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# Holiday Edition

## GIVING WITH GRATITUDE, GENEROSITY AND LOVE

by Dr. Thomas O. Brumett

Advent is here and with Christmas just around the corner, this is a spiritual time of gratitude, generosity and love.

As pastor of First United Methodist Church in McKinney, Texas, I know how quickly the holidays can fill our calendars and our thoughts. That is why I am asking you now to please plan a special gift to Grace Children's Hospital this blessed season.

Grace Children's Hospital began fifty years ago. Phyllis Snavelly, a Methodist nurse, responded to God's call to bring healing to the children of Haiti.

Today, Grace Children's Hospital serves 180,000 people every year at the hospital in Port-au-Prince and in 149 community clinics. Grace Children's leads in the fight against tuberculosis and HIV. Pharmacy, radiology, pediatric and neonatal services are provided. Grace Children's Hospital is a recognized partner of the World Health Organization and other groups working for the health of people in Haiti.

I have led morning devotionals at Grace Children's Hospital for the 200 people gathered to receive medical services. I have seen the hope and optimism of the patients. I have seen the professionalism and dedication of the doctors, nurses and staff. This faithful work has continued for fifty years through government instability, earthquakes and hurricanes.

Join me during this blessed season of gratitude and hope. Share your blessing with the children and families of Haiti.

Donations can be made online or through the mail. For more information on how to give to Grace Children's Hospital, visit [InternationalChildCare.org/give](http://InternationalChildCare.org/give).



*Dr. Tommy Brumett, with the help of a translator, shared God's word with people gathered to receive medical services at Grace Children's Hospital. The hospital serves 180,000 people every year and leads the fight against tuberculosis and HIV in Port-au-Prince and 149 surrounding communities.*



# GRACE CHILDREN'S TACKLES HAITI'S HARDEST-TO-DIAGNOSE TUBERCULOSIS CASES

By Scott Hoyer, M.D., ICC Chairman of the Board

Sally Lefevre, a 32-year-old Haitian factory worker and mother, sought care at Grace Children's Hospital (GCH) in Haiti as a last resort after enduring unexplained back pain for several years. Suffering progressive weakness in her legs, she needed a walker just to get around. Despite seeking care at another hospital and even resorting to alternative treatments by a witch doctor, her condition only continued to worsen.

Robert Walden, a 34-year-old Haitian businessman, tells a similar story. Like Sally, he'd experienced weakness and back pain,

as well as weight loss, progressing to a point where his spine began to bend. Wheelchair-bound, he sought care at several institutions and even endured surgery for what was initially suspected to be a spinal tumor but turned out to be an abscess, before being referred to Grace Children's.

In both of these cases, the real malady was "Mal de Pot" or tuberculosis of the spine, which was positively diagnosed at Grace Children's Hospital through lab tests.

Thankfully, both patients received prolonged

antibiotic treatment at the Grace Children's TB Clinic and today are fully recovered.

## Coping with complex cases

Commonly referred to as Pott's Disease, GCH has seen an increase in such cases as well as other disseminated, hard-to-diagnose forms of TB (including meningitis). Previously considered a disease of children, spinal tuberculosis was thought to have been eradicated in Haiti, however, since the earthquake of 2010, it and other forms of TB have made a resurgence due to displaced people living in crowded tent cities and the reduction of vaccine coverage.

## History of TB in Haiti

The battle against TB in Haiti goes back to 1978 with the launching of the anti-tuberculosis crusade (ICC/CAT) under the leadership of International Child Care. This national campaign led to the complete elimination of complicated forms of TB in children (Mal de Pot, Meningitis, etc.). In 1990, this effort was reinforced with the first national program to fight against TB, conducted by the Haitian Government and assisted by the Pan-American Health Organization and International Child Care with the funding of World Bank. At Grace Children's Hospital, these efforts are conducted under the leadership of the National Director, Josette Bijou, M.D. (see profile on next page). Dr. Bijou states that although progress has been made, TB is still a severe problem for the country.

## Battling TB in Haiti today

Though TB has declined some since the 1990's, Haiti still has the highest rate of active TB cases in the Western Hemisphere. In 2016 the prevalence was 194 cases per a population of 100,000, or about one person in 500. This is 70 times the rate in the U.S., which is about one person in 35,000.

