

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.  
A cord or three strands is not quickly broken." \*Ecclesiastes 4:11-13.

FALL 2011

**FAITH AND PARTNERSHIP: POWERFUL TOOLS IN ACCOMPLISHING THE IMPOSSIBLE (CONTINUED)**



PHOTO © KEITH MUMMA

As some team members labored alongside the nurses and aids on the inpatient ward, others were busy assisting with debris removal on the property of long-time staff member Rosita Bazil. Rosita, considered the grandmother of the hospital, was working for Grace Children's Hospital when Youth Power was launched in the 1960s.

Westwood Team member Bruce Robenson journaled about their humbling experience working with the Bazils, "Rosita and her family are living in a makeshift shelter next to the demolition site. The walls are held up by two inch sapling trees surrounded by corrugated metal held on by scraps of wire. Half of the house has no roof. Her sister and friends collected every piece of usable debris and stockpiled it at one end of the site, including sheets of corrugated metal, broken roof rafters, scraps of reinforcing bar, and bits of electrical wire. All day long, her brother worked tirelessly

adding the scraps to their home... Overnight, much like the children's story of Rumpel Stiltskin, Rosita's brother must have continued his toil "spinning straw into gold" as every piece of scrap wood and metal had been added to the rapidly closing roof structure." As a sign of their deep appreciation for the team's efforts, Rosita's brother worked feverishly to reinforce and extend the shack's roof so that the team could rest and eat in shade. During their Mission Education Encounter trip, Westwood United Methodist church rekindled a relationship spanning 40+ years.

Fueled by a tongue-in-cheek suggestion, Phil Breen partnered with hundreds of other young people to help change lives forever. Through their imagination, dedication, faith and spirit, ICC's Youth Power not only worked together to nurture children and families in Haiti – they BOUGHT A HOSPITAL!

Now the question is how can WE use our collective imagination and resources to change lives forever? Phil used his God given talents – mixed with a little faith and determination – to partner with people and accomplish something others thought impossible. Perhaps it is through such partnerships that we all can come together as we work to rebuild Grace Children's Hospital.

**ICC REPRESENTED AT 2011 UNITED METHODIST SCHOOLS OF CHRISTIAN MISSION**

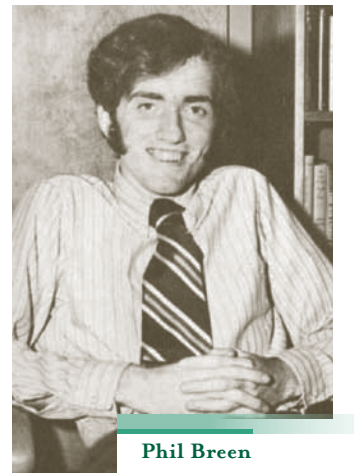
Each year, the United Methodist Church sponsors Schools of Christian Mission (SOCM) throughout the United States. More than 20,000 women are invited to participate at the Jurisdictional and Conference level. It is an opportunity to study current issues based on mission topics covering three themes: Spiritual Growth, Geographic and Social issue.

The Geographic Mission Study for 2011 was Haiti. ICC-USA Education and Communication Coordinator, Rachel Mills, attended jurisdictional training sessions in Iowa, and then led a Haiti study session for the West Ohio Conference SOCM on the campus of Ohio Northern University. Another leader for the Haiti study session was Reverend Karen Shepler. Rev. Shepler was a member of ICC's Youth Power and her experience in the 1960s was formative in discerning her call to full time ministry. Today, Rev. Shepler is the senior pastor at Monroe Street United Methodist Church in Toledo, Ohio whose Searchers adult Sunday school class was the first Bed for Grace Sponsor in 1970.

Additionally, ICC-USA Board members Rev. Lynne Austin and Dr. Ellen Palmer represented ICC at Schools of Christian Mission in the California Pacific and North Texas Annual Conferences respectively.

**FAITH AND PARTNERSHIP: POWERFUL TOOLS IN ACCOMPLISHING THE IMPOSSIBLE**

It all began over 40 years ago. A young man named Phil Breen, from Westwood United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio wanted to help engage his youth group in a mission project. Phil had visited Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince and often heard his pastor, Reverend Grayson Atha, speak passionately about the ministry of International Child Care. One day Phil approached Rev. Atha saying "I would like to do something for the kids down at the hospital. Got any ideas?" On a piece of paper Rev. Atha wrote: 1. Help with mailings; 2. Collect Medical Supplies; 3. Lead a Mission Education Encounter. He then handed the list to Phil and after a brief discussion about what the list entailed, Phil responded "None of these things really grab me. Are there any other possibilities?" So, with tongue firmly in cheek, Rev. Atha replied that they needed \$30,000 to buy the hospital. At that time the hospital, originally the home of the Mexican Ambassador, was being rented. Without missing a beat, Phil took a pencil and added number 4: Buy the hospital. And, off he went.



