



Grace!

FALL 2002

AT WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ICC Transforms Lives Through the Miracle of Water

Water is all around us. It gushes from our faucets, showers and drinking fountains. The average American uses about 100 gallons of water every day! We use it so frequently and casually that we take it for granted. In Haiti, the situation is very different.

Throughout the heavily populated country of Haiti, there are many areas where there is no potable water available. Many Haitians are forced to consume contaminated water, tainted by garbage, and human and animal waste, from streams that run through their crowded communities. Drinking contaminated water leads to outbreaks of fecal-oral diseases such as cholera, typhoid, diarrhea, viral Hepatitis A and dysentery. Diarrhea is the leading cause of death for children in Haiti. Disease can also be spread when polluted water is used for washing or personal hygiene. Washing with dirty water can facilitate the spread of skin and eye infections.

Water plays a vital role in International Child Care's work in Haiti.

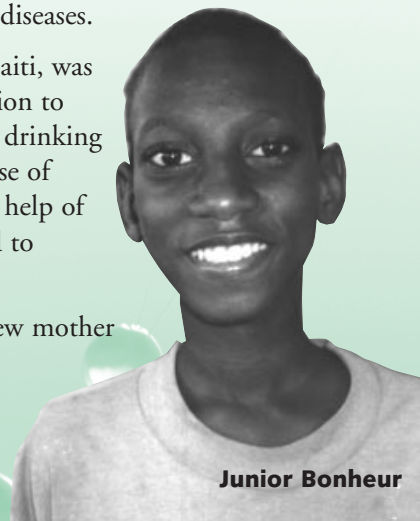
In addition to helping Haitians access clean, drinkable water, through the digging of wells and spring capping, ICC also focuses on hygiene promotion.

Community Health Workers and Traditional Birth Attendants, throughout ICC's urban and rural program areas, teach the importance of good hygiene. The simple act of washing hands with soap and water is key in the prevention of waterborne diseases.

Clean water is also imperative to the daily care of hundreds of children and families through Grace Children Hospital's (GCH) inpatient and outpatient services. Water is needed for washing, cooking, drinking and for cleaning and sterilizing medical equipment. Many of the children that are treated at GCH suffer from diarrhea or other waterborne diseases.

Junior Bonheur, a polite twelve-year-old from Petion Ville, Haiti, was admitted to Grace Children's Hospital with typhoid, in addition to pneumonia and tuberculosis. Typhoid is a disease caused by drinking water contaminated with sewage. Thankfully, through the use of antibiotics, Junior was quickly cured of typhoid and with the help of effective medicine, nutritious food and care, he is on the road to complete recovery.

In Haiti, there are some superstitious beliefs surrounding a new mother that discourage her from bathing. Therefore, many Haitian women do not even have the basic health knowledge to wash with soap prior to their delivery. ICC trained Traditional



Junior Bonheur

In North America we take clean water for granted, but in Haiti drinkable water is a precious commodity. Diarrhea, caused by lack of access to potable water, is the leading cause of illness and death in children under the age of five.

International Child Care works in both urban and rural communities, through our Urban and Integrated Community Health Programs, to teach families about the importance of clean water. ICC Health Workers help communities find sources of safe, potable water and educate on hygienic practices.

Percentage of Population with Access to Potable Water

Haiti	46%
Dominican Republic	71%
Canada	99.5%
USA	100%

Source: Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2001

Birth Attendants educate women on safe hygiene practices during pregnancy and delivery. Moreover, during postnatal visits Community Health Workers regularly monitor the health of infants for disease, especially diarrhea. Mothers are educated through a simple song and recipe, how to combat dehydration and diarrhea with oral rehydration solution. ■

Oral Rehydration Song

*Lè timoun yo gen dyare
Se pa gade yo nan je
Se pou'n sove yo
Ak seròm oral
Pou prepare'l
W'ap pran 3 kola dlo
Yon bonm pwòp
Yon kiyè pwòp
Yon sache seròm o o o
Seròm oral la prepare
Bay timoun yo*

When kids have diarrhea
Do not behave as a spectator
We have to treat them
With oral serum
To prepare it
You take 3 cola bottles of clean water
A clean bowl
A clean spoon
A package of serum o o o
The oral serum is prepared
Give it to the kids

Recipe for a Miracle:

ICC teaches mothers how to make Oral Rehydration Solution for their children to combat dehydration and diarrhea. This simple recipe saves thousands of children every year!

