



Grace!

FALL 2007

WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Psalm 121: 1-2 TNIV

ICC's Integrated Community Health Program Projects:

- ▶ Vaccination Posts
- ▶ Latrine Construction
- ▶ Spring Capping
- ▶ Growth Monitoring
- ▶ Well Digging
- ▶ Nutrition Clinics
- ▶ Micro-enterprise Loans
- ▶ Midwife Training
- ▶ Family Planning
- ▶ Literacy Training

POWERFUL, EFFECTIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE: Integrated Community Health Program reaches out to rural Haitians

For many people, the word "Haiti" is synonymous with sprawling urban slums overcrowded with people. It is easy to forget that eight out of every ten Haitians make their home in the remote countryside of rural Haiti. Living in small villages, nestled in mountainous terrain, most rural dwellers have little or no access to health care. To meet the needs of this isolated population, International Child Care (ICC) implemented an Integrated Community Health Program in the late 1980s. With a widespread vaccination network already established through the National TB Program, ICC was able to take those partnerships to the next level. Local health workers, who had previously staffed vaccination teams, were recruited to expand ICC's outreach and encompass general health promotion and disease prevention. Today, centered on developing and utilizing community involvement, ICC's Integrated Community Health Program brings much-needed health care to more than 160,000 individuals living in secluded villages throughout northern Haiti.

Valuing indigenous knowledge and engaging local participation is an integral part of community health development. ICC begins every partnership by meeting with locally elected community leaders and allowing

The vaccination of children under one year of age is a priority of ICC's Integrated Community Health Program in northern Haiti.

them to define and share their own needs. Building relationships within the villages ensures that the needs of the people are both understood and addressed. ICC has learned that in order for community health development to be successful, the program needs to be proactive and engage community members. The key to sustainability is the level of value or "ownership" the community has regarding their own health needs.

Partnership and grass-roots community participation are essential ingredients in ICC's model of sustainable ▶



health. Participation is mutual and control is local. International Child Care provides knowledge, training and support, while the partner communities provide the direction, leadership, energy and human potential. No one is more committed to a child's health than mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers.

Empowering an entire community to take charge of their health is powerful, effective and sustainable. International Child Care partners with the community to promote health and wellness through a variety of programs. Health education and promotion, mobile medical clinics, family planning, birth attendant training, literacy training and micro-enterprise loans are just a few of the projects of ICC's Integrated Community Health Program. Health topics such as sanitation and hygiene, HIV/AIDS, and breast feeding are also addressed. ●

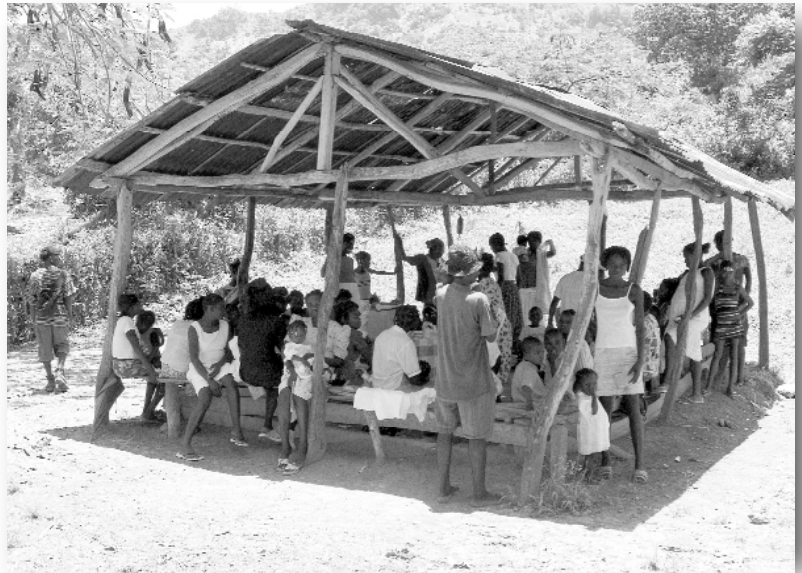


Photo © Keith Mumma

The mountaintop village of Lavite is just one of many remote sites where ICC provides mobile health clinics.

