



International Child Care



Grace!

SUMMER 2002

AT WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Celebrating 35 Years of Partnership

For this issue, the 35th Anniversary edition of Grace!, we would like to focus on partnership. Partnership represents the foundation of International Child Care's ministry. Since the inception of ICC and Grace Children's Hospital, we have recognized that effective ministry is dependent upon effective partnerships with God, who has called us to serve, and with caring people who extend God's grace to those suffering and needy people we serve every day.

International Child Care has always been very committed to building strong partnerships. Partnership encompasses the relationship we have with the children, families, and communities we serve in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and is central to ICC's constituency development in North America. Partnership runs to the core of ICC's Christian health development philosophy. Our partnerships are rooted in compassion and shaped by mutual respect.

In celebration of the 35th anniversary of Grace Children's Hospital, the cornerstone of International Child Care's ministry, we would like to recount the amazing story of how God has worked through Jim and Virginia Snavley, and hundreds of partners since, to bring health and wholeness to the children of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Many of you, our faithful partners, have been a part of the

Compelled by faith, this young family left the comfortable life they knew, moved to Haiti and opened their hearts and their home to children suffering from tuberculosis.

Jim and Virginia Snavley with their children in 1961.

vision as it was then, as it is today and how it will continue to grow and change in the future.

International Child Care's story began in 1961. Virginia writes, "One day I was busy at my typewriter in Jim's office when a strange thought rather startled me. 'Would you be willing,' the thought came, 'to leave your home and go to a land you do not know to serve the Lord there?' I cannot describe the fear which I felt when I realized God might be dealing. My thoughts raced through the large home that I loved so much, from one "automatic" to another, to the church we felt a part of, the good school nearby, and I envisioned myself somewhere in isolation washing clothing in a mountain stream, teaching our children to read around the kitchen table. Peace of mind came at last when I answered, 'No, I am not willing. I do not want to go anywhere. But, "It is God that worketh in you both to will and to do His good pleasure." Therefore, Lord, if you ever ask this of me, I know you will give me the willingness to do it. Do as You will.' One week later, it was Jim who spoke of experiencing the same upsetting feeling.

Two years later, a few tears were there as we pulled away from that big friendly house in the midst of a heavy snow, our big yellow bus loaded with furniture and our three little ones bright eyed with excitement. But we were all ready, not only willing, but eager to go to Haiti. We did not fully understand where we were going, but we prayed earnestly and felt sure. A verse of scripture stood out for us in those days and would stay with us through many discouraging and trying times. It was Habakkuk 2:3, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time...though it tarry, wait for it...it will surely come."(Grace Notes 1969)

Compelled by faith, this young family left the comfortable life they knew, moved to Haiti and opened their hearts and their home to children suffering from tuberculosis. What started as a small clinic in a remote village has grown into a thriving ministry that touches the lives of thousands of children and families on the island of Hispanola.

Today, we see the Snavley's vision continue to be revealed and molded in new and exciting ways. Please join us as we celebrate this milestone and reflect on God's grace at work through Grace Children's Hospital and the ministry of International Child Care ●

35 Years of Partnership...

Grace Children's Hospital – 35th Anniversary

Grace Children's Hospital – 35th Anniversary

1967:

"Then suddenly, as though a cloud passed over, the vision appeared...it has truly been by the grace of God that all things have developed and worked together as they have...Now, the vision was in full view... We are calling it Grace Children's Hospital... It is beyond all we could have asked or dreamed or hoped for...I do pray that somehow we will be given wisdom sufficient to at least see the work begun." (Virginia Snavley, Haiti News Letter 1967)

Jim and Virginia Snavley's vision became a reality with Grace Children's Hospital, the only tuberculosis hospital of its kind in Haiti. Grace Children's Hospital opened its doors serving 37 patients.



Today - The Snavley's vision continues to flourish. Grace Children's Hospital is the leading tuberculosis hospital for children in the country of Haiti. In addition to the 60-bed inpatient ward, essential primary health care is provided to nearly 60,000 people living in the slums surrounding the hospital through ICC's Urban Community Health program.

Grace Children's Hospital – 35th Anniversary

Grace Children's Hospital – 35th Anniversary

1977:

"Grace Children's Hospital has expanded in their desire to meet the challenge of controlling tuberculosis...It was evident that we were not adequately screening families of the patients that we admitted to the hospital... We opened our outpatient department to cover this need as well as increase the services available to the public." (Grace Notes 1978)



Grace Children's Hospital – 35th Anniversary

In an effort to provide health care to more people, an outpatient department was opened at Grace Children's Hospital. Almost immediately, the outpatient clinic was receiving 4,000 patients monthly. By 1984, a Family Planning and a Nutrition Program, focused on the needs of women and their children, were added to the outpatient services.

