Within weeks of the devastating Haitian earthquake in January, Dr. Kris Alden, orthopedic surgeon at Weiss Memorial Hospital and clinical associate at the University of Chicago, was crossing into Haiti from the Dominican Republic on a bus packed with other health professionals and 36 duffel bags of medical supplies. A field hospital in Fond Parisien, a small village about 18 miles outside of Port au Prince, would be Dr. Alden's home for the next two weeks.

In searing heat – temperatures often reached 100F – Dr. Alden and his colleagues examined patients, performed surgeries and offered hope to suffering Haitians. While some amputations were necessary, Dr. Alden was able to save limbs and give patients the opportunity to walk again and return to work to support their families, avoiding a life a begging on the streets for their next meal. "From unspeakable pain and chaos, arose healing and order," Dr. Alden recalled. "Each limb we healed in turn salvaged a life potentially destroyed by the earthquake."

Dr. Alden sees the time he spent in Haiti as a gift, validating why he chose to pursue medicine as a career. He plans to return to Haiti rejoining the University of Chicago team in the months ahead as the need arises.

For more information on Dr. Alden's trip to Haiti, visit: www.weisshospital.com

For updates on the U of C Medical Mission team in Haiti, go to this Haiti Relief blog: haitirelief.uchicago.edu

More details on giving to this effort can be found at: news.uchicago.edu/btn/haiti.donate.php

Disaster Relief Fund
University of Chicago
1427 East 60th Street, Suite 120
Chicago, IL 60637

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