

# Grace!

SPRING 2010

INTERNATIONAL CHILD CARE AT WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## Grace in the Midst of Unspeakable Tragedy

*But this I call to  
mind, and therefore  
I have hope:*

*The steadfast love  
of the Lord never  
ceases; his mercies  
never come to an  
end; they are new  
every morning;  
great is your  
faithfulness.*

*Lamentations 3:21-23 ESV*

**UNICEF estimates that  
over 3 million Haitians  
were severely affected  
by the earthquake on  
January 12, 2010.**

- 300,000 injured
- 1.1 million homeless
- 2 million dependent on food aid
- 200,000 dead

Early in the evening on Tuesday, January 12, the young patients at Grace Children's Hospital had just finished eating their customary dinner of beans and rice and returned to the main area of the inpatient ward. The infants, bellies full of milk, were resting in their cribs and the older children had gathered in front of the TV as darkness began to fall on the city of Port-au-Prince. Then, around five o'clock, their routine evening was shattered. As the ground began to shake from an earthquake of unprecedented violence, panic reigned at Grace Children's Hospital. For nearly a full minute, the children and nurses alike cried out in fear and confusion, calling on the name of Jesus as the beds shook and the TV crashed to the floor. The walls shuddered and crumbled, sending medical supplies careening to the floor and causing an oxygen tank to fall over.

There were eleven children—six babies and five older children—on the inpatient ward at the hospital that night. As the shaking subsided, each staff member scooped up a baby and led the older children outside. The staff made several trips in and out of the building to evacuate all the children and salvage supplies. Then the band of survivors gathered on the playground in front of the inpatient building as night fell and powerful aftershocks began to add to the chaos. One of the older children was so frightened that she ran and huddled near a wall in the hospital garage. Sadly, the wall crumbled behind her and she was killed by falling debris.



Although the inpatient ward did not collapse during the initial earthquake, the structure was severely damaged and is uninhabitable. The children have been cared for outside in salvaged cribs and beds, shaded by tarps strung up between trees. Recently a large tent replaced the tarps in preparation for the rainy season.

In the days following the earthquake, three children were picked up by their parents, and another family came to make sure their son was safe. However, they had lost their home and decided that he should continue his treatment at the hospital for the time being. The other seven children were orphans prior to the earthquake. Two were in the process of being adopted by American families, and have been released to licensed orphanage.

The staff at Grace Children's Hospital have suffered terrible personal losses as well. Many lost dear family members and over 70% are now homeless. ●



Despite the severe damage at **GRACE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**, hope prevails as the dedicated staff press on.



Since the earthquake, the following emergency cash and in-kind donations and supplies have been sent to Haiti:

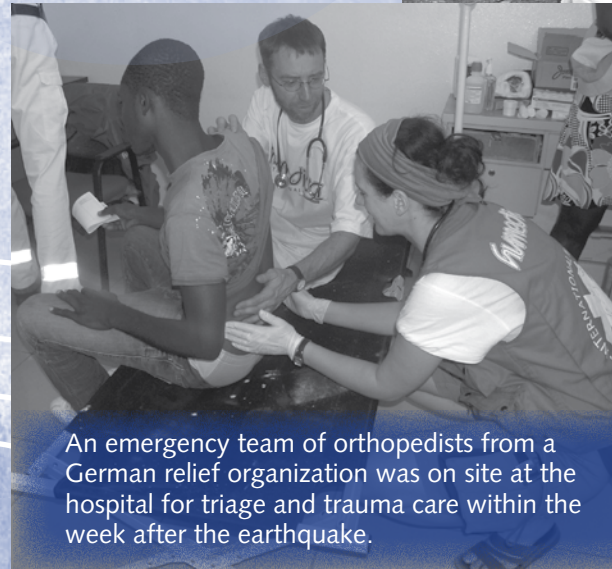
**From Canada...**

Cash transferred:	\$31,500
In kind donations	\$410,000
Goods purchased	\$11,526
Expenses for shipping etc:	\$11,000

**From the US...**

Cash transferred:	\$46,500
Container in kind donations	\$598,000
Tents	\$5,487
Replacement computer equipment	\$646
Replacement computer equipment	\$4,827
Eye clinic equipment	\$66
Replacement photo ID equipment	\$3,660
Donated antibiotic eye drops for eye clinic	\$23,839
International Director pay	\$5,000
Mobile Clinic	\$75,000

**Total from Canada and the US \$1,227,052**



An emergency team of orthopedists from a German relief organization was on site at the hospital for triage and trauma care within the week after the earthquake.