Amazing Grace

Athelene Jean is one of the pioneers of International Child Care's micro-enterprise loan program in Jolitrou, Haiti. Micro-enterprise loans are small loans given to entrepreneurs who are too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. Athelene joined ICC's micro-enterprise loan program in 2001, after being selected as a respected member of her community, and has since completed nine loan cycles. As a participant in the program, Athelene has learned basic accounting, money management and how to read – all skills to help her better manage her own small business.

Today, Athelene's business – as a street vendor selling baskets and saddles – is doing well and she credits the loan program for her success. Athlene travels two hours by foot to the village of Bahon to purchase the baskets and saddles and then brings them back to Jolitrou where these items are not readily available. Athlene uses the money she generates from her business to provide food, health care and schooling to her five children.

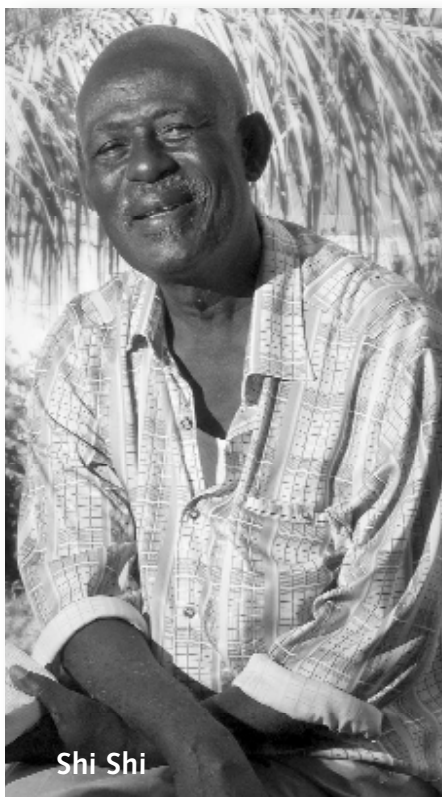
In addition to supporting her family, Athelene also uses the money she generates to help her village. Athelene was one of the first women in Jolitrou to contribute towards the purchase of a parcel of land where a community health clinic now stands. Athlene also volunteers her time. She can often be found moving rocks or carrying water on community work days. ●



Athelene Jean

Photo © Keith Mumma

Robert Nérée “Shi Shi:” Godfather of ICC’s Programs in Haiti’s North



Shi Shi

Photo © Keith Mumma

Robert Nérée, or “Shi Shi” as everyone calls him, has been working for International Child Care for the past twenty-five years. Born and raised in Grande Riviere du Nord in northern Haiti, Shi Shi has spent his tenure with the organization focused on community health development in ICC’s rural program areas. When Shi Shi was first hired, his job was to provide health education via Public Service Announcements (PSAs) over the radio station broadcast from Cap Haitien, the second-largest city in Haiti. ICC would use the radio waves to teach the population about tuberculosis – how to prevent, cure and receive vaccinations against this deadly disease. Shi Shi would also encourage regular check-ups during these Public Service Announcements.

As Shi Shi’s knowledge of ICC’s work grew, his responsibilities were expanded to provide education in the villages where International Child Care was offering mobile clinics. A kind of “circuit rider” for health education, Shi Shi would go