Combine the following ingredients:

4 cups of clean water
2 tablespoons of sugar
1/2 teaspoon of salt
1/2 cup orange juice

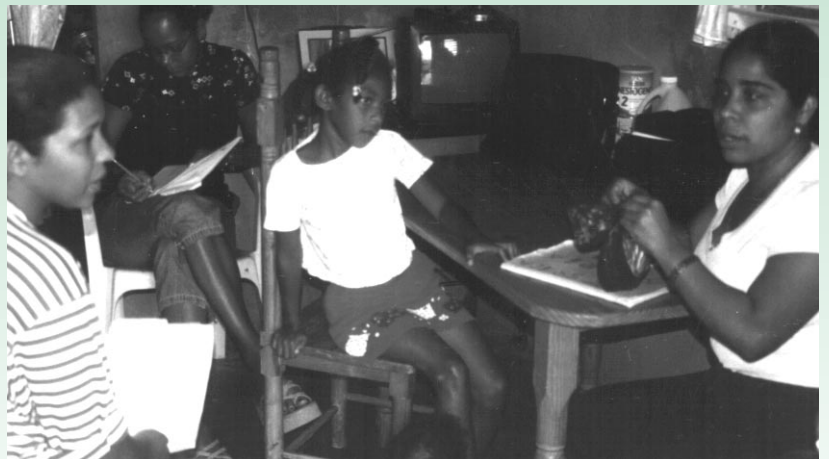


Amazing Grace!

Seven year old Jessica Maria Polanco was extremely shy. So shy, that she would even hide under the bed from her own parents! Jessica would hardly speak to anyone and was very defiant towards her parents. Because of her unruly behavior, Jessica didn't have any friends.

Jessica's inappropriate conduct led her worried parents to enroll her in ICC's Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Program. Jessica's aunt, Anaida, is a CBR Coordinator with International Child Care. Because of Anaida's training, she recognized that Jessica was suffering from a learning and behavioral disorder. Through the CBR program Jessica's parents were able to learn simple steps to manage her behavior and to give her daily positive attention.

Since Jessica entered the CBR program some notable changes have taken place. Jessica has become more sociable and pleasant. She is also more obedient to her parents. Although Jessica continues to be shy, her parents are not as worried anymore. Jessica has made a lot of new friends and is looking forward to school. Jessica and her parents are very grateful for ICC's Community Based Rehabilitation Program.



Through the CBR program Jessica's parents were able to learn simple steps to manage her behavior and to give her daily positive attention.

Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Bible. It's used again and again to illustrate being made new and spiritual cleansing. Water became an especially important symbol for me when I participated in a Mission Encounter to Haiti last April.

I am amazed at how many times water, and the issues it challenged me with, are mentioned in my journal from that trip. April 1, 2002 reads, "We take so much for granted – we waste tons! Tonight we were told to flush the toilet only if absolutely necessary and to take short showers. Water is brought in special to the guest house (and probably at a very high price)." Little did I know that the next morning's shower would be ice cold, would take place in the dark due to no electricity, and have little or no water

pressure! I wrote, "I got in the shower this morning, ran it, rinsed, turned it off, lathered, turned it back on, rinsed again and off.

It was cold and

awkward because it's not what I'm used to."

On our third night in Haiti, our group met to discuss some issues we'd been having. After a long talk that stormy night, we prepared for bed. As we settled in, one group member walked into the hall and noticed the floor was covered with a half an inch of water! We were able to stop the flooding, but were left with a big, wet mess to clean up. Our group labored together mopping, sweeping and bailing out the water. I couldn't help but think of Noah and his flood - thankful we didn't need to build an ark! We were exhausted when the chore was complete, but realized we had bonded as a group in the common goal of cleaning up from the flood.

