



# Grace!

SPRING 2004

AT WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## Happy 200th Birthday Haiti!

**"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."**

(Galatians 5:1 KJV)



Photo © Keith Mumma



This statue, located near the National Palace in Port-au-Prince, is called "Le Marron Inconnu." The unknown slave represents all Haitians, men and women, who continue to fight for liberty.

This calendar year is an important milestone for the country of Haiti as it celebrates its bicentennial. On January 1, 1804, Haiti successfully fought and won the only slave revolt in history to become the first black republic in the world. Today, even as the country struggles with political instability, an eroding environment and economic turmoil, Haitians proudly recall the events that led to its independence from French and British conquests.

Not only is Haiti recognized as the second-oldest independent nation in the Western Hemisphere, but also as the poorest nation. For the majority of Haitians, life is extremely difficult. Over 80% of Haitian families live in abject poverty surviving on as little as \$300.00 (US) per year. Basic needs such as shelter, food and education are often beyond their means. Although Haitians are very resourceful, the realities of life in Haiti are often overwhelming. Many families lack access to proper sanitation and basic health care services.

Recognizing the staggering needs on this island nation, and in honor of Haiti's 200th birthday, we would like to share a special giving opportunity called **"200 Measures of Grace."** Please help us as we strive to train **200** new Traditional Birth Attendants, provide one day of medical care for **200** children at Grace Children's Hospital and to inoculate **200** children against childhood disease.

HAITI 1804-2004



200  
Measures of Grace



## Inpatient Care at Grace Children's Hospital

Grace Children's Hospital (GCH), founded in 1967, is the flagship ministry of International Child Care. Recognized as Haiti's leading medical facility dedicated to the treatment of children with tuberculosis (TB), Grace Children's Hospital receives thousands of children annually who are suffering from tuberculosis and other childhood diseases. Those children with the most severe cases are admitted to the sixty-bed inpatient ward.

During their stay, the average length of stay being three months, Grace Children's Hospital provides a place of healing and solace. The children receive excellent medical care from the doctors and nurses, nutritious meals to help them grow strong and healthy, and comfort from the dedicated and loving mamans. Once a child is on the road to recovery he or she can also attend school at the hospital. For some, this is the first and only time they will ever experience a formal education.

Through International Child Care suffering children and their families are receiving health and hope. It costs \$9.00 (US) per day to provide medical care to a child at Grace Children's Hospital.



**This infant is receiving vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and measles at an ICC mobile clinic in Cité Okay, a shantytown near Grace Children's Hospital.**

## Child Inoculation

In Haiti, thousands of innocent boys and girls suffer from diseases that could easily be prevented. In fact, one out of every five children will not live to see their fifth birthday because a preventable disease will claim their precious, young lives. Fortunately, effective treatments and medications, which have eradicated many of these preventable diseases in North America, can also produce the same positive results in Haiti.

Effective child health and survival strategies in Haiti are critical in providing hope to children and their families. Therefore, one of the main projects carried out by ICC's Urban and Integrated Community Health Programs is child inoculation. People living in undeveloped countries, like Haiti, who are malnourished and live in close quarters stand the greatest chance of contracting highly contagious diseases. The conditions that accompany poverty, although not the cause of disease, certainly contribute to their ability to spread.

Through International Child Care children are receiving life-saving vaccinations. It costs \$6.00 (US) to inoculate one child against TB, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and measles.

International Child Care is making a real impact on eliminating the spread of disease while also sharing the healing story of Christ with those in need and at risk.

## Amazing Grace *Rest From Death*

Mario Desir, a two-year-old toddler, was very underweight when he was brought to Grace Children's Hospital suffering from a fever and lack of appetite. Prior to bringing Mario to Grace, his mother, Alourdes, took him to several other health clinics in and around Port-au-Prince. Instead of receiving treatment for her son, she was told that Mario was critically ill and was offered little hope. After being examined by the Grace staff it was discovered that Mario was suffering from a severe case of meningitis in addition to tuberculosis. He was quickly admitted to the inpatient ward as his prognosis was not good.

Once Mario started receiving medication for meningitis and TB his fever broke. Soon thereafter, his appetite returned and he was weaned from an IV and able to eat the nutritious meals provided at the hospital. Against all odds, Mario slowly regained his strength and began to recover from his grave illnesses.

Today, Mario is a playful little boy who runs around the inpatient ward full of energy and giggles. The nurses at Grace refer to little Mario as "Rest from Death" because he was on death's door, but now, thanks to the dedicated staff at Grace Children's Hospital, he is on the road to health.



