



## Sending Hope To Haiti

*Jessica Judy*  
*Marketing and Communications Coordinator*

On January 12, 2010, a level seven earthquake convulsed through Haiti, leaving masses of devastation. According to a report by the US Geological Survey, the quake could be felt as far as Tampa, Florida.

With the airport in Port au Prince in shambles and reduced to one runway, aid has been forced to arrive slowly at best. According to a report by ABC News, "There is no room at the airport for more planes and not enough jet fuel for planes to leave." The resulting "bottleneck" has delayed and disrupted the efficiency of the aid distribution to the people who so desperately need it.

Through the effort of many, Change a Life Foundation was able to provide a medical mission team organized of 12 nurses, surgeons, and other medical professionals. Flights were found with the help of Samaritan's Purse, and the team left on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and returned on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Below is the first hand experience of *Jaclyn a registered nurse from Seattle, Washington*, who was a member of the medical team:

"It is very difficult to put into meaningful words the story of the patients at Bernard Mevs Hospital in Port au Prince. So many, in such great need, so little to ease thier suffering. When I first arrived in Haiti on Saturday, I remember feeling overjoyed at returning to the country and people I have grown so fond of. That joy did not last long. As we waited for our ride, a young Haitian girl approached Kristie, a nurse in our group. The girl spoke in stilted English with her for a few moments. Kristie told me that the girl had asked her, "Have you seen them? The bodies in the streets, the rubbles?" The girl had tears in her eyes as she described the horror she had endured for the last 11 days. She was terrified of being in doors because of the constant "grounds shakes". Her home was destroyed and her family injured. She was coming to America to stay with her aunt in Indiana. She was worried about that. She asked Kristie if people would like her or fear her. Kristie assured her that she would be well liked, and cared for in the States. The girl then nodded and got up and walked to a waiting line of evacuees. She stood, rail thin, looking to the sky for the plane that would carry her from hell.



Photo courtesy of Jaclyn. This photo was taken while Jaclyn was in Haiti with the medical mission team.

"Every person we met, every interaction we had, was like this. As you drive the streets of Port au Prince, you see hundreds, thousands gathered in yards, clearings, parks, parking lots living in tiny sheet walled tents with scraps of plastic sheeting tied over the top. Bed sheets hang from building roofs begging for help, "SOS, we need food, water medicine." Spray painted signs are on the walls of standing buildings: an image of the island of Haiti, eye in the middle, crying, with cracks running through the areas of southern Haiti: " We need help" the caption states. Mounds of decimated rubble interchanged with standing buildings. People sifting through rubble with their hands looking for tin, wood, rebar that can be used for shelters or items that can be mended and sold to buy food. Yet even as the devastation remains visibly palpable, there were vendors sitting next to the rubble piles selling sugar cane, oranges, lighters, food vendors frying meat, and tap-tap drivers picking up fares, women with woven baskets on their heads carrying vegetables from the mountains to the small markets in the city. Children in the tent city by the hospital flying kites made of refuse plastic, broken sticks and scraps of unraveled ropes. It is a contrasting picture of unimaginable loss and unyielding spirit, a bud of hope that the Haiti of tomorrow will be stronger than the Haiti of today.

"Yet there are those in the hospital with severe wounds to their bodies and minds who are growing hopeless. Many in the hospital are lucky to have at least one family member with them who can shoo the swarms of flies from their bloody bandages and sweaty bodies, bring food, wash their bodies and linens and sing soft songs to ease their pains. For the

### Change A Life Foundation Exist To:

Reach people of all nations for Christ so they in turn can disciple change in the lives of others.

### Our Mission Is To:

Bring together resources, acting upon and resulting in positive life changes

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## Zimbabwe Humanitarian Awareness

Rita Canada  
Board Member

According to the United Nations Office for Coordinating Humanitarian Aid's (OCHA) December 2009 Humanitarian Update, Zimbabwe's humanitarian situation is shifting gradually from crisis to recovery but is still in a very fragile condition. In the report, the country requires \$378,457,331 US to address its needs in 2010 (nearly half of that for 2009) as requested by 76 appealing agencies including United Nations agencies, inter-governmental organizations, international and national non-governmental organizations and community and faith based organizations.