It didn't take long for me to discern where Christ was present among this island nation. April 6, 2002 reads,

"Something else that's really impressed me are the Haitian people. All the people who we've encountered - the staff at the guesthouse, ICC's staff and many others - have all truly served us. It definitely reminds me of how Christ tells us to serve and even shows us how when he washed the feet of the disciples. These folks have placed their own needs aside to serve us and expect nothing in return. It is so genuine; they are serving as Christ served. They have amazed me! I have seen Christ in these people!" That night, we performed a footwashing with the members of our group as well as the Haitian staff at the guesthouse. It was only a small token of thanks for all they had done for us that week.

In a place where trash literally lines the streets and the water is horribly polluted, I became spiritually clean. I struggle daily with the issues of materialism, capitalism, exploitation of the poor and with how God calls me to respond. Each morning, I continue to shower in the dark as a reminder of my experiences in Haiti. It is only a tiny gesture in my fight to remember, honor and serve my brothers and sisters in Christ in the country of Haiti.

By Cari Floehr

Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty..."

– John 4:13-15.

REFLECTIONS



How you can make a difference

- Children in Haiti have to carry water many miles from a well to their homes. Count the faucets in your house and donate \$5.00 to International Child Care for each one.
- Remember the children of Haiti by taking a cold shower. Only turn the water on long enough to wet down and rinse. Turn the water off while you are lathering up.
- Educate your community by holding a local car or dog wash. Donate the funds raised to ICC.

NEWSLINES

ICC Introduces Charles Guy as Canadian National Director

International Child Care is pleased to announce the appointment of Charles "Charlie" Guy to the position of National Director of ICC/Canada. Effective Sept 11, 2002 Charlie assumed the responsibility for the performance and total operations of the Canadian National Office.

Charlie comes to the position with a very strong sense of God's leading. His desire is to express his faith in compassionate service and to truly "make a difference." Charlie is a goal oriented team leader with a broad range of business experience and skills acquired from nearly thirty years at the senior management level in sales, customer service, training and business operations support. He has quickly embraced ICC's ministry partners and its mission of providing health and wholeness to children in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Charlie is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Adult Education through Brock University. Besides work and school, he remains active in his church and community outreach events, and enjoys playing baseball and hockey. Charlie resides in Oakville, Ontario (just outside of Toronto) with his wife Bonnie. They are members of Grace Chapel where he recently stepped down after five years as elders board chairman. They have two children Michelle, who is married and Brad, who is still living at home.

Please join us in welcoming Charlie to the ICC team, wishing him all God's richest blessings in his new position.

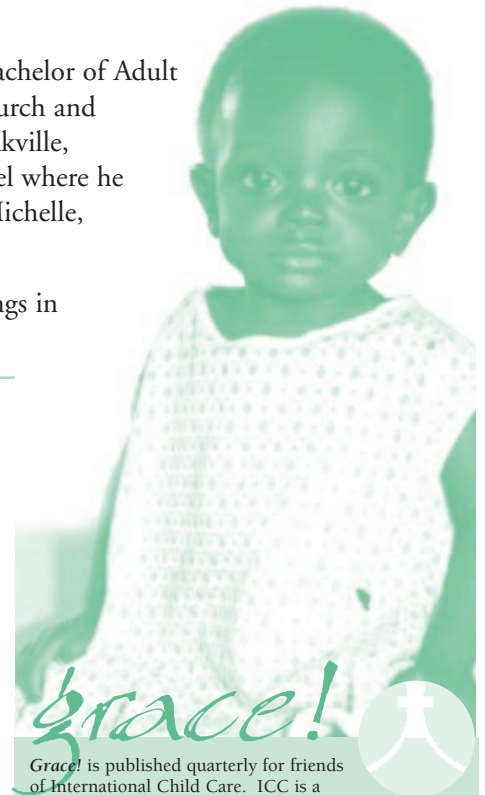
ICC Alternative Gift Cards

**What
are you
doing for
Christmas?**

**Who is on
your shopping list?**

- Grandma Mary
- Uncle Joe
- Jimmy's Teacher
- Children in Haiti and the Dominican Republic**

Alternative gift cards allow you to give your friends, loved ones and associates a gift of health for the children of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. If you would like to give in this special way, please use the enclosed order form or call 1-800-722-4453 for more information.



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.

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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

