

# Grace!



SPRING 2009

INTERNATIONAL CHILD CARE AT WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## Haitian Children in ICC's Child to Child Promotion Program Lead Community in Plea for Clean Water

*"And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."*

*Matthew 10:42 (NLT)*

The children were dressed in their Sunday best as they gathered under the roof of the open-sided building, rain pouring down outside and dripping through holes in the roof. They sang a song and introduced themselves, boldly eyeing the North American visitors lined up to meet them. There are twelve children in this club. They range in age from about 8 to 14 and meet weekly. They are bright-eyed, well dressed and look reasonably healthy, even though their rural village is a typical example of the poverty that grips the nation of Haiti.

International Child Care has always made accessible potable water and hygiene education a priority, using programs like this "after school club" to reach out to communities which lack clean, safe water. The children who attend are being trained to impact their neighborhoods. They receive comprehensive educations about the maladies that can affect their families. They have learned about tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS and appropriate eye-care. But perhaps their most important lesson is a simple formula that each can recite: "Take a bottle of clean water, pour it into a clean pot. Add two spoons of sugar and a small spoon of salt. Add some lemon juice and stir. Give it to the patient whenever he or she is sick or thirsty." This recipe for an oral rehydration drink is saving the lives of diarrhea-stricken children every day.

Compère Arnouse, a small girl standing to address her peers, is the club's secretary. She confidently recites the recipe and is unafraid to offer her opinion to neighbors or relatives caring for sick children. But, she wants to know why they still have to drink contaminated water. There is running water in her village, but it's not safe. So children still drink the water, and still need her recipe far too often. Obtaining safe water means a long trek on a steep, rutted path, sometimes by foot or by unreliable vehicles. Why can't she have clean, drinkable water in her village, or at her school? This year, with the support of International Child Care's faithful donors, Rotary Clubs and Pure Water for Haiti, Compère will be able to drink fresh, clean water in her own village - a dream come true for her, and life-saving for her village. ●



### Availability of improved drinking-water source



(UNICEF 2006)

# With Your Support ICC Embarks On New Partnerships to Bring Clean Water to Haitians

For many years International Child Care has made clean water and hygiene education a priority. In developing countries like Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the lack of drinkable water is a serious health issue. Not only does it cause diarrhea – the leading cause of death for Haitian children – but contaminated water can also lead to other life-threatening waterborne diseases. In addition to digging wells and capping fresh-water springs, ICC recently joined forces with Rotary and Pure Water for Haiti on a Bio-Sand Water Filter project.

Pure Water for Haiti (PWH), a partnership of Pure Water for the World and Management Sciences for Health, Inc., opened its doors in May 2008 and launched its first Bio-Sand Water Filter project in Cite Soleil just three months later. Since then, PWH has produced 2,800 filters and distributed over 2,000 to schools and homes throughout Haiti. Pure Water for Haiti is funded in part by USAID, The Rotary Foundation, and individual Rotary Clubs.

Today, over 100,000 students receive clean drinking water through Pure Water for Haiti. PWH has trained more than 1,000 teachers on how to properly use the filters and has numerous certified Bio-Sand Water Filter sites at schools in Cite Soleil. St. Therese d'Avila Catholic School is just one of the PWH qualified sites. Over 1,500 students attend this school and receive clean water to drink. This school currently has a total of twelve filters and the students happily line up with their cups to get a drink of the safe water throughout the day. They are also encouraged to fill water bottles to carry home to their families each evening. During off school hours the filters are available for community use.

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Pure Water for Haiti also produces smaller filters for the home setting. Families use the water not only to drink, but for bathing, laundry and cooking. PWH is providing one day of training for members of households and also educates community stewards to help bio-sand filter recipients in their neighborhoods. Training and hygiene education are critical to the project's success.

Thanks to your support and funding from Rotary Clubs, International Child Care will be partnering with Pure Water for Haiti to bring hygiene and water filters to health clinics and schools through established ICC project sites throughout the country. ICC's rich network of health clinics will allow PWH to expand their efforts and provide safe drinking water to even more Haitian children and families. We are grateful for your continued support and prayers for the people of Haiti as the filters are installed and the program grows. ●