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200  
of Grace

## Traditional Birth Attendant Training

A healthy entry into this life is the birthright of every child. Yet in Haiti, a healthy birth is not something taken for granted. Haiti has one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the world!

In developing countries, like Haiti, infant and maternal mortality is most frequently caused by pregnancy-related complications and delivery-related complications. Lack of proper immunization during pregnancy increases deaths from tetanus, as does unsanitary delivery and umbilical cord care. An indirect cause of infant and maternal mortality is inadequate access to quality medical care. Most Haitian women lack the finances for an institutional delivery and do not have access to professional services. Over 80% of all births in Haiti occur at home and 50% of those without any outside assistance.

Therefore, in an effort to reduce the unnecessary suffering and death associated with childbearing, ICC offers Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA), or midwife, training. Traditional Birth Attendants are the principal sources of care for pregnant women in Haiti. International Child Care instructs TBAs in the techniques of delivery, importance of hygiene, signs of complications in pregnancy, and the dangers of certain traditional Haitian practices during pregnancy and delivery. Once formally trained, the Traditional Birth Attendant receives a certificate and delivery kit, and is required to attend regular refresher courses. Through ICC, Haiti's infant and maternal mortality rates are being addressed and ultimately reduced. It costs \$30.00 (US) to train and equip one Traditional Birth Attendant.

## Healthy Births in Haiti

Jean-Robert Joseph is an ICC trained Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA). Jean-Robert began delivering babies in the village of Cayes, in the south of Haiti, when he was just ten years old. His mother was a midwife and he learned his original technique from watching her. John-Robert really enjoys delivering babies and even had the pleasure of delivering all five of his own children.

Jean-Robert, who was officially trained by ICC in 2000, currently serves as a Traditional Birth Attendant in his community of Citè Hatt, one of the many shantytowns surrounding Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince. Although there are generally more women than men who work as TBAs in Haiti, it is not uncommon for a man to function in this capacity. On average, Jean-Robert delivers 15 babies per month.

One of the main ways that International Child Care recruits TBA trainees is by visiting communities and talking to the locals in order to locate any established midwives in the vicinity. Once identified, these midwives are invited to join ICC's Traditional Birth Attendant training program for formal instruction and certification. Through this course, the trainees learn about pre and post natal care, safer delivery techniques, good hygiene practices and family planning. Through International Child Care's TBA program expecting mothers, and their infants, have the opportunity for trained support and professional care.

