

# Grace!

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."*

Romans 12:12

FALL 2010

INTERNATIONAL CHILD CARE AT WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## Reinforcing Buildings AND Our Commitment

### ICC POST-QUAKE REBUILDING EFFORTS

*In the months after the earthquake, we struggled to come to terms with the grief and horror of what was happening in Haiti, but we never stopped working toward our goal of health and wholeness for Haitian children and their families. Now that we are moving forward to rebuild Grace Children's Hospital and maintain our programs, we still need your help.*

Nine months ago, an earthquake rocked the tiny island nation of Haiti, killing thousands and displacing millions. Media attention flooded the country, and helping Haiti recover became a top priority for governments, aid organizations, and celebrities around the world. The earthquake and subsequent suffering struck especially close to home for many ICC supporters, who have a deep, long-standing compassion for the people of Haiti. We received an unprecedented outpouring of support; letters, phone calls and gifts from long-term friends of ICC and new support from those who were moved to act by stories of tragedy and courage in Haiti. Thank you for partnering with us! ICC

was able to immediately coordinate relief efforts on the ground and use your gifts to sustain our work in Haiti. **But, as the attention has faded, the needs of the people of Haiti have remained just as urgent.**

### Please consider a gift today!

International Child Care has been meeting the needs of Haitians for more than 43 years, and the earthquake only reinforced our commitment to our Haitian brothers and sisters. Grace Children's Hospital provides treatment to children with tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases, offers health education programs, outpatient and reproductive health clinics, and a state-of-the-art eye clinic. ICC's long-standing relationship with the Haitian government led to the relocation of the National Ministry of Health TB office to Grace Children's Hospital in the weeks after the earthquake; critical TB treatment in Haiti has continued even in the aftermath of this disaster.



Photo © Pete Stambazze

**Kent Stephens, a member of the West Ohio Conference Leadership Team of the UMC, assisting with the demolition of the inpatient ward at Grace Children's Hospital.**

Outside of the glare of the spotlight and the noise of the headlines, positive progress continues every day in Haiti. ICC has worked with partner organizations such as Pure Water for Haiti and Rotary International to install 149 water filters at 57 of 125 slated sites throughout Haiti. We have also begun to

**CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE**

**In partnership with Pure Water for Haiti and the Kalamazoo Rotary Club, four bio-sand water filters were recently installed at a school in Cabaret, Haiti near an ICC health clinic.**



Photo © Pure Water Haiti

# State-of-the-Art Vision Care in Haiti

International Child Care's facilities in Haiti include a state-of-the-art eye clinic devoted to saving and improving the vision of patients from across Haiti. **With the help of faithful supporters like you, the clinic is able to treat more than one thousand patients every month.** The clinic offers eye exams, eye glass fittings, and corrective surgery for cataracts and other problems like glaucoma. However, there are some limitations. In July, ICC-USA National Director Keith Mumma was visiting the clinic, observing staff and working with a video crew to capture stories of patients and progress in rebuilding the hospital. He saw firsthand the heartbreak of Haitian medical relief efforts; great care available, but patients who wait to seek treatment or who seek out home remedies before they seek modern medical care.

A young boy was brought in by his mother; she had been searching for three days to find a place that would treat his eye. The child had fallen and sliced his eye. His mother didn't know about ICC's eye clinic until it was too late. Untreated, his eye became infected and doctors at the eye clinic were unable to save his vision in that eye. When the eye clinic's director was discussing the case, she mentioned that if the Grace Children's Hospital Eye Clinic had an anesthesia machine with pediatric capabilities they would be able to provide better eye trauma care. Keith returned to the states with the determination to get the right equipment to the clinic. Within weeks Geneva United Methodist Church in Illinois donated the funds and the pediatric anesthesia machine was delivered to Grace Children's Hospital in August.

ICC's eye clinic brings modern medicine to a country where home remedies for eye injuries sometimes involve pouring salt in wounds; not only do ICC's programs treat patients, they work to educate communities so that everyone knows that eye injuries should be seen by a doctor. An eye exam can cost as little as ninety cents per patient, but many cannot afford to pay even that. No patients are ever turned away for their inability to pay for treatment. Patients continue to pour into the clinic; after the earthquake, many sought treatment due to injury or irritation from dust, and ICC was able to set up mobile clinics in the tent cities to reach out to even more patients.



