Reading family church

Reading Family Church
Sunday 17th January 2010

Title: Haiti

Read: Genesis 3:17-19

Sean spoke about our response to the earthquake in Haiti by attempting to answer the following 3 questions:

What happened? – An atheist might answer this question by pointing out the lethal combination of colliding continental plates and the social / economic challenges of Haiti. A Christian would go further by pointing out this is one of the consequences of a fallen creation (God cursed the land in Genesis 3).

Why did God allow it? - In many ways there is no 'sound bite' answer to this question. It requires a Christian world view explanation which will include the story of God redeeming a world in rebellion through sending his son Jesus. The answer is complex and we shouldn't feel pressured to give a simple answer to it. But we do need to figure this question out for ourselves as we confront suffering in many areas of life.

What can we do?
Think clearly – we do need to be to able to offer hope based on God's word and His dealing with mankind in the person of Jesus.
Pray – we need to pray for the survivors, the mourners, the rescuers, and the long term development of the country.
Give – we can give direct to the Disasters Emergency Committee or agencies like Tearfund. But we do need to give to help those made in the image of God in Haiti.

Suggested questions:
1. What would you say to a friend who asks 'why does God allow this to happen?'
2. What question would you have asked Sean on the morning?
3. What have you done to help those in Haiti?