



# Grace!

WINTER 2005

AT WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

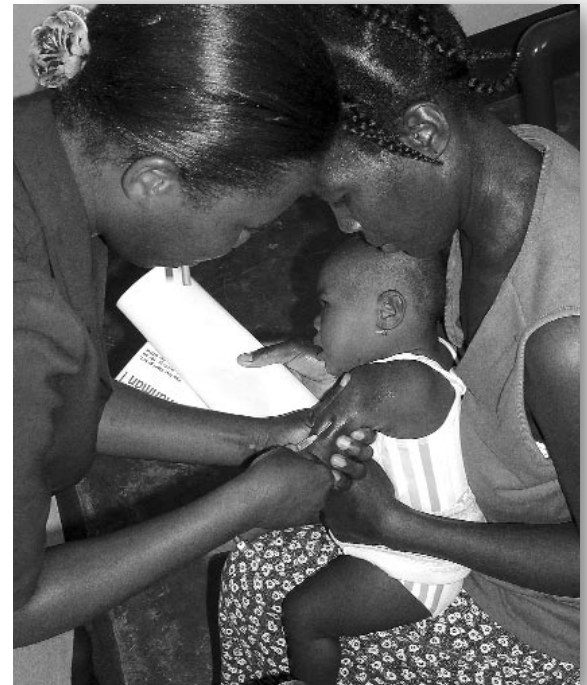
## ICC Provides Life Saving Vaccinations from the Urban Slums to the Remote Villages of Haiti

The crowded slums of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, as well as the remote villages of northern Haiti are breeding grounds for disease; the result of overcrowding, poor sanitation and inadequate nutrition. The conditions that accompany poverty, although not the cause of disease, certainly contribute to their ability to spread.

In an effort to control the spread of disease and to eradicate the factors which cause so much pain and suffering, International Child Care/Grace Children's Hospital utilizes both Urban and Integrated Community Health Programs to foster sound health practices within their project areas. The goal of these programs is to improve the overall health of communities, particularly the health of the children. By increasing access to effective and affordable community based primary health care services, and by stimulating and increasing awareness at the

community level, ICC is able to positively influence the health and well being of this vulnerable population.

One of the main projects carried out by ICC's Urban and Integrated Community Health Programs are vaccinations. The vaccination of children under one year of age and women of childbearing age, especially pregnant women, is a priority of International Child Care. Vaccinations for children include tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and measles, as well as vitamin A distribution. ICC also vaccinates pregnant women with tetanus toxoid to prevent neonatal tetanus. Infants' lives are saved because their mothers' immune systems provide protective coverage for their newborns. ●



This infant is being vaccinated for measles, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough by an ICC Health Worker at a mobile clinic in Cité Okay, one of the slums near Grace Children's Hospital.

**"O Lord, you alone can heal me. You alone can save. My praises are for you alone!"**

**Jeremiah 17:14 NLT**



Between October of 2003 and September of 2004 ICC vaccinated nearly 2,000 pregnant women and over 6,000 women of child bearing age in our project areas.

### ICC Vaccination Statistics: Age birth to 5 years Oct. 2003 – Sept. 2004

BCG*	4,411
Measles	10,092
DTP*	5,519
Polio	10,209

\* BCG = tuberculosis  
DTP = diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough

# ICC Provides Health and Hope through Vaccination Posts in the Remote Regions of Northern Haiti

It only costs \$6 to protect a child in Haiti against these common childhood diseases:

- Tuberculosis
- Diphtheria
- Whooping Cough
- Polio
- Measles

High up in the mountains overlooking the northern city of Cap Haitien sits the Citadel, a fortress perched atop a 2,900 foot peak. This impressive structure, larger than any other fortress in the Western Hemisphere, symbolizes an important piece of Haiti's history. Just a couple mountain peaks over, elevated even higher than the Citadel, sits another structure not nearly as impressive in construction. On this particular mountain, in an area called Lavite, sits a small, unimposing pavilion with a rusty tin roof. This particular structure does not represent a part of Haiti's history, but, instead, a vital role in the health of Haiti's future. This pavilion is the site of one of International Child Care's remote health posts.