Accessing water and food for the children and staff has been challenging and sanitary facilities are not functioning. World Vision delivered over 25,500 bags of rice to the hospital to be distributed to women and their children. The US Army also installed a water tank on the property of Grace Children's Hospital that holds thousands of gallons of water.



In spite of their own personal struggles, the hospital staff is dedicated to helping their countrymen. Each has their tragic stories of loss of family members, colleagues, friends, or homes, and all have suffered psychological, if not physical, trauma. There are tears, but each day still starts with an enthusiastic devotional with prayers and singing.

It only took a few days for the community to realize Grace Children's Hospital's services for children, adults and pregnant women were functioning on the grounds of the hospital. By the end of the first week the clinics were very busy as word started to spread.



## ICC Continues Legacy of Care and Love for Children of Haiti

International Child Care has been busy promoting a capital campaign to raise funds for building, rebuilding and sustaining ICC structures, staff and programs in Haiti. One of the most pressing needs is to rebuild the inpatient and outpatient clinics at Grace Children's Hospital. Although the buildings are still standing they sustained irreparable damage during the earthquake.

In the weeks since the earthquake, ICC has been busy getting back to business in Haiti. Even though many of the buildings on the ICC Haiti campus are unsafe, most of the outpatient services at Grace Children's Hospital are open on the grounds of the hospital. Meanwhile, the ICC boards and administrative personnel have been assessing the current needs of our health programs in Haiti and re-visioning the future of the ministry outreach in Haiti. International Child Care is committed to upholding Grace Children's Hospital's long-standing reputation of being a leading provider of healthcare in Haiti.

While there is not yet a specific rebuilding timeline in place, ICC is diligently working and leveraging the current interest and focus on Haiti to benefit Grace Children's Hospital in the best possible ways. As always, ICC is partnering with many other international organizations and seeking funding opportunities to assist in the efforts in Haiti. Continuing the legacy of care and love for the children of Haiti through Grace Children's Hospital is a top priority for International Child Care. Look for more information on the vision for Grace Children's Hospital and how you can help make the vision a reality on our website ([internationalchildcare.org](http://internationalchildcare.org)) and in upcoming editions of the *Grace* Newsletter. ●



A group of American pediatric physicians and nurses, led by US Board Member Dr. Jeannine Hatt, came and worked with the hospital's Haitian pediatricians. The stories of the children coming into the clinics were heartbreaking: babies found in their dead mother's arms amidst collapsed homes, children pulled out of the rubble after several days, children with respiratory symptoms from all the dust and dirt and those with so much psychological trauma that they were unable to sleep or eat.



## Jolanda Pierre

Jolanda Pierre was only ten months old when her father brought her to the pediatric outpatient clinic at Grace Children's Hospital. Jolanda was diagnosed with gastro-enteritis and malnutrition – she weighed less than 15 pounds, and also suffered from anemia and intestinal parasitosis. ICC medical staff determined that she should be admitted to the hospital, and she began treatment on August 14, 2008.



Jolanda recovered rapidly during her time at Grace, but her father never came back to visit. When the time came to release Jolanda from the hospital, the hospital staff could not contact her family, and it became clear that she had been abandoned. It is not unusual for Haitian families who cannot provide for their children to make the heart-wrenching decision to give them up. Although Grace Children's Hospital will admit and treat ailing children no matter the family's ability to pay, parents regularly abandon their children into the hospital's care.