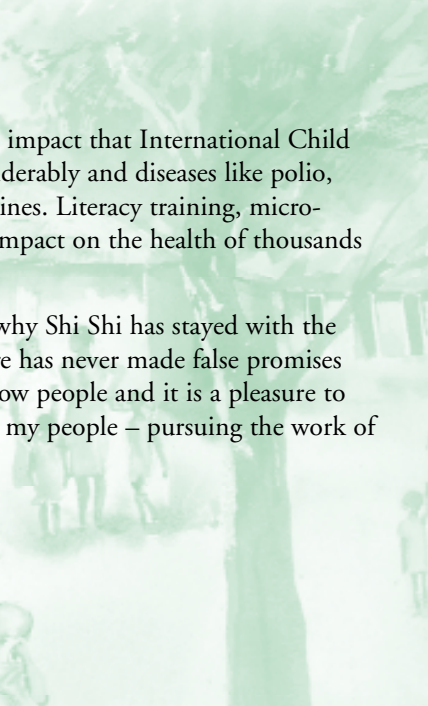
and live in these communities for two to three months at a time so he could attend their churches, visit schools and build relationships with the locals. Shi Shi would use this opportunity to educate his neighbors on the importance of vaccines, nutrition, good hygiene and the benefits of family planning.

Today, Shi Shi is the coordinator for ICC’s entire community health development program in the north. On any given day he heads out into the communities scattered across the countryside to work alongside the many dedicated community health workers at ICC’s mobile clinics.

During the past quarter of a century, Shi Shi has witnessed firsthand the huge impact that International Child Care has had in their project areas. Infant mortality rates have decreased considerably and diseases like polio, diphtheria and tetanus, once significant threats, are easily prevented with vaccines. Literacy training, micro-enterprise loans and the building of latrines and wells has also had a positive impact on the health of thousands of Haitians.

International Child Care’s strong reputation in the community is one reason why Shi Shi has stayed with the organization for so long. He appreciates the fact that International Child Care has never made false promises and has deemed partnership and empowerment a priority. “ICC helps my fellow people and it is a pleasure to work for this organization. I had always envisioned using my abilities to help my people – pursuing the work of God and helping children. My reward will come from above.” ●

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ICC Partners with Crossing Borders

Over the summer International Child Care partnered with Crossing Borders, a student led non-governmental organization affiliated with the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. A team of three Crossing Borders students went to northern Haiti to work in International Child Care's Integrated Community Health Program. The team lived in the village of Grand Riviere du Nord and spent time assessing the effects of ICC's micro-enterprise loan program on personal, family and community health.

During the same two month period a team of five students spent time in the Dominican Republic developing a comprehensive education and prevention campaign against HIV/AIDS. The Crossing Borders team worked with ICC community health workers and reached out to children between the ages of 9 – 18 in the Santiago area. HIV/AIDS related issues, such as stigma, prevention and testing were addressed.



Dominican Republic Crossing Borders team from left: Patrick Geogoff, Molly Gallaway, Marya Corden, Isabelle Carbonell, Colin Morse, Dr. Armando Matiz.



Haiti Crossing Borders Team from left: Nicki Keusch, Jeff Van Laere, Robin Johnson and Haitian interpreter Eviens Celvcien.



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.

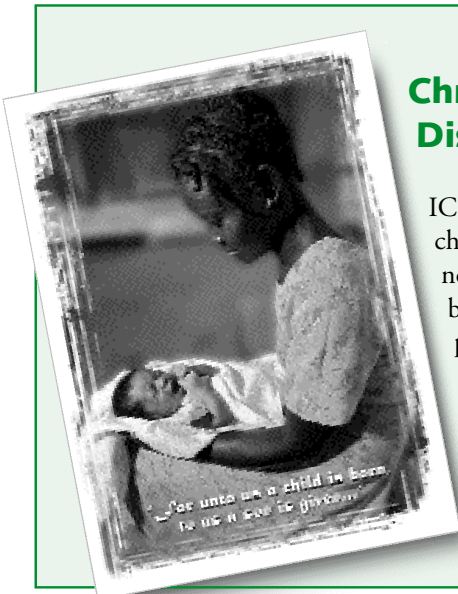
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Christmas Cards Available—Discounted Price!

ICC Christmas cards with a “mother and child” theme are available again this year, now for the reduced price of just \$10 for a box of 20—that’s **33% off** the original price! As before, all proceeds from the sale go to support ICC’s programs in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

To order, call 1-800-722-4453.



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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