

Casting our minds to the 24 January 2010 a day where many of us woke up and carried out our daily affairs, however, on this Particular day in Haiti thousands awoke to ferocious shakings as buildings began to collapse before their very midst. It was in this moment that many children became orphans and millions of homeowners were left with rubble as a memory to what they once called home. Almost 2 years on, it is visible to see the rapid incline in aid now being withdrawn from Haiti. There now seems to be little hope for a country that was once a centre piece of joy. On 24th October 2011, a team of 28 people from a local church in the Brixton community travelled to Haiti with the aim of letting the Haitian people know the world has not forgotten. The devastation that once felt surreal from a news report shown on a television became ever so real, with little source of clean water thousands of Haitians rise before dawn to begin their journey to collect clean water that can take them a 3-5 hour walk one way. Having lost their homes, over 1 million had no choice but to flee to camps, made from no more than bits of wood and canvas, and no bigger than 3sq. feet with many having to share with 10 people or more. The conditions are intense with temperatures scorchingly high, it is an uncomfortable state for anybody and for one family who has to huddle in the middle of their camp no matter what the time may be when it rains - for now this is home for millions of Haitians. Garcia, and two other camps surrounding Port-au-Prince were the camps that we visited, there we found many people who were in desperate need for food, help and care; one camp had not received aid in a year! For those that were not as fortunate to be accommodated in a camp tent, for them home is the corner on the side street. It dawned that though the earthquake was over, the devastating effects of it still remained; Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere with a low economy, getting back on its feet will require long term work. But amongst this, we experienced an overwhelming embrace of what they most value, this isn't the accumulation of assets but to invest in relationships, to provide for not only themselves and their family but also their neighbours, such values was seen from the eldest to the very youngest. So despite them having virtually nothing, for the short time that I was there, I never once heard a complaint, to the contrary the Haitians were full of joy and laughter as they cherished each new day that came. With this spirit they will and we will continue to support them during this, the most difficult period of their nations history. Thanks for all the support and fundraising from all those Wainwright and Cummins.