In September 2009, a Mission Education Encounter Team (MEET) from New Life Church in Gahanna, OH traveled to Haiti and served at Grace Children's Hospital for part of their week-long visit. When one of the team members, Shanna Gordon, met little Jolanda both of their lives were forever changed! Shanna was drawn to Jolanda and spent a lot of time during that week holding, feeding and playing with her. Shanna's thirteen-year-old daughter, Markaila, was also on the MEET and felt a kinship to Jolanda. By week's end, Shanna had a mother's love for this abandoned child of God and felt called to pursue adoption.

International Child Care does not facilitate adoptions, but Shanna was able to use other resources to locate a licensed Haitian crèche willing to assist her in the process. Arrangements were made for Jolanda to be released to the orphanage and Shanna returned to Ohio to begin the extensive Haitian adoption journey. But when the earthquake devastated Haiti on January 12, everything changed.

On January 18, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced a new humanitarian parole policy allowing orphaned children from Haiti to enter the United States. Only children who had begun the adoption process prior to January 12, 2010 were eligible – and that included Jolanda! The Gordons jumped into action and applied for humanitarian parole status for Jolanda. On February 16, 2010, Jolanda Pierre was granted humanitarian parole and received her travel papers to fly to the US. Jolanda was reunited with Shanna in Miami, Florida on February 27th and is enjoying her new life with her parents and three sisters.



*Although ICC is an advocate for children and is pro-adoption, we do not facilitate adoptions. If you are interested in pursuing a Haitian adoption, please contact a reputable adoption agency that can assist you. ●*

**ICC/USA staff member Rachel Mills was also in the adoption process prior to the earthquake. Jolanda and Rachel's daughter Emma were paroled and traveled to the US on the same day**



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 received 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.

ICC/USA  
3506 Lovers Lane, Suite 8  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001  
1-269-382-9960  
1-800-72-CHILD  
E-Mail: [iccusa@internationalchildcare.org](mailto:iccusa@internationalchildcare.org)

ICC/CANADA  
500 Alden Rd, Suite 210  
Markham, Ontario L3R 5H5  
1-905-752-0501 or 1-888-722-4453 ext.295  
E-Mail: [canada@internationalchildcare.org](mailto:canada@internationalchildcare.org)

[www.internationalchildcare.org](http://www.internationalchildcare.org)



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

## LATE BREAKING INFORMATION FROM HAITI

---

### **ICC Opens Relief and Reconstruction Office in Port-au-Prince:**

The earthquake of January 12, 2010 changed Haiti forever. The toll of human suffering continues to rise. International Child Care's people and infrastructure were not spared in this disaster. We have lost friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues. A well-coordinated, sustained and well-resourced relief, recovery and reconstruction effort will be needed for the foreseeable future. Haiti's infrastructure has been decimated. Rubble must be cleared and buildings that are no longer usable will need to be demolished and rebuilt - including most of Grace Children's Hospital – which we fully expect to be a multi-year, multi-million dollar effort. Our vision is to see a new Grace Children's Hospital rise out of the rubble to the glory of God and in support of our vision and mission; a lasting testimony to the many whose lives were lost and to all who have come before.

In response to these new realities, ICC is establishing a Relief and Reconstruction Office in Port-au-Prince. This new office will be situated in a rented house, converted into office space, off –campus near Grace Children's Hospital. This office will serve as the operational base for coordination of ICC's Relief and Reconstruction efforts over the next 2 – 3 years. The staff in the Relief and Reconstruction Office will work in close synergy with the national offices in the US and Canada as well as ICC's national offices in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This office will also double as the International Office and will be under the direction of ICC's International Director who is expected to visit frequently.

### **ICC Provides Mobile Eye Clinics in Tent Cities surrounding Grace Children's Hospital**

Within days of the earthquake, make-shift tent camps were erected by the millions of people in the Port-au-Prince area who had lost their homes. The residents of these camps, many with only tarps to protect them, are living in close proximity without access to basic needs such as clean water, food and sanitation facilities which could easily trigger an infectious disease epidemic. Eye infections and blindness are a major concern for this vulnerable population.