OCHA contributes this positive shift to improved rains, timely availability of agricultural inputs and better preparedness for disease outbreaks. The results are clearly having an impact on this year's humanitarian needs such as a drastic reduction in the number of food insecure households and projected cholera cases.

Ms. Catherine Bragg, UN ASC/DERC, noted in a recent OCHA report that despite improvements, sections of the population remain especially vulnerable and in continued need of humanitarian assistance. For example, OCHA reports that the country faces a substantial national cereal deficit and about 1.9 million people will need food assistance at the peak of the 2010 hunger season from January to March. In addition, Zimbabwe has been afflicted by three disease outbreaks, including cholera, measles and Pandemic Influenza since September of 2009. This was compounded by hailstorms that caused death, injury and substantial damage to property in December. Ms. Bragg stated that "Any sudden shock can wipe out the recent gains. We must continue working together to avoid losing the momentum."

OCHA also points out that Zimbabwe still faces tremendous challenges, many of which are similar to those experienced in other countries in Southern Africa. Some of the main factors that are contributing to the trend of deepening vulnerability of population include:

- The HIV and AIDS pandemic;
- The restructuring of the agricultural sector and its impact on food security and livelihoods;
- The depleted capacity in the social and health service sectors;
- The impact of the country's policy actions which have led to differences with international partners;
- The sustained economic decline over the last five years

The humanitarian arm of Change a Life Foundation, along with our partners, are currently working to assist in the fulfillment of the urgent physical needs of the impoverished children of the Tanyaradzwa Orphanage. We have initiated a weekly feeding program that will assist over 100 children, however present realities on the ground are that sustainability of the food supply is not guaranteed.

Please pray specifically for the feasibility and support of an abundant food supply for the children! In order to continue to unite children back with their families as soon as possible through our Operation Orphan Rescue and Micro Enterprise Programs, adequate and continued food supplies will be key.

Thank you for your caring and continued support!

### Operation Orphan Rescue Zimbabwe

We are excited to report to you the progress of the funding for Operation Orphan Rescue. Thanks to our many partners, including Global Aid Network (GAIN), and the work of God's love we have been able to obtain a total of \$82,936.50 for the project which includes \$6,680.00 for the micro-enterprises, \$7,101.00 for one home to be furnished, \$4000.00 to assist with the church building, and 150 bibles which is one per child! The total cost for the project will be \$146,616 meaning we need an additional \$62,627 to complete the project.



Construction nears completion on the fourth home of the holistic village of Operation Orphan Rescue Zimbabwe.



Pictured above are children who will benefit from Operation Orphan Rescue in Zimbabwe, Africa

It is due to the efforts of our many partners that we have been able to come this far! With your help and prayers we hope to finish Operation Orphan Rescue at the Tanyaradzwa Orphanage soon so that these vulnerable children of God will finally have a place to call home where they can build a bright future and grow in the grace of the Lord.

We are so grateful for your prayers and continued support. To learn more about this project, please visit our website or give us a call.

## The Power of the Word

Don Wooden  
Founder

The following is an excerpt from Founder Don Wooden's travel journal:

The last couple of days have been very fruitful for the Lord and have been very rewarding for me. We have passed out over 1,500 of the 5,000 Bibles to the children of Metabeland and now what stories and memories I have to share.

At one of the schools I handed a Bible to the head master of the school, and he was almost in tears. I asked him if he was a believer, and he said yes but just of three weeks and that he had no money to buy a Bible. He wrote his friend in Harare to see if they could help him get a Bible and he had been praying for one. This was an answered prayer. I said the Lord is good, and look, you prayed for one and he provided 58 more for your children!



Sing to [the Lord], sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Psalm 105:2

The most sad but awesome testimony of God's powerful word was at the Jesus Film night when a young girl of maybe thirteen came up to me and said "Please sir, I would like to have a Bible so I can learn about this Jesus and because I didn't get one today at school." There were hundreds of people around, most of who would love to have Bibles but I knew I could not start handing them out there or we would have been mobbed. I said I was sorry, but I would try and get her one if time permitted. We must have been asked 50 times that night for Bibles, but we only had enough for the children. What struck me as the awesome part is here are teenagers hungry for the word and not video games, movies, MTV, or clothes but the awesome word of God!