Today - The outpatient services offered at Grace Children's Hospital have expanded to include pediatric and adult TB treatment, a general pediatric clinic, reproductive health services and AIDS/HIV counseling. An average of 300 patients are treated each day through the Outpatient Clinic at Grace Children's Hospital.

Partners in Love

Grace Children's Hospital – 35th Anniversary

Grace Child

"The need for Grace to remain the premier TB treatment facility in Haiti has subsided... Tuberculosis is still a deadly killer in Haiti, but is no longer the leading cause of death among Haiti's children. Many hospitals and clinics [in Haiti] now have the capacity to effectively identify and treat TB."

2000:

(Grace 2000)

A new vision and direction is shaped for Grace Children's Hospital as it converts from a TB Treatment facility to a pediatric facility that is able to treat many of the leading diseases of children in Haiti, including tuberculosis.

Today - Grace Children's Hospital has successfully transitioned from a tuberculosis hospital to a general pediatrics ward. Although a large percentage of the children admitted to Grace Children's Hospital still suffer from TB as their primary diagnosis, children with various diseases, including malnutrition, severe diarrhea and upper respiratory infections are now treated as inpatients at the hospital.

In 2002, for the first time since International Child Care's inception, ICC/Haiti is devoted entirely to national, Haitian leadership. This marks a milestone in ICC's history with the vision of an organization that is locally driven, sustainable and vital to the needs of the community.



Dr. Harry Geffard
Director ICC/Haiti

1968:



“For those of you who have been here and seen the need first-hand, we would like very much to encourage you to create as much interest as possible in Haiti. Also, try and encourage others to come to Haiti with a tour group...Our observation has been that those who come go home with a zeal for missions that they never had before.” (Virginia Snavley, Haiti News Letter 1968)

Three Haitian tours, “Vacations with a Purpose,” were conducted in 1968 providing an opportunity for 60 North Americans to visit Grace Children’s Hospital and see the mission’s needs, problems and accomplishments first hand. Back home, they shared their personal experiences and the story of the Snavley’s, raising awareness and support across North America.

Today - Many of the original partners, the grandfathers of International Child Care, continue their involvement and support of Grace Children’s Hospital. This year, 19 Mission Encounter Teams, representing over 200 individuals from across the United States and Canada, will discover the transforming power of mission in action. Grace Children’s Hospital will also host hundreds of unscheduled visitors who drop in to tour the facility or to experience a “Day of Grace.”

Partners in Mission

“...a year of investigating and negotiating has produced a challenging plan to give a carefully selected cadre of young Dominican leaders the values and skills they will

need to initiate effective community-based health promotion programs...” (Grace 1989)

1988:



ICC extends its outreach to the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispanola with Haiti, and begins training volunteer health promoters for a Community Based Health program. By 1994, a Community Based Rehabilitation program is added in the Dominican Republic to address the needs of disabled children and their families.

Today - Over 74,000 people are being impacted by ICC’s health services in the Dominican Republic. Twenty communities are currently involved in health development and health promoters are continuing to be recruited and trained. Moreover, in-home rehabilitation services for disabled children are improving the quality of life for hundreds of children. Parents and siblings are being trained in rehabilitative techniques and hope is replacing despair and shame.

Par-

Join International Child Care in the fight for child survival Become a Partner in Health.

Your partnership will provide medicine for children at Grace Children’s Hospital, vaccinations in remote villages, rehabilitation for disabled children, and health services that will improve the well being of entire communities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

- **Partner in Grace** - a monthly gift, of \$31 or more, providing important health care for children from Grace Children’s Hospital to remote rural areas.
- **Cornerstone Member** - a commitment of \$1,000 or more per year to support ICC’s health programs throughout Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
- **Bed for Grace Sponsor** - a gift of \$3,200 used to provide the highest quality care to children being treated as inpatients at Grace Children’s Hospital.

Contact ICC at 1-800-722-4453 today to become a Partner in Health and help bring healing and wholeness to needy children!



Tuberculosis is a plague to this land... There is talk, from time to time, about different organizations undertaking a program... The plan seems to be eventually to launch a [nationwide] vaccination program..."

1975:

(Virginia Snavley, Haiti News Letter 1967)



That plan, formally named the Crusade Against Tuberculosis (CAT), was eventually launched by International Child Care in partnership with the Haitian Ministry of Health. In 1981, ICC completed this mass immunization campaign systematically vaccinating over 3 million people throughout the entire nation of Haiti.

Today - ICC remains the lead non-governmental organization (NGO) working with the Haitian Ministry of Health in the planning and execution of CAT, now called the National TB Control Program. ICC collaborates with 105 clinics, throughout 6 of the 11 health departments in Haiti, equipping them with the knowledge, materials and skills necessary for effectively diagnosing, treating and curing people with tuberculosis.

