

Lent V Sunday April 10

After the “Tranbleman Te” – The Dream Continues

Scripture: Psalm 46:1-4 (BCP)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Do you remember what we talked about last week? This week our story continues. Do you know what an earthquake is? This week you will hear about how an earthquake affected the trees in Haiti.

On January 11, 2010, beginning deep in the mountains near St. Etienne’s, the earth shook violently for 34 seconds - first in one direction and then another. The people were frightened as everything around them was shaking and falling. It was an earthquake, in Creole “Tranbleman Te.” It was very scary. When the earth stopped shaking, all over Haiti many buildings had fallen down and many people were hurt.



A mountain of rubble – once someone lived here



Earthquake damage in Haiti – people lived here before the earthquake

At St. Etienne's the church fell down. Miraculously only two people in the community died, but many were injured and more than 50 lost their homes.

After the dead were buried and the medical emergencies were handled, the people needed to get food and water to stay alive. Many people from all over the world sent food and money to help. But the water sources, so important for survival in the countryside, had been closed off when the earth shifted in the quake. Even bottled water had to be brought into rural mountain villages like St. Etienne's. Some Episcopal churches sent medicines and clothes and construction materials to rebuild houses. And the community of St. Etienne's began the long process of recovery and healing.

In the midst of their great hardship, God did not forget them, their friends did not forget them and they did not forget their dream about the trees. The tree project stopped for a while so the people could repair their houses and roads. For a while there was no water with which to water the saplings in their Pepinye.

Now a year after the earthquake, they are ready to continue their dream of new trees and new forests. You can help their dream come true. Your coins will buy many trees. A tree for this project in Haiti costs just 33 cents. So for each dollar's worth of coins you collect, three trees will be planted.

Do you think you have a dream to be a leader like Justin? Together we can ask our church to gather the change in our pockets and purses and send it to our partner churches in Haiti. And even when our dreams seem impossible or the earth shakes and our dreams go away for a while, we still have help from the God who shares our dreams and like the people of St. Etienne, we will have the support of many people who are our brothers and sisters in Christ. How do you think we can help plant trees in Haiti?

Prayer: O Lord, we dream of a world in which all your children know your love and care, even in difficult times. Give us your grace to always see the hardships that any endure as hardships we all endure. And, teach us to respond to each other not weighing our differences, but remembering that we are all brothers and sisters. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Together we can bring the trees back to Haiti.