For this reason, Grace Children's Hospital has begun to offer mobile eye clinic in the camps. An ophthalmologist from Grace Children's Hospital's state-of-the-art eye clinic, along with two ICC nurses and six community health workers, travel into the surrounding tent cities to provide eye exams and medication for those suffering with Glaucoma and other diseases of the eye. The staff also offers care to those who sustained eye injuries during the earthquake. Patients with severe cataracts are referred to the eye clinic at Grace Children's Hospital for surgery. The surgeries, examinations, medications and glasses are all provided free of charge. The patients are also directed to report to the eye clinic at Grace Children's Hospital for free follow-up care. The mobile eye clinic staff sees approximately 85 patients per clinic.



Many of the medications that are being used at the mobile eye clinic have been purchased with funding from ICC USA as well as a large donation of eye medication from Alcon Laboratories Incorporated. But in order to continue these clinics, more eye glasses, medications and funding is needed. International Child Care is also in need of ophthalmologists to volunteer at Grace Children's Hospital. Please contact our office at 800-722-4453 for more information.

### **In Memoriam:**

The International Child Care family mourns the loss of two dear colleagues who perished on January 12, 2010. Claudy St. Juste, who began working for Grace Children's Hospital in 2004, was an IT professional and also worked as a Public Relations representative for Grace Children's Hospital. Claudy, along with his wife, step-son and their two-year-old son died in the earthquake. Oswald Lubin, a security guard at Grace Children's Hospital, also died as a result of the earthquake. He had been employed by ICC since December 2008.

## Reflections from Post-Quake Haiti

By US Board Secretary Tom Hunsdorfer

I saw a hand-painted sign on the remaining wall of a collapsed house: two missing, one dead. I saw an entire elementary school building flattened into a six-foot high pile of rubble; the building next to it was undamaged. The proximity of life and death was jarring. Tens of thousands of people live in tent communities, under tarps, or in various hand-made, jury-rigged shelters using scrap materials from collapsed homes. Near some of the larger encampments there were latrines and water stations provided by the Haitian Red Cross, USAID, and other NGO's, but in other areas people needed to bathe, defecate, and do laundry in immediate proximity to their tents. I saw tents on hillsides, street corners, and roof-tops of damaged buildings that will either wash away or blow away when the rains begin and the tropical storms crank up in the next several weeks.

But I also saw people who were surviving, rebuilding, and recreating their lives despite having experienced such traumatic loss. I saw parents smiling at their children, vendors jamming the streets in downtown Port-au-Prince, heavy equipment removing rubble, and an amazingly energetic group of 100 Haitian young adults in bright yellow government-issued T-shirts wielding wheel barrows, shovels, and brooms as they cleaned up broken cinder blocks from a neighborhood street. I also witnessed soldiers from the US, Nepal, and Brazil smiling, waving, and assisting families with food and shelter, along with an army of non-profit workers from the Salvation Army, AmeriCares, Food for the Hungry, World Vision, the UN World Food Program, and others. I saw men recycling scrap wood and steel rebar from fallen buildings, women carrying 50-pound bags of rice on their heads, and medical staff at Grace Children's Hospital providing care to hundreds of people, mostly under tents and tarps in the courtyard. I saw an amazingly resilient, faith-filled people at the beginning of creating a new Haiti.



**These youth workers' t-shirts say "Haiti Get Back Up."**

Please visit our website at

**[www.internationalchildcare.org](http://www.internationalchildcare.org)** to watch video reflections

from our Haitian colleagues, patients and US board members who recently traveled to Haiti.

### Staff and Patient Quotes:

"Thirty-six hours after the earthquake, I climbed back into the collapsed church through a small window and found my mother, covered with dust, kneeling in prayer. She was dead." – an ICC nurse.

"When the earthquake struck, all of the children's cribs rolled to the middle of the room. We were scared and cried for Jesus. The nurse fell down, but then she took us outside. One girl died, and it was very frightening." – an eight-year-old patient at Grace Children's Hospital.

"January 12 will remain a scar in each Haitian's mind. But I don't want to cry anymore." – the teacher at the Grace School.

"We receive many very depressed people every day." – a doctor at Grace Children's Hospital.

"I thank God for my blessings." – an ICC accountant who found his younger sister alive in a collapsed office building, only to watch her die a few hours later at a hospital.