Photo © Keith Mumma

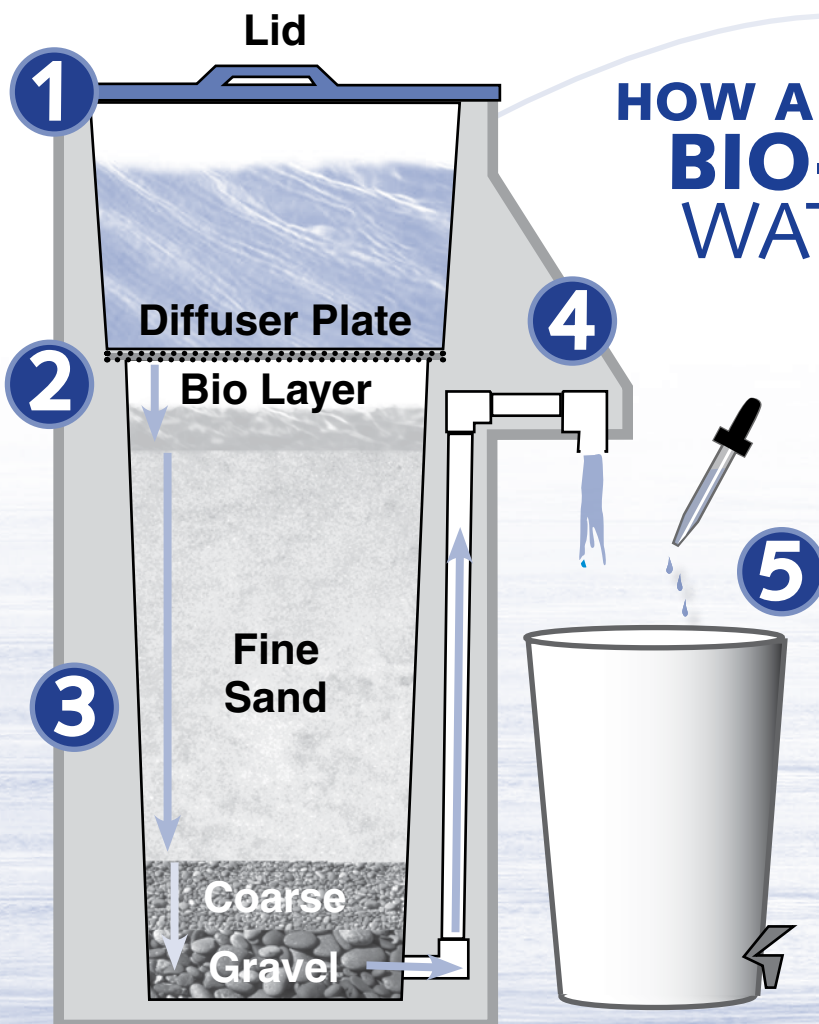
## Amazing Grace: Jessica Jean Baptiste

Six-year-old Jessica Jean Baptiste has experienced first-hand what can happen when you drink contaminated water. During the past year Jessica has been admitted to the hospital numerous times because of waterborne diseases. Although a public water system is available in Port-au-Prince, the water still needs to be purified before drinking and costs too much for those living in abject poverty. Jessica's single mom - Mrs. Melina Charles - struggles, like thousands of other Haitian women, to find and afford clean drinking water for her children.

Jessica has suffered from severe diarrhea caused by drinking dirty water on several occasions, and most recently was admitted to Grace Children's Hospital with typhoid fever. Typhoid fever is caused by ingesting water contaminated with feces from an infected person. If left untreated, typhoid can be fatal. Thankfully, Jessica is receiving quality medical care in the Intensive Care Unit at Grace Children's Hospital and is on the road to a full recovery. Your support helped make this happen!



Photo © Keith Mumma



1. Pour contaminated water into the top of the filter
2. The water flows through a diffuser plate into a biological layer that removes 85% of the bacteria
3. The water filters down through the sand and gravel layers removing 100% of parasites and larger organisms
4. Clean, drinkable water flows out of the spigot at a rate of 1 liter per minute
5. Add 3 drops of bleach to every gallon of filtered water to insure the water contains no living bacteria or viruses

# NEWSLINES

## ATTENTION ALL CYCLISTS!

Are you a cyclist who loves to ride and would also like to help the neediest kids in our hemisphere receive health care? Then we invite you to join the **Race for Grace**. On Saturday August 29, 2009 a group of ICC supporters will be riding in the HH100 in Wichita Falls, Texas to raise funds for the programs of Grace Children's Hospital and the Dominican Republic. For detailed information on how you can join the Race for Grace team or support a participating rider, please visit [www.intlchildcare.org](http://www.intlchildcare.org) or call 800-722-4453.



## 5 Simple Ways to Conserve Water

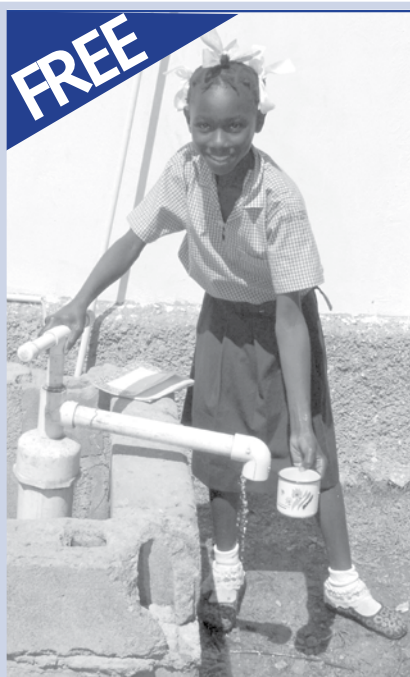
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks.
- Take shorter showers, and install low-flow showerheads. They're cheap, easy to install, and can save hundreds of gallons a week.
- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when full. You could save 1,000 gallons a month.
- Turn off water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute - that's 10,000 gallons a year for a family of four.
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles its water.



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.



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

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



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