*This concerned mother was unaware of the care available for her son at Grace Children's Hospital until it was too late to save his injured eye. Grace Children's Hospital is working to promote our programs in the Port-au-Prince area so that families will come to us first.*



*The clinic offers eye exams, eye glass fittings, and corrective surgery for cataracts and other problems like glaucoma.*



*Geneva UMC donated the funds to provide a pediatric anesthesia machine to Grace Children's Hospital's Eye Clinic.*

*We gratefully accept donations of used eye glasses, and are seeking eye care professionals who would travel to Haiti and work with the staff at Grace Children's Hospital.*

## GCH'S STAFF RECOVERING FROM POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

# Reinforcing the Front Line

The earthquake's toll in Haiti has been measured in lives lost, children orphaned, homes destroyed and economic damage. Few could begin to guess at the mental toll for those who felt the ground move and lived the following days of panic and pain. The triggers are different for everyone; perhaps the noise of a neighbor's truck starting on a quiet morning, or the sound of a thunderstorm can drive a person back to memories of that terror. The violent earthquake, along with dozens of aftershocks, had a profound impact on the staff at Grace Children's Hospital. Every individual has reacted differently to the earthquake, but the agony of the day weighs heavily on everyone.

Symptoms of nightmares, flashbacks, depression, memory loss and substance abuse are common among individuals traumatized by war, natural disasters, and other severe crises in which great physical harm either occurred or was threatened. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms appeared immediately after the Haiti earthquake and affected staff and patients at Grace Children's Hospital, along with millions of others throughout the country.

In July, a team of psychologists, social workers, teachers and clergy arrived at Grace Children's Hospital in order to bring support and training for those at the front line of patient care: physicians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers. The team brought a combination of experience in mass trauma relief, post-traumatic stress disorder, teaching and training, and spiritual support. Led by ICC-US board member Rev. Lynne Austin, the team devoted four full days to 25 staff members of Grace Children's Hospital who requested access to personal counseling as well as professional support.

Daily sessions were offered which encouraged personal sharing and group support while modeling techniques for responding to individual cases and mass trauma. Parallel sessions were also offered using art therapy, deep breathing, and guided visualization, which combined to create extensive opportunities for participants to regain a sense of control over their lives. As the group listened and recounted stories and experiences, they began to name specific symptoms in the personal sharing, a significant step in normalizing PTSD and eventually seeing hope beyond the current symptoms.

Daily devotions were led, joining together vital aspects of emotional and spiritual support. Psalms 23 and 139, for example, assured God's presence as the shepherd leading the flock to safety, and the Creator lovingly familiar with each individual. Haitian-born cultural anthropologist, and ICC-US board member Dr. Espelencia Baptiste, provided cultural insights for the team, which proved invaluable throughout the week.



Photo © Rev. Lynne Austin

*During an art therapy session each participant was given an acrylic box-frame and invited to draw, paint or glue an experience of the quake or a tribute to someone.*

By week's end, several GCH staff members had experienced significant breakthroughs. Individuals whose trauma had left them fearful of being in a building were able to participate fully in the week's workshops held in the hospital conference room. Several people who had been previously unable to speak of their loss during the earthquake turned to fellow employees for understanding and comfort. Many offered personal situations for role playing and case study analysis and received specific recommendations for intervention. Each person left with a greater understanding of their own situation and how to move forward in a strategic manner. Equally important, each person experienced a commonality with all who attended.

Follow-up will include ongoing group support, practice of symptom recognition, and individual practice of stress management. Post-trauma stress is difficult to treat and requires more than a four-day conference for long-term change. However, the stage is set for future training and exchange. The team is deeply grateful to GCH for its dedication to the well-being of its staff by offering this level of care and training.

You can ensure the continuation of this and all ICC efforts through generous giving to Grace Children's Hospital. Since the January earthquake, the day-to-day difficulties of providing health care in Haiti have been compounded in ways that cannot be fully measured. Our gratitude to you for your giving is beyond measure. Thank you for what you have always done and continue to do! ●

## International Child Care Receives USAID Grant for Grace Children's Hospital

International Child Care (USA), Inc. is pleased to announce a new partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

has awarded a \$400,000 grant to Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince Haiti to help reconstruct the hospital, which suffered severe damage in the January 2010 earthquake. The grant is from the Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program, and will be applied to earthquake rebuilding expenses.

According to USAID, ASHA grant recipients are chosen to demonstrate U.S. advances in education and medical technology and practices. The re-built Grace Children's Hospital will continue to provide health and wholeness for the people of Haiti, building on a foundation of more than forty years of healthcare excellence.

