Aquaboxes of hope are just what we need ... we lost so much to the earthquake

Derby Telegraph readers have helped raise more than £200,000 to pay for water purification kits which have been sent to earthquakeravaged Haiti, Reporter Claire **Duffin** (pictured) flew to the

Caribbean country's capital to see first-hand how the Aquaboxes are saving lives.

AS the first Aquabox was unloaded, a Haitian woman for with the help of Derby Tele-graph readers. in a crowd of hundreds threw her hands in the air and started singing and dancing with delight.

Others around her, strangers drawn together in desperate need, chattered excitedly as they watched the aid arriving at their camp.

Since the earthquake des-troyed their homes and killed a large crowd gathering. their friends and relatives, they have been living in tents and brought to the middle of and makeshift shelters on a the camp, where Mona had put small piece of wasteland in an up a table in a sheltered area area of Port-au-Prince called with a rope around to act as a Grasier.

The camp is one of hundreds that have sprung up all over the capital in the wake of the earthquake in Janu ary, which killed 200,000 and left a million homeless.

Camps in Port-au-Prince have elected leaders. In each one, ramshackle tents are pitched cheek by jowl. The majority of people here have lost

family as well as homes. There are many orphans. Mona Marck is vice-presid-

GIVE LIFE.

ent at one of the camps in Grasier. all lost "We have everything," said Mona, who

lives at the camp with her husband and one-year-old son. "There were so many lives

lost – adults, infants and whole families "And people don't want to

rebuild their homes if there will be another earthquake. There are also no jobs to earn money - we have nothing."

But there was some hope for the community when they were given 70 Aquaboxes – paid

The boxes are being distributed in Haiti by international

charity Humanity First. A truck was loaded with the Aquaboxes at 7am and was driven to the camp, along roads strewn with pot holes and dusty cracks left by the quake. By the time the truck arrived

at the camp, there was already The boxes were unloaded barrier, keeping back the crowds.

As the first box was unloaded, the middle-aged WO man in the crowd broke into spontaneous song and

dance. After an earlier problem at another camp – when a near-riot was caused as the con-

tents of boxes were handed out - the distribution this time was superbly efficient.

They were unpacked, and candles. matches. washing powder, plates, bowls, tools, toys, plastic sheets and clothes were laid out on the tables.

Families waited patiently until Mona read out their names and they were invited up to the table and given some items from inside the boxes.

Most importantly, each box, containing a tap and water purification kit, was then given out for three families to share. This would mean they would have access to clean, safe drinking water. Previously, the families had to fetch water from a dirty stream, a lengthy





NEWS



Everyday items that mean so much to those who have nothing



trek away from the camp. "This is just what we need. said Mona, wiping the sweat from her forehead as she lifted another box onto the table. "It is just great.

By now, the crowed had swelled in number as people swarmed around the tables. watching with excitement as

more boxes were unloaded "This tragedy has hit Haiti and it will take a long time to recover. We need a lot of help like this," said Mona. The distribution went on un-

til nightfall, by which time all the aid had been given out.

And although Mona said it was a great help to the struggling families, she said she was now concerned about finding better shelters for people, par ticularly with the rainy season just around the corner. They currently live in tents and temporary shacks made of

od bags; torch and batteries; sewing t

pall pump: cards: dominos: tennis balls: mode

our forks; four spoons; one serving spoon

cils; paper; rubble sacks; ball of string; insulation tape; reading

es; clothes line; pegs; hammer; packs of nails; pliers; folding

in: saw: shopping bag and clothing for babies and childrer

sticks, bound together and covered with plastic tarpaulin and bed sheets. "The babies and infants will get ill if they have to sleep outside in the rain," said

Mona, 32 "And we just don't know how long we are going to have to live like this

wdriver; screws; brick trowel; hand trowel

"We have been told there will be another earthquake but we don't know when it will come

lina clav: coloui

"We need tents and plastic sheets to protect the families from the rain. It will start raining soon and we have no prope shelter.

"Diseases will be rife and the voungsters will suffer." Dr Aslam Daud, chairman of

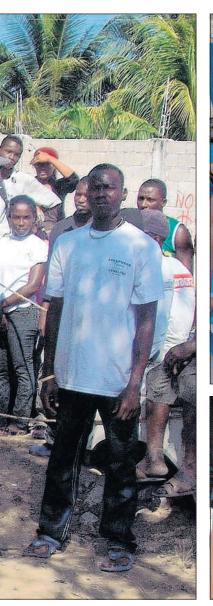
cduffin@derbytelegraph.co.uk. You can send money to NatWest, account number 53575113, sort code 60-14-15. call 01629 825 178, or post a donation to Aquabox, PO Box 5398, Matlock. Derbyshire DE4 4ZP, cheques payable to Aquabox

ing them.

a long time."

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NEWS









Humanity First, said the value of the Aquaboxes to the people of Haiti was immeasurable. He said: "The contents of the Aquaboxes are excellent. The people of Haiti love receiv-

"But I think Haiti will need a lot more help for • To donate

Aquabox, call us on Derby 253053 or e-mail

TOMORROW: HOW MARITZA BATTLES TO RECOVER FROM SURGERY TO SAVE HER INJURED ARMS







Illness forces BNP opponent Ken to leave the pulpit

A POPULAR Derbyshire cler vman, who spoke out against he BNP, has retired at the age of 60 because of ill-health. The Rev Ken Horleston was

vicar at St Clement's Church, Horsley, St Mary's, Denby, and St Susanna's, Horsley Woodhouse. He opposed the BNP holding its Red, White and Blue Festival in Derbyshire. In 2008, he told the Derby

elegraph: "The Bible calls on people to 'love thy neighbour but the BNP's views are in violation of this. A person canno e a practising Christian and vote for the BNP

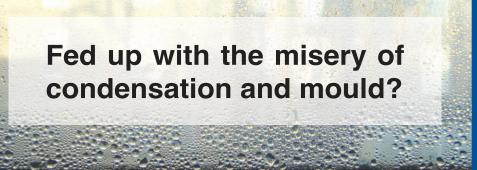


VOICE he Rev Horleston who spoke out against

Mr Horleston spearheaded a successful campaign to raise 170,000 to repair the roof at the Horsley church, which is also due to get new central heating and disabled access toilets.

David Harris, reader at St Clement's, said: "The church under Ken's leadership has aised a considerable amount owards this scheme.

"Ken can feel proud he leaves behind a church in good heart and mind and good repair that s looking to the future.





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