

# College students fill Buckets of Hope for Haiti

March 10, 2010

Fifteen college students in the Northwest gathered in a friend's apartment to pray for the 10 families in Haiti who would receive the buckets of food they put together. Each five-gallon bucket filled with various food staples has the makings of 100 meals and is meant to feed a Haitian family for a week.



After sharing a meal together, a group of students get ready to pray for families in Haiti before assembling food-filled Buckets of Hope.

Members of Resonate Church were eager to take a Spring Break trip to Haiti to minister amidst the devastation from the earthquake: however, such a trip was not practically feasible. The Lord made another way, though, for the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the poverty-stricken families living in Haiti.

A tangible way for the body of Resonate to serve Haiti was to join with other Southern Baptists across the country to assemble and pray over these Buckets of Hope. Southern Baptist in the Northwest, in Texas and

everywhere are unified in their pursuit of missional living.

Baptist Disaster Relief teams have the ability to deliver and distribute these food-filled buckets into the hands of the people in great need of both physical and spiritual nourishment. The story of Jesus will be included in their language, and this story carries with it the transforming power of hope in Christ for those who believe. Pray for the families in Haiti to learn of God's strong love for them and learn to live in trustful reliance on their Maker, who is their Sustainer.

Twelve Resonate small groups—called Villages—meet in homes weekly to share a meal and fellowship. Villages were encouraged to participate and assemble as many Buckets of Hope as possible. International Village, made up of students from various faiths and backgrounds, rallied around this cause and donated to help make buckets, too.



Students enjoy filling Buckets of Hope for Haiti in an assembly line operation.

One girl from China said, “It allows me to be apart of something bigger, and do more than what I could do on my own.” Each week these international students, who do not personally know Jesus, come to cook, eat and hang out. My friends and I read and study the Bible with them and they enjoy asking questions. They knew the buckets would be given in the name of Jesus, and they were excited.

Each bucket requires about \$40 to cover the food contents and shipping costs. Predominantly made up of college students, the Resonate body was able to put together around 80 buckets of hope. Students inspired students as they sacrificially and generously gave towards a cause that fulfilled the mandate of Jesus to provide for the poor and care for the afflicted.

*Jane Owen is a student missionary correspondent serving with Go Now Missions in the Pacific Northwest.*