Jean-Robert Joseph

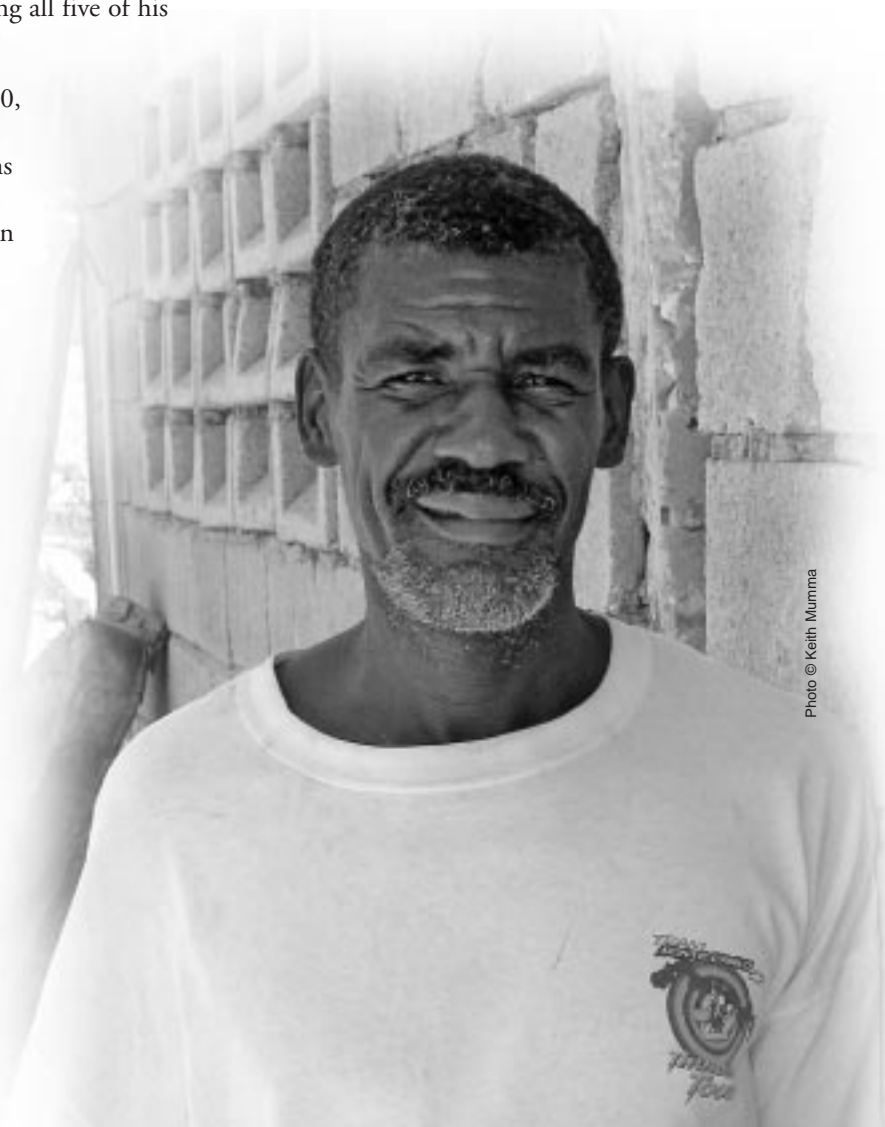


Photo © Keith Mumma



# International Child Care Announces new US National Director



Marc Guthrie has been named to the position of US National Director for International Child Care. Marc most recently served as the Director of Development for the Mortar Board National Foundation and is completing his final year as a member of the United States Access Board (USAB), through Presidential appointment, which began in 1996. The USAB has significant responsibility in the area of national issues concerning handicap accessibility (ADA).

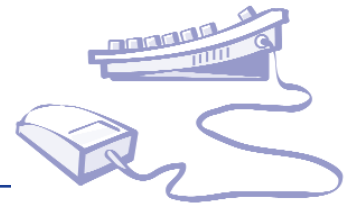
Marc's avid advocacy for disabled and disadvantaged children began during his days as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. As a state legislator, he sponsored Ohio's law mandating services for preschoolers with educational and physical challenges. He also led the way in securing groundbreaking funding for a first grade reading program, known as Reading Recovery. Marc spent seven years of his career as Chief Executive Officer for United Cerebral Palsy of

Central Ohio, where he expanded programming to offer assistive technology services to children with disabilities.

Marc resides in Newark, Ohio with his wife Connie and is an active member of his community where he serves as President of Newark City Council. Marc is a member of Kiwanis International and is presently serving as a Lt. Governor in the worldwide organization whose international mission statement is "to serve the children of the world."

Regarding his appointment as ICC US Director, Marc states, "I am elated and humbled to have the opportunity to work for a non-profit such as ICC, which has a selfless mission of serving others. Many organizations advance worthy causes, but since 1967 ICC has fulfilled its stated mission in both word and deed. I look forward to working together in advancing the mission of this wonderful organization."

Marc will officially begin his role as US National Director on July 1, 2004.



**ICC is now accepting online donations!**

**If you wish to make an online donation or simply access current program information and updates, please visit our website at [www.intlchildcare.org](http://www.intlchildcare.org).**

## Newsline: Haiti Update

- Although the political situation in Haiti remains precarious, the Haitian police are slowly regaining control and the situation is calming. There have not been any strikes or demonstrations in recent weeks.
- The price of food continues to be very expensive in Haiti, triple what it was prior to the recent unrest. Many stores are low on stock due to a food supply shortage. Between March and April, when the conflict was at its peak, many Haitian farmers were forced to eat their seeds, in order for their families to survive, instead of planting crops. There is now fear that the lack of future crops will lead to a famine throughout the country.
- The recent, devastating floods did not directly affect any of ICC's project areas or staff members. The ICC/Haiti staff is now making inquiries on whether any current TB outpatients perished in the flood.
- Due to high inflation, it is costing more than ever to provide medical care through Grace Children's Hospital (GCH). In addition, many patients can not afford even the minimal fee to receive treatment, so GCH is now providing the same quality care free of charge.
- For the past several months Grace Children's Hospital has only received two hours of public electricity every other day. In order to have electricity the hospital has been forced to run the generator eight hours per day Monday through Friday. GCH has been relying on an inverter to provide some power during the night and on the weekends. With the price of diesel being \$2.00 per gallon, it is costing Grace Children's Hospital \$18.00 US an hour (9 gallons per hour) to run the generator.
- High fuel prices are costing many of the Grace staff more to commute to and from work than their salaries. Consequently, GCH has had to increase staff wages to compensate.



*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.

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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  
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