Just in the 8 showings of the Jesus Film within the Metabeland province the group of young evangelists had 3,400 people to see the message of Jesus and 1,010 people came forward and committed their lives to Christ! Wow, what a tool to share the message of Jesus Christ to the people.

There is no doubt that the word of God will reach thousands because of the Bibles these children now have in their hands which will now be transferred into their hearts. We will never hear of all the testimonies from this effort until we get to heaven one day.

## Haiti Continued

rest there is nothing but the slow passage of minutes in the broiling sun. An elderly man with dementia, lays on a thin mattress in the courtyard of the hospital. A dirty sheet covers his emaciated, naked body; what the sheet does not cover is writhing with buzzing flies. His yellowed eyes look blankly at the passing people. He is unable to get up. He lies in a puddle of his own waste. He waits silently, knowing after 12 days that no one will come to his calls for help because they are too busy trying to save themselves.



Young Haitian boys play with kites made of old plastic bags and string. Photo taken by Jaclyn while in Haiti

"A sixteen year old boy sits in a pair of red shorts on a rickety chair. He has a large dirty bandage covering his right shoulder and upper back. His right arm is tied to his side by flimsy gauze. He is hunched over staring at the ground. When I approach he does not look up. I call out to him and slowly he raises his head. His right eye is blackend and swollen with healing cuts above and below it. I ask how he is, and he stares past me. In a soft voice of one who rarely speaks, he says "bad." He shakes his head slowly from side to side..."no mama, no papa". He makes soft clucking noises as he descends again into his own silent, tearless vigil of staring at the ground which 12 days ago opened up and swallowed his family leaving him with nothing but a broken life and an uncertain future.

"I wish that I could write of tragedy turned to triumph, that I could share joyous stories of people overcoming the odds but it is far too early to know if the patients of Bernard Mevs Hospital will be victors or victims. Care was difficult on a good day, before the earthquake, now it is a scramble just to provide basic dressing changes. Many have lost the battle to tame mangled limbs, they now have a stump where they once had arms, legs, hands or feet. Maggots grow in wounds not severe enough to gain them a bed in the hospital. Children scream as dressing changes are made to gashes in their limbs and heads. The smell of rot from the refuse, human waste and discarded limbs wafts over the hospital courtyard where patients lay inside of donated tents. No, it is far too early to know if this small snapshot of Haiti will ever heal."

Haiti is in desperate need of our support while trying to recover from what has been referred to as the worst natural disaster since the tsunami that crumbled Southeast Asia in 2004. Medical missions are one way that we have joined the struggle for Haiti. We are also collecting funds for humanitarian aid for our international partner GAIN and to send more medical/ aid teams. To donate to the Change a Life Foundation fund for Haiti, you may send a check to our office or visit our website and click on the "Support" tab. We ask that you specify on your donation (in the memo section of the check or the comments box of the donation page) "Haiti Relief." Please continue to pray for our Haitian brothers and sisters in their time of need.

## Church Alliances

Jessica Judy  
Marketing and Communications Coordinator



We are working to build alliances with local churches who are interested in joining us in serving the children of Africa. The purpose of the alliance is to support churches with food packing events, short-term mission trips, serving and discipleship programs. Another key element of the program is to empower the members with direct connections to the children of Operation Orphan Rescue, through gathering furnishing for the children's homes. The Church Alliance is designed to energize the people to be a part of missions locally and internationally.

The church members work together to collect the items to furnish the homes of Operation Orphan Rescue, which allows each member to give of their own comfort level with items as small as dishes to as large as bunk beds. Once the church has accumulated all the furnishing, we ship the items through our international partner GAIN to the designated home so that the children can move in.

Another aspect of the program is the food packing events where the church and local community members come together to package food that will be sent to those in need. The food-packaging events help facilitate and pay for short-term mission teams who have been trained through the Church Alliance. After going abroad to serve and disciple, the members are empowered to do the same locally.

If your home church (or one you know) is interested in learning more about the Church Alliance, please contact us by phone, email or by mail. We look forward to hearing from you!



**Helping to change lives...one at a time.**

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