

# 2010 April Medical Facility Design for Haiti – First Field Visit

























































Bodies were trapped inside this former five story building. Lack of proper reinforcement ties between floor and walls may have contributed to this buildings total pancake. Had the walls and the floors been tied together, the building might have collapsed differently, forming triangle voids near the outside walls.



In an earthquake, it is typically safer to crouch down near an exterior wall, cover your head and wait until the tremor has stopped before attempting to flee into the street. More people were killed hiding under desks, standing in doorways, and running out into the streets during a tremor. This building is not an example of a well built structure. No one would have likely survived the quake in this building regardless of what they had done.





Here is an example of a somewhat better constructed building. More reinforcement was used partly because it was so open. Had it been solid walls, the reinforcement might have been leaner causing more pancaking as seen in the lower floor collapse.



Buying fuel was a long night of going from one place to the next and haggling for quarts and half gallons. We needed six hours worth of fuel to make it to the site and back.









## Loading gear for first field visit







Doc getting ready for our first field trip out to the site to measure the property



The city succumbed to the powerful quake depending on the quality of the construction. Some simple details such as tied reinforcement bars between floor slabs and wall sections went a long way in helping some structures to partially survive and give victims a better chance of escaping. This building is an example of not following that advice.





People set up tent cities in streets as soon as heavy equipment cleared a section of debris, making it hard for the equipment to continue excavating deeper into the city the following day. Many died waiting for rescue in the early days of the disaster because of the population not being immediately evacuated.





Box truck turned into passenger bus by cutting windows in the sides





## Bartering for more fuel





The countryside had the feel of a post apocalyptic world





The smell and the haze of open piles of raw garbage was unbelievable. Children played in the river.





Many people migrated out into the surrounding hills constructing tent cities. These turned into permanent villages during the next several trips I made to Haiti.





Truckloads of bodies were ferried to a large pit in the side of a mountain. The number of dead is far higher than what was reported given the number of trucks and the duration of their gruesome operation. A cross was bulldozed into the mountainside, providing a temporary marker to the burial site. Many of these people were born without any record of birth. Nobody knew they existed or passed except God.













