

Both Dorne and I have been overwhelmed by the compassion shown to us by you, our parish family. Words will never be able to express our gratitude for the outpouring of love and concern we have experienced. I am personally thankful for the loving support so many of you offered Dorne throughout this difficult time.

It is only through your prayers, the grueling and back-breaking work of the three Haitian men who discovered us and dug us from beneath the rubble, and most importantly, God's will for Jillian and me, that we are alive and that we are once more among our families and loved ones at home.

The mystery that is our God has become an even greater mystery for me. Believe me when I say that there were many moments of prayer during the ten hours I was buried. Prayers centered on asking God to protect us and the thousands of other victims of this horrific tragedy. My prayers also focused on trying to place myself completely in God's hands and allow him to decide my fate. As I write these words, I know that he has further plans for me and that he was not ready to call me back to himself. It will take me some time to hear His message clearly. But I know he has specific plans for me.

I will need a little time to heal, both physically and emotionally. I hope to worship with you next weekend. I ask that you continue your prayers and support for the thousands of Haitian people who are now suffering without food, water and access to medical help. Haiti has once again been thrust onto the world stage as the result of unimaginable tragedy and horror. Please join with me in praying that, this time, the world will take action – yes, to bind up the wounds that are now so raw and bleeding – but also to work together to solve the problems that plague Haiti and her people. My prayer is for the Haitian people to be supported now with much needed emergency aid, and in the future with equally important economic, educational, and social rebuilding which will provide a future of hope and dignity.

May God continue to bless us and to guide us in our efforts.

Chuck