Phil Breen

In the 1960s, the idea of a church youth group raising \$30,000 was not only ambitious, it was preposterous! But the youth group, under Phil's leadership, began recruiting youth from throughout Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan who, having visited Grace Children's Hospital had a strong desire to make a difference for children in Haiti. By carefully organizing their efforts they designed a stock fundraising plan to raise money to purchase the hospital and ICC Youth Power was born. The stock was sold for \$5 a share and these faithful and dedicated youth raised more than enough to purchase the residence which became the permanent home for Grace Children's Hospital.

This palatial home, purchased by Youth Power, remained the flagship structure of Grace Children's Hospital which housed a 65 bed inpatient ward, bustling TB, HIV and Nutrition Outpatient Clinics. Also located at the hospital was a pharmacy, counseling services, and the nursing and community health administrative offices. However, all that changed January 12, 2010 when a 7.0 earthquake rocked Haiti and 80% of Grace Children's Hospital was irreparably damaged.

In April of 2011, thirteen months after the destructive quake and over four decades after Phil rallied his peers, a team from that same Westwood United Methodist church returned to Haiti to assist in rebuilding efforts. Although Phil and the members of the original Youth Power weren't physically present, their passion and dedication were carried on in spirit. At first, overwhelmed by the devastation, the Westwood Team volunteered in the transitional facilities that were erected post-quake. The team began to see with new eyes the ministries and services that ICC offers to Haitian children and their families. Team participant Tim Peters shared, "As we witnessed the much used eye-clinic, the children's ward where babies were tenderly cared for and older children received lessons from their teacher, the well-organized public health system that reaches into the tent cities and scores of families sitting patiently waiting for medical care in the outpatient clinics, we came to understand the needs being filled by International Child Care. In that short time we began to realize that Grace Children's Hospital is a source of great hope to the people of Haiti."

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**OPEN HOUSE**

Please join us for an Open House to celebrate the relocation of our US National Office

Friday, September 16th at 7:00 pm  
240 W. Michigan Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
2nd Floor

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Grace Children's Hospital: 418520  
Integrated Community Health (Haiti): 418847  
Community Health Development Program (D.R.): 410215  
Child to Child Health Promotion: 418242



The Mexican Ambassador's residence, purchased by Youth Power, became the permanent home for Grace Children's Hospital.

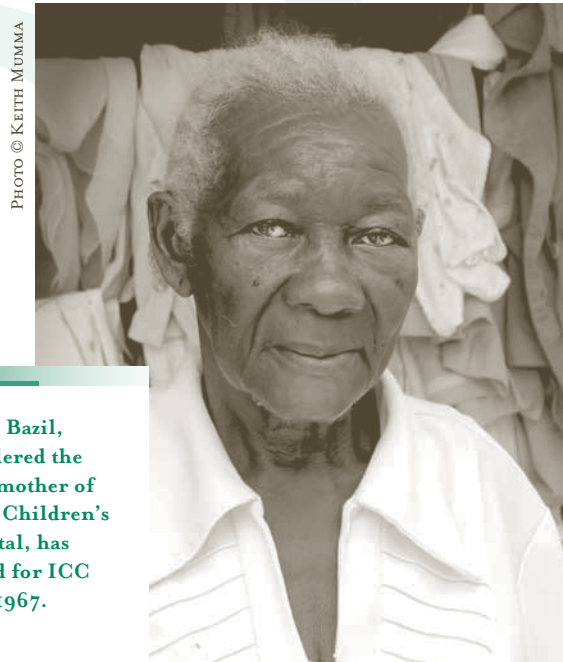


PHOTO © KEITH MUMMA

Rosita Bazil, considered the grandmother of Grace Children's Hospital, has worked for ICC since 1967.

## AMAZING GRACE HAITIAN STYLE: ROSITA BAZIL

Seventy-seven year old Madame Rosita St. Jean Bazil has been working for Grace Children's Hospital since it officially opened back in 1967. Originally hired by ICC founders Jim and Virginia Snavley, Rosita began working in the kitchen, but soon switched to the laundry – a responsibility that she still takes pride in today.

Due to unreliable electricity in the lower Delmas neighborhood where the hospital is located, using modern washing machines and dryers is an ongoing challenge. When electricity is available, power surges often blow circuits leaving the machines in a constant state of repair. Therefore, Rosita washes the equivalent of two commercial loads of children's diapers and gowns daily, lovingly by hand in the traditional Haitian way.