Since TB often strikes patients in the prime of their working years, it exacts a severe financial toll. Because patients are accepted regardless of their ability to pay, GCH offers hope to those without resources.

*Hardest to Diagnose continued on page 3*



*Patients with hard to diagnose forms of tuberculosis, can receive prolonged antibiotic treatment at Grace Children's TB Clinic.*

## PROFILE OF EXCELLENCE: JOSETTE BIJOU, M.D., NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD CARE, HAITI

A leading public health expert, Dr. Josette Bijou has spent 50+ years selflessly serving the people of Haiti. Internationally recognized for her work in the public health sector, she has been a driving force behind significant strides to improve the health and quality of life in this fragile but resilient country.

The National/Executive Director of International Child Care (ICC) and Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti since 2012, she has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to ICC, particularly in the areas of tuberculosis (TB), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS), maternal and infant health and public health administration, positioning Grace as a leading treatment and referral center. In addition to diagnosing and treating these conditions at GCH in Port au Prince, Dr. Bijou and ICC provide supervision and support to 149 of the 289 government-funded TB treatment centers throughout Haiti.

Dr. Bijou began her public career in Haiti after earning a medical degree from the State University of Haiti, and a master's in Public Health (MPH) from the University of Mexico. She became active in government, eventually serving as head of the Ministry of Health. Earlier in her career she served as the Senior National Consultant to the Pan-American Health Organization and World Health Organization "PAHO/WHO" and the World Bank, coordinating the first nationwide project to combat TB in Haiti. Because TB and HIV/AIDS are so closely linked, she became involved in the fight against HIV as well, delivering an address to the United Nations Assembly on progress against HIV/AIDS.

During her time as the Regional Director of the South health region, she was successful in reducing post-delivery maternal and infant mortality rates and helping control contagious diseases through the implementation of a vaccination program. Later she founded the Public Health Association of Haiti, with a focus on health education for professionals, organizations, and the public. Although Dr. Bijou is globally recognized, she is well-known for her calm, humble, yet determined disposition and calls on her Christian faith often in her work with patients and employees.

We at ICC-USA would like to thank her for her years of service to her country, to the people of Haiti and to all who pass through the doors of Grace Children's Hospital.



*Dr. Josette Bijou has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to International Child Care while serving as the National/Executive Director since 2012.*

### ***Hardest to Diagnose continued from page 2***

In this regard, Dr. Bijou is quick to point out that given recent political instability and governmental struggles in Haiti, as well as cutbacks by major funding sources such as the Global Fund, she no longer can count on the level of support she has received from these sources in the past. To continue the battle, a higher level of support from International Child Care-USA is essential.

Please consider giving to this worthy cause. See ways you can help eradicate TB in Haiti on page 4.



### GIVE THE GIFT OF LOVE - A GIFT OF LIFE

Searching for the perfect meaningful gift this holiday season? One way to honor your friends and family is through a donation to Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti.

Here are just some of the ways your dollars can help sustain their work:

- \$30 will feed a child at GCH for a week
- \$50 will support a nurse at GCH for a week
- \$60 will train and equip two birth attendants in newborn resuscitation
- \$100 will provide 10 chest x-rays to children at GCH
- \$150 will help treat a child with TB for a week
- \$180 will support the treatment of 3 malnourished children at GCH
- \$250 will help provide school supplies for GCH for a year
- \$500 will support completing vaccinations for 50 children
- \$1000 will support a doctor at GCH for a month



A child receives a donated washcloth.

All donations support the charitable efforts of ICC. Just mail your check or credit card payment in the enclosed envelope or visit our website at [InternationalChildCare.org](http://InternationalChildCare.org) to donate online.

Provide the addresses for your gift receipts and we'll send a note acknowledging your gifts with our thanks!

### GCH Statistics Report: April - September 2018

Patients seen in outpatient clinics	41,229	Children vaccinated	6,976
Patients tested for HIV	2,759	Number of education sessions	2,435
Laboratory tests done	42,764	Number of participants	38,679
X-rays performed	3,388	Conducted home visits	5,728

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