

# Te Cuento...

## ...The Story Inside

### Fade to Black

**A**s I write this I'm huddled in front of a fireplace in northwest Mexico, near Ensenada. The pastors and their spouses are beginning to stir in the dorms. I've made coffee with my little contraption and I've written a few emails on my Blackberry. Exactly one week ago I left Haiti for the second time since the earthquake. I'll be back there in exactly two weeks. We've built a 1.4 million dollar relief and recovery budget. The situation is still very tenuous in Haiti.

In the meantime, in the airports, hotels and bus trips, I'm finishing up the Overflow Conference preparations; booklets, teaching times, banners and logistics. The fantastic eastern leadership team is locked-in with their commitments.

Overflow registrations have surpassed our goals and a sense of expectation is building...what might God do among us in these days we've set apart? More importantly, what might God do through us as we leave Overflow and implement the simple synchronized strategy?

All this in the context of the Baltimore snowstorms: cancelled flights, delays, etc. This trip to Mexico evolved from a 9-day trip into a 17-day trip because I couldn't get home...and Yvonne couldn't leave home. I'm getting my money's-worth out of the clothes I packed!

Underneath the activity, I'm reading Luke. I'm sure it's not the first time I've read Luke, but it seems like it! What an amazing Jesus. He scares me and delights me. Sometimes I'm a Pharisee, sometimes a sinner, but every time I hear and imagine Him anew. That 30-year old radical would, I think, look at me fondly as an old guy who perhaps tries too hard but whose heart is in the right place. He joins me here at the fireplace and the to-do list on my Blackberry fades to black.

### Un Mes Agitado

Al escribirles estoy dirigiendo un retiro pastoral en el noroeste de México. ¡Que frío hace aquí!

Precisamente hace ocho días yo salí de Haití con el Obispo Dominicano (Cecilio Osoria) y el Obispo Canadiense. Ya van dos visitas más a Haití desde el terremoto. Sigue precaria la situación allá. Los Dominicanos han sido campeones en todo el esfuerzo de ayudar a Haití.

- Hemos experimentado una gran registración para la conferencia Overflow (Orlando 22-24). Más de lo esperado, gracias a Dios. Yo sé que Dios quiere hacer algo nuevo entre nosotros. Y mas importante, yo sé que Dios quiere que salgamos de Overflow con una estrategia unificada.
- El pastor Héctor Fernández es el orador invitado la primera noche de Overflow. Es un honor que la iglesia considere que un latino puede y debe abrir un magno evento como esta conferencia.
- Estoy leyendo San Lucas, de nuevo. Pero es como que si mirara a Jesús por primera vez. Entiendo de nuevo de su gracia y su propósito, su mano estrechado hacia mi, a sanarme.

### Overflow Speakers

Pastor Héctor Fernández-  
*God's Story*

Bishop Kendall-  
*Our Story*

Dr. Art Brown-  
*The story crosses  
barriers*

Bishop Thomas-  
*Telling the Story*

Supt. David Harvey-  
*Living the Story*

Bishop Roller-  
*Telling the SSS Story-  
a simple synchronized  
strategy*



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## Haiti: The Plan Forward

The church's response to the earthquake has been heart-felt and generous: Over **\$840,000** has been contributed to the Haitian FM response (as of Feb 12) through the various channels (Bishops Famine & Relief, HelpHaitiHeal, Operation Hope, & International Child Care Ministries). This includes funds received from Free Methodists in more than 15 countries!

While in Haiti on Feb 5 we worked for hours with our Haitian leaders designing a response plan. Then that night we built a budget for how to best apply the funds which we've received. Note that the budget followed the Haitian priorities. That's because we're committed to empowering our Haitian leaders to make the difficult decisions. Not many organizations in Haiti have this level of national leadership. But the decisions they must make are difficult.

The decision-making flows from the Haitian Superintendents' board through a seven-person Steering Committee (6 Haitians and 1 American) to the implementers. Accountability controls are also embedded in the system. Changes to the budget require approvals from me (representing Board of Bishops) and the Area Director. We do adjust the budget as needed.

In broad strokes, the response budget of \$1,450,000 is being deployed in 3 phases:

\$150,000	Phase 1 Immediate Relief (finished)	(food, water, tents, etc)
\$450,000	Phase 2 Mid-term Relief & Recovery	(food, tents, hygiene kits, medical, school kits, etc)
\$850,000	Phase 3 Long-term Reconstruction	(Rebuilding of schools, houses, churches)

Thank you, for your generosity. You're saving lives and helping Haiti recover.

### David Roller's 2010 Calendar

#### FEBRUARY

8-9 Asbury Seminary Board (FL)  
 11-13 Baja California pastors' retreat (MEX)  
 15-17 FM Educational Institutions (CA)  
 21-23 Eastern Superintendents' meeting (FL)  
 27-Mar 4 Haiti Leadership Consultation

#### MARCH

5-6 Marriage retreat (NY)  
 12-14 New South youth retreat (KY)  
 16-17 Study Commission on Doctrine (KY)  
 18-19 Continental Urban Exchange (CA)  
 21-23 Eastern Superintendents' meeting (FL)

#### APRIL

12 Board of Bishops with MELT (Indy)  
 15-17 Board of Administration (Indy)  
**22-24 Overflow Conference** (Orlando)  
 25-27 Latin American Executive Team (Orlando)

**You can still register for  
 Overflow Conference at:  
[www.overflowconference.net](http://www.overflowconference.net)**

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