Although these significant grants are a huge blessing to our work in Haiti, we still need YOU to support our programs. Funds from most grants are restricted and cannot be used to meet general operating budgets. **We will continue to need the commitment of our faithful donors to ensure that patients receive the medications and nutritious food they need to heal and that our community health development programs continue and thrive.**

# We Need Help to Stay On the Road

For more than four decades, dedicated volunteers have been traveling to Haiti to minister with International Child Care. As part of the Mission Education Encounter Trip (MEET) experience, the teams serve at Grace Children's Hospital, assist with hands-on ICC projects, and deliver medical care/supplies and health kits to the communities surrounding the hospital. No matter what the team's ministry focus, securing transportation services for the teams is an ongoing challenge!

Over the years, International Child Care has owned several vehicles dedicated to transporting MEET teams. All of these vehicles were donated by churches or individuals who understood the importance of having reliable transportation in Haiti. Unfortunately, the most recent MEET van - that was already on its last leg - was stolen and totaled in 2006 during the height of political unrest. Since that time we have had to outsource transportation or use non-MEET ICC vehicles which can hinder the staff's daily program activities.

During the past few months, the cost of renting a vehicle in Haiti has become prohibitive. At this time we have nine teams scheduled between November 2010 and March 2011 that will need reasonably priced, dependable transportation. **Our colleagues in Haiti have researched vehicles and it has been determined that a Hyundai H1 would best meet our needs. This durable 15-passenger van can be purchased in Haiti for approximately \$30,000USD. ●**



## We need YOUR help!

It is imperative that MEET teams have reliable and affordable transportation, especially now that more volunteers are needed than ever. **Please contact us at 800-722-4453 today!**

## You're Invited!

**Where: Haiti**

**When: March - December 2011**

International Child Care is currently recruiting MEET teams for 2011. If you have skills in construction, health education, Excel training, emergency care/trauma, human resource management OR simply want to cuddle sick children and share the love of Jesus we have a place for you! Contact Rachel Mills at 800-722-4453 to schedule your trip today!

# Newsline: New Transitional Inpatient Ward Open

On September 20, 2010, Grace Children's Hospital officially opened the new transitional inpatient facility. This twenty-five bed ward is located across the street from the main hospital campus, behind the Eye Clinic and Pediatric Outpatient Clinic. By noon on opening day, two children suffering from tuberculosis were already admitted. They joined the six abandoned children who have been inpatients since before the earthquake. Little Malasia, the third new patient with TB, was admitted the following day. He was quickly bathed and changed into a fresh gown and examined by a doctor. All of the ICC staff are very encouraged to see patients and their families benefitting from the new facilities. The Pediatric Outpatient Clinic will continue to admit children who need around-the-clock care.



Photo © Relief and Reconstruction Office

**Little Malasia was admitted with TB.**

In addition to the inpatient ward, transitional facilities are nearly complete for the remaining outpatient clinics that are still operating in tents on the main campus. In spite of the damage caused by the earthquake, over 300 patients continue to be seen per day at Grace Children's Hospital. Once the outpatient services are transferred to the new structures, the rest of the damaged hospital will be demolished so that a state-of-the-art facility can be built.

As the transitional facilities begin operations, ICC continues to map out the future of Grace Children's Hospital and our unique role in Haiti. We are planning to rebuild the hospital not only to meet modern health care standards and the needs of the children and families we serve, but also to create a sustainable, affordable facility. The new hospital must be able to withstand the demands of an ever-growing catchment area, but also be supported by our current funding projections. ●



Grace! is published quarterly for friends of International Child Care. ICC is a Christian health agency working in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to change conditions which make people sick, hungry, unemployed and afraid.

ICC depends on individuals, churches, and donor agencies for the financial means to serve. A response card and envelope are enclosed for your contributions. Your gift will be accepted for income tax purposes.

Deeply grateful for the support of our donors, International Child Care does not sell or trade a donor's personal information to any other entity in existence without their written permission.

Financial accountability and integrity are very important to International Child Care. At least 80% of all contributions are used on programs serving children and families.



Photo © Relief and Reconstruction Office

**New Transitional Ward Opened on September 20.**

## "REINFORCING" CONTINUED FROM FRONT

welcome North American volunteers to participate in demolition and reconstruction at the hospital grounds. We have forged a unique partnership with North American volunteers and local laborers; for every volunteer, 3 Haitian workers are employed at our project, earning a fair wage, clothes and 2 meals daily. The local workers also receive health and hygiene training from Grace Children's Hospital staff. ●

**We will be launching a capital campaign soon to fund the new hospital facility, and are counting on your faithful support!**

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Canadian International Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement international

UMCOR Advance Projects:

Grace Children's Hospital: 418520  
Integrated Community Health (Haiti): 418847  
Community Health Development Program (D.R.): 410215  
Child to Child Health Promotion: 418242