For the Bazils, working for Grace Children's Hospital is a family affair. Rosita's daughter, Margaret, has spent nearly two decades working as a nurse aid on the inpatient ward. As a child, Margaret remembers playing with the Snavley children on the hospital grounds.

Rosita's son Jeremie worked as a mechanic at Grace Children's Hospital prior to his death many years ago.

On January 12, 2010 Rosita had finished work for the day and was attending Bible study at a friend's house when the massive earthquake hit Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area. Thankfully, all of the women were unharmed and Rosita was able to make her way back to Delmas 33 to her home. Although the house was in ruins, her family was safe! The family relocated to a nearby tent city for several months, but then decided they would return to their old community surrounded by friends and neighbors. The family of six currently lives in a rusty tin lean-to next to their property as their house is being rebuilt.

For over four decades Rosita has been dedicated to caring for the children at Grace Children's Hospital. She is grateful for the many volunteers who have supported the work of ICC and have come, served and partnered with the staff, patients and families. Praising and thankful to God, Rosita prays God's blessings on all the volunteers who have helped not only her, but her Haitian brothers and sisters.

Rosita's family of six currently lives in this makeshift shelter while their house is being rebuilt.

## GRACE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL RECEIVES A NURSING MOBILE LIBRARY

Thanks to funding from the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church, Grace Children's Hospital has access to The International Council of Nurses' Nursing Mobile Library. This mobile library is an innovative resource bringing up-to-date health information to nurses working in remote areas of developing countries.

The library contains approximately ninety nursing and health publications including books, manuals and fact sheets all translated into French. The materials are housed in a durable trunk protecting them from damage and allowing the library to be transported to ICC's secluded program areas throughout Haiti.

## ICC Awarded Charity



PHOTO © DR. ELLEN PALMER

## Navigator's Highest Rating

International Child Care was recently awarded Charity Navigator's highest 4 star rating! Charity Navigator is a premier independent charity evaluator that works to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace by evaluating the financial health of over 5,500 of America's largest charities. The support from individuals like you has helped ICC achieve this honor. Thank you!



PHOTO © LESLIE WILLIAMS-WEXLER

In February 2011, I traveled to Haiti with a team of 9 women from Trinity United Methodist Church (Hackettstown, New Jersey) spending three days engaged in Play Therapy training with the staff at Grace Children's Hospital. The staff requested the training to help meet the developmental needs of the children in their care. Leaders of the training included an early Intervention Specialist, a Montessori Preschool Teacher and me - a Pediatric Occupational Therapist.

Several suitcases filled with developmental toys including stacking rings, nesting cups, busy box cubes and shape sorters were collected and, yoga mats were brought to provide a clean and easy-to-use floor area for play. A formal in-service training was offered for the staff at Grace Children's Hospital and each toy was reviewed

for the concepts it could reinforce through play: color identification, size discrimination, shape identification, number concepts and spatial concepts. Different ways of using each toy were also reinforced. For example: playing peek-a-boo through a stacking ring, rolling the ring or placing it on different body parts for body awareness. Additionally, the importance of movement in play to strengthen and develop gross and fine motor skills, eye/hand coordination and sensory processing skills was discussed. After the in-service, the team spent the next few days playing with the children on the ward to demonstrate the concepts and techniques discussed. Simple, easy to use, laminated reference cards in both English and Creole were left with the staff.

In August, I felt called to return to Haiti and to Grace Children's Hospital. My daughter, Emily, and I spent 5 days on the inpatient ward engaging in developmental play with the children. Even visiting parents learned from watching us use the toys and put their babies on the floor to play. I also participated in a follow-up meeting with the staff to outline next steps. Requests by the staff included: replenishing the developmental toys (which are given out for home use as patients are discharged) and developing a program and collecting toys appropriate for older children. The use of building toys (e.g. Legos and Duplos), games and craft activities was discussed. The needs are many and the challenges great, but the joy of watching a child grow and learn through play is a blessing.

We were blessed to see somber Rebecca, who initially would not interact, explore the toys and enjoy putting a stacking ring on and off her head, with great big smiles. Little Nelson improved his postural control in sitting while reaching for and grasping various toys. Children confined to bed while on IV treatments, were moved from tears to smiles when given a toy to explore. One of the Grace Children's Hospital nurses, with tears in her eyes, said she could see how much we cared for the children. God's love was overflowing as it became clear that a child's "job" is to play.

*If you would like to financially support the Developmental Play Therapy initiative at Grace Children's Hospital simply designate your gift on the enclosed reply form. You can also make your donation online at [internationalchildcare.org](http://internationalchildcare.org) or call us toll free at 800-722-4453. Please note: We are NOT accepting donations of actual toys, but your financial support is appreciated.*



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