child was killed and one rescued. We spent the day blessing these children and teaching them songs. Later in the day, members of the Canadian Navy showed up and built a shelter for some of the children. “

“We found some US Army Rangers, God Bless those soldiers. They gave us an armed escort to the International Hospital in downtown PAP. They stopped traffic for us and got us through faster. You cannot comprehend the devastation downtown. We drove by a dead person still pinned in a car.”