**This simple pavilion marks the site of one of ICC's remote health posts high in the mountains of northern Haiti.**

On this particular day the health post is being used as a vaccination site. Although its only 9:00AM there are already fifty people, both patients and family, crowded in and around the pavilion. They have all come to receive health care from Viergena Duveau, a trained ICC Health Officer, along with her volunteer auxiliary staff. Viergena is responsible for overseeing a territory in the Joli Trou region, including Lavite, which is inhabited by approximately 3,000 people.



**Delane Joseph carried his infant granddaughter, Dieunise, to the health clinic for her post natal vaccinations.**

Viergena officially opens the clinic with a time of prayer and then begins to administer vaccines including polio, BCG against tuberculosis and DTP; an inoculation that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough). One of the first patients Viergena vaccinates is an infant named Dieunise. Her maternal grandfather, Delane Joseph, has carried her, over one hour's walk, to the health post so she can receive her vaccines. The infant's mother, just eighteen, is busy working at a village market.

Nineteen year old Marjorie St. Fleur has come to the health post to receive the last of her prenatal vaccinations. She is receiving the second does of her tetanus vaccine today. While at the health post Marjorie also confirms plans for an ICC trained Traditional Birth Attendant to help deliver her first child. She is due any day and the nearest hospital is too far to walk.

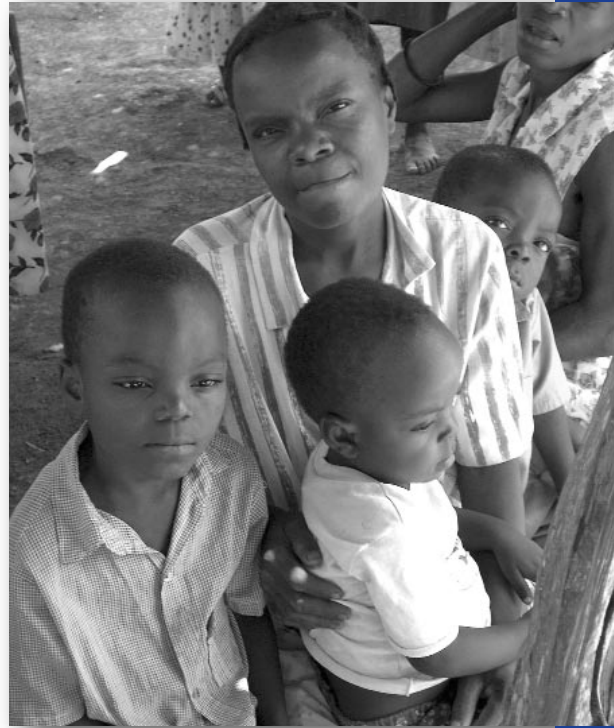
Although the focus of the health post this day is vaccinations, Viergena also takes time to consult with patients regarding other health related issues. Livalson, a seven day old infant who has blood in his left eye, was brought to the clinic by his aunt, Jeonne Dorval, as his mother is in seclusion. In rural Haiti there is a widespread tradition prohibiting women from being seen in public for one month after giving birth. Jeonne has walked three hours to bring her nephew to see a health officer. After vaccinating the infant boy, Viergena examines his eye and then refers them to ICC's hospital in Grand Rivière du Nord. ●



**Viergena Duveau, an ICC Health Officer, completes Marjorie St. Fleur's prenatal vaccinations with a tetanus injection.**



**Viergena vaccinates and examines baby Livalson and then refers him, under the supervision of his aunt, to the hospital in Grand Rivière du Nord.**



**Delina Jean walked for three hours, barefoot, to bring three of her six sons to the health post for their vaccinations. Even the youngest walked the whole way without assistance**

All photos © Keith Mumma

## Common Childhood Diseases in Haiti

**Tuberculosis:** A leading killer of children in Haiti, tuberculosis, commonly referred to as TB, is a bacterial infection that can spread through the lymph nodes and bloodstream to any organ of the body, but is usually found in the lungs. Because the bacteria that cause tuberculosis are transmitted through the air, the disease can be quite contagious. Once widespread in the United States, TB has become relatively rare with the help of antibiotics.