Partners in Health

"...in the developing world, women bear the greatest burden of responsibility for their families. The health of children is directly influenced by the health and well being of their mothers...the women bear the brunt of responsibility for family support..."

1990s:

(Grace 1999)

International Child Care, as an extension of their health work, developed programs, including a Literacy Program, Mother's Clubs and a micro-enterprise initiative to empower and educate mothers and positively impact the health of their children.

Today - Many mothers, in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, are finding assistance through International Child Care's programs. They are learning business skills that help them provide for their families through an income generation/micro-enterprise initiative. These women are also being equipped with the knowledge necessary for them to make healthy choices for themselves and their families. Currently, due to an increased interest, men too are participating in these programs as they strive to better understand and shoulder their responsibility for the well being of their families.



Partners in Hope

"The death wail has been dimmed for us by the clapping and singing of children given their chance to live. This memory will never leave us...healed children have gone from Grace Children's Hospital back to their homes knowing that Jesus cares for them in their world and that He has riches awaiting them in the next.

vision has come and it promises much more. We have been very privileged to share in the beginnings of what we see developing into a great blessing to the children of Haiti."

(Virginia Snavley, Grace Notes 1969)



Reflections



By John Snavley

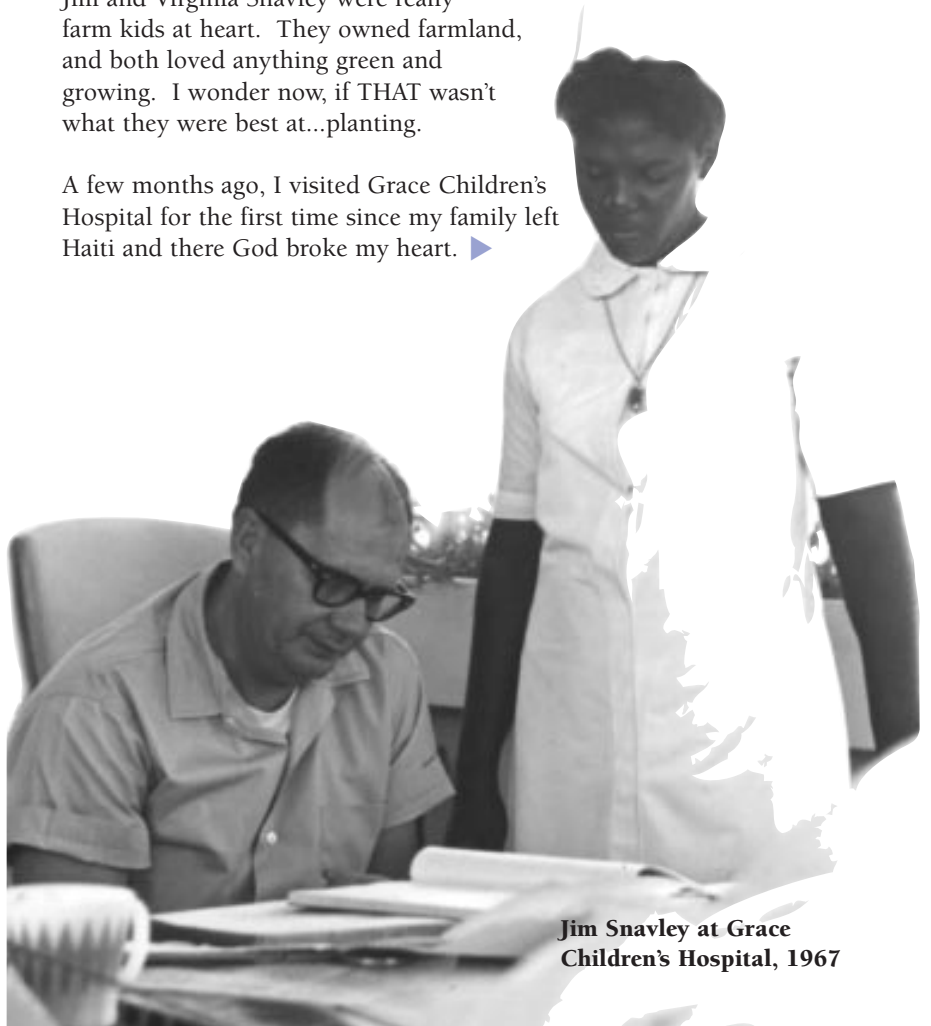
Back in 1987 I had an opportunity, over breakfast at a little diner in Winamac, Indiana, to ask Jim Snavley why he, and his wife Virginia, went to Haiti in 1961. As his youngest of three it seemed a fair question for me to ask. We had lived in Haiti, off and on, for five years before the idea of Grace Children's Hospital was even conceived.