**Diphtheria:** An acute, highly contagious childhood disease that affects the membranes of the throat and nose, Diphtheria can be fatal if not treated promptly. Diphtheria can be spread from a handkerchief, towel, eating utensil, or any other object used by an infected person or sprayed by his/her coughing or sneezing. Once one of the most fatal diseases of childhood, cases of diphtheria and death from the disease have become almost nonexistent in countries where mass immunization has been practiced.

**Whooping Cough:** Pertussis, commonly called whooping cough, is a bacterial infection of the respiratory system that involves the voice box, windpipe, and breathing tubes. The infection causes irritation in the breathing passages, which results in severe coughing spells. Sixty percent of whooping cough cases are in children under five years of age. Whooping cough is most serious when it affects babies under one year of age; the younger the infant, the more serious the illness. Whooping cough is very contagious and the disease is easily spread when an infected person coughs. Immunization is very effective at preventing the spread of this infection.

**Measles:** A highly contagious viral infection, measles are transmitted when an infected person coughs or sneezes, causing severe cold like symptoms and a high fever. Measles, also called rubella, was once a common childhood disease in the United States, but now has been virtually stamped out in many developed countries, thanks to widespread immunization.

**Polio:** Poliomyelitis, also called polio, is a serious infection caused by a virus that chiefly affects children and young adults. Poliovirus typically enters the body through the mouth and multiplies in the tonsils and lymph nodes of the upper respiratory tract. The discovery of vaccines that protect against poliovirus infection have led to successful polio vaccination programs in North America, but the struggle to eradicate polio continues in many developing nations.

## ICC Fights the Spread of Contagious Disease in the Urban Slums of Port-au-Prince

In Cité Jeremie, one of the many slums surrounding Grace Children's Hospital, there isn't a building readily available for ICC Community Health Workers to set up the weekly mobile clinic. Therefore, being both dedicated and resourceful, the Health Workers simply find a suitable public place and get busy with the task at hand. Today they have picked a shady spot on a quiet street, near a dozen slumbering pigs, to set up a makeshift vaccination clinic.



While one of the health workers walks the narrow streets of the shantytown, using a megaphone to announce the location of the mobile clinic, two others set up a small table and prepare vaccines for measles, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. A rope tied between a tree and nearby gate is used to hang a scale to provide growth monitoring for the children being vaccinated. ●

**This ICC Community Health Worker is using a megaphone to advertise the location of the mobile vaccination clinic around Cité Jeremie, one of the shantytowns near Grace Children's Hospital.**

### The Board of Directors of International Child Care (USA) Inc.

*Invite you to attend Trinity Lutheran Seminary's  
First Annual Charity Chili Cook-Off  
A benefit for International Child Care*

*On Friday, February 4, 2005 at 6:00 PM*

*At the Koinonia Room  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary  
2199 East Main Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43209  
(Bexley)*

*Dinner will be followed by an ICC presentation and a silent auction  
of Haitian arts and crafts. A free-will offering will be taken.*

*Please contact the ICC/USA office to RSVP for this event.*

### Memorial and Honorary Gifts Program

**Call your national office or visit  
our web site  
at [www.intlchildcare.org](http://www.intlchildcare.org) to  
remember or honor  
a friend, colleague or  
loved one today!**



*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.

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## Newslines

*2004 was a year of profound suffering throughout the world. In Haiti alone over 5,000 perished in floods. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have endured adversity, most recently the Tsunami victims in south Asia. In this time of great hardship we hope you will continue to support ICC and that your generosity may extend to others in need as well.*



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UMCOR Advance Projects:

Grace Children's Hospital: 418520-7  
Integrated Community Health (Haiti): 418847-3  
Community Health Development Program (D.R.):  
410215-6

Child to Child Health Promotion: 418242-1