"Well, son," he said through a mouthful of eggs, "Jesus says in the Bible to 'Go and make disciples of all nations'." "Yes, He does," I responded, "but did God, like, appear to you personally and say 'GOEST TO HAITI AND MAKETH A HOSPITAL?'" "Did God," I continued, "speak to you personally?" "Sure," he replied, mopping up some egg yolk with his toast, "God is speaking to all of us personally when He says 'Go and make disciples of all nations'." "Okay," I said, taking another tack, "but what does that have to do with helping kids with TB?" And there was the 64-dollar question...What does helping kids with TB have to do with making disciples for Jesus? Papa made a miniature hominy grits volcano with his spoon, and answered, "Your mother and I did what we could find to do."



Jim and Virginia Snavley were really farm kids at heart. They owned farmland, and both loved anything green and growing. I wonder now, if THAT wasn't what they were best at...planting.

A few months ago, I visited Grace Children's Hospital for the first time since my family left Haiti and there God broke my heart. ▶



Jim Snavley at Grace Children's Hospital, 1967





Virginia Snavley

I curled up on a bed with very sick little girl and closed my eyes. I fed lunch to a little boy with TB (and probably AIDS — they don't tell you which children have it, but you can guess). I bottled up the tears because I didn't want to make a scene.

After 35 years, not much looked familiar. The original house is now part of a much larger compound. I tried to find my old bedroom, mom and dad's room, anything familiar, but now offices and walls have taken their place. Finally, out back, I found it. There was the mango tree that grew outside my mother and

father's bedroom window back in 1967. My mother would reach out over the balcony in the morning, pick a few mangos and peel them for breakfast. She marveled that she could just reach out and pick a ripe mango right off the tree. Mama loved mangos. And there, after 35 years, stood that mango tree. I don't know how long a mango tree is supposed to grow, but in Haiti, not too many trees survive 35 years. Most of them make the ultimate sacrifice as fuel to cook someone's evening meal.

For that matter, nothing much at all survives 35 years in Haiti. It is a hard place. I was glad to see that mango tree and hospital were both healthy and growing. And I thought to myself, "Some folks just have green thumbs." ●

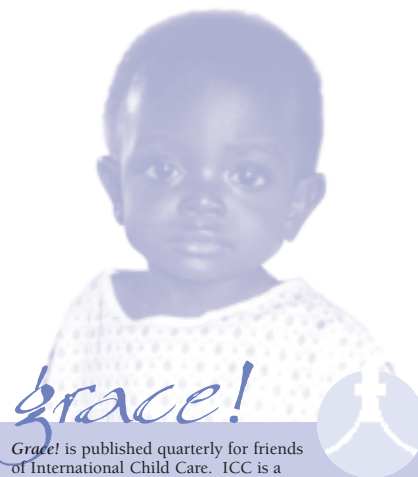


Medical Congress to Commemorate Grace Children's Hospital 35th Anniversary

Grace Children's Hospital will be celebrating its 35th anniversary with an educational Medical Congress scheduled for November 7 and 8, 2002. International Child Care and GCH will be hosting the event at the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Medical professionals from all over the country, as well as from the Dominican Republic, United States, and Canada, are expected to attend, along with some distinguished ICC and GCH alumni. Presentations at the congress will cover a variety of medical topics with an emphasis on tuberculosis, pulmonary diseases and the prevention and management of HIV in children. Among the speakers will be physicians from the US, Haiti and the D.R.

ICC and GCH have played an integral part in the successful public health efforts to contain tuberculosis in Haiti. Respiratory disease continues to be the major cause of illness in children being examined and treated through GCH's outpatient clinics. However, in addition to diarrheal diseases and malnutrition, infection with HIV and its complications has become an increasing problem with over 22% of children seen in the GCH's outpatient and inpatient services being HIV positive. Because of the need to address the many other health problems among Haiti's children and their families, the hospital is seeking to expand and broaden the scope of its services.

The Medical Congress will be a wonderful opportunity for the Haitian medical community to gather together to share knowledge and experience with each other and with international medical colleagues. If you are interested in learning more or in attending, please contact the your national ICC office.



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 receipted for income tax purposes.

Carol Hunsberger: Design

ICC/USA
3620 North High Street, Suite 110
Columbus, OH 43214
1-800-72-CHILD
E-Mail: ICCUSA1@aol.com

ICC/Canada
2476 Argentia Road, Suite 113
Mississauga, ON L5N 6M1
1-888-72-CHILD
1-905-821-6318
E-Mail: canada@intlchildcare.org



UMCOR Advance Projects:

Grace Children's Hospital: 418520-7
Integrated Community Health (Haiti): 418847-3



Community Health PDevelopment
Program (D.R.): 410215-6
Child to Child Health Promotion:
418242-1