



# grace!

WINTER 2004 AT WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.**

**Ecclesiastes 4:12**

## The Power of Partnership



**Jim Hofstetter**  
International Director

Theologians have been contemplating the significance of the Trinity for over 2000 years. "If God is omnipotent," they ponder, "Why was a Son and then a Holy Spirit needed? Especially if perfection and omnipotence were already achieved?" There are centuries of debate and volumes of excellent treatise on this.

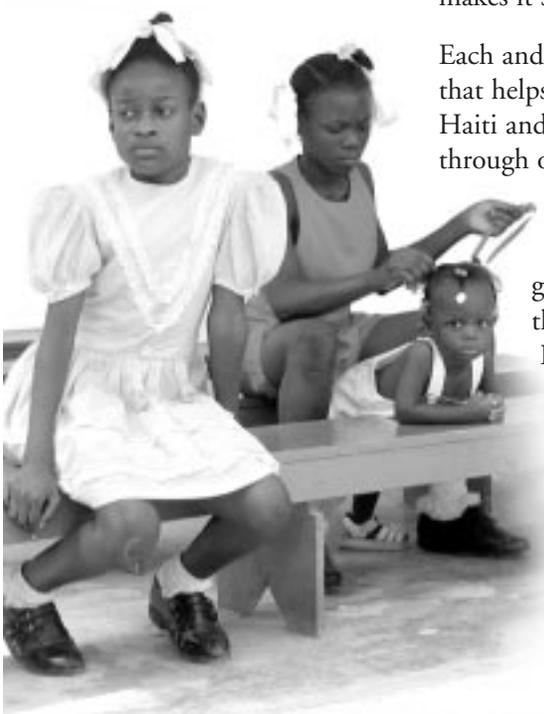
Far be it for me to think I can shed any new learning, but I think the answer comes down to partnership. God provided a unique partnership, the Trinity, to help us, lead us, guide us and bring us to salvation. Three working together, in partnership, were better than one. Even if that One is the Alpha and Omega!

In Haiti they have a proverb that says "Nou beswen twa woch a quite manje" which translates, "You need three rocks to cook your food." Since most Haitian families cook on the ground and support their pots above the burning charcoal with three rocks, the saying has everyday significance for them. Without all three rocks the pot tips over, the food spills and the meal is ruined.

At International Child Care we believe so strongly in the power of partnership that it is the essence of our work in every level of the organization. In the villages and barrios, communities must be ready to form an active partnership for us to provide the help and support needed. Every member of that community has a contribution to make and bringing those contributions to the partnership makes it stronger.

Each and every one of our North American donors also make a contribution to this partnership that helps "hold up the pot" of health and hope in our work in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. ICC is stronger through our partnerships than we could ever be alone.

Partnership is the very essence of our work. Mutual benefits, mutual gifts and mutual gains. We cannot achieve health and hope for the children in Haiti and the Dominican Republic without this model. Your support and partnership is crucial. Without it the pot will fall and the meal will be ruined. God gave us the Trinity to remind us that partnerships are required to create miracles. At International Child Care, we believe that to be so and we practice partnership in everything we do. ●



## International Child Care Partners with Canadian Feed the Children

During the summer of 2003, International Child Care began a new and strategic partnership with Canadian Feed the Children (CFTC). CFTC's goal is to alleviate the impact of poverty on children. They work with local partners overseas and in Canada to enhance the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of their families and communities.

Thanks to the networking efforts of Eric Barton, a long-time friend of ICC, a meeting was arranged between myself, Jim Dahl, CFTC's Executive Director, and Andre Leite, a Project Manager, to discuss partner project possibilities.

That meeting was extremely positive and resulted in a further meeting between Dr. Harry Geffard, ICC's Haiti Director General, and Madsen Gachette, CFTC's Field Director in Haiti. They quickly developed a \$20,000 project aimed at improving the care and nutrition of children hospitalized at Grace Children's Hospital.

Funds were urgently needed to rehab the hospital's kitchen facilities and provide air conditioning to the pharmacy for the storage of life saving drugs. In addition, the project funded the purchase of high-quality food supplements for children requiring specialized diets.

Construction was carried out through the fall months and was completed in time for Christmas. International Child Care and Dr. Geffard were recently featured on Vision TV December 30, 2003, as part of a focus on Canadian Feed the Children. The program was entitled "Strength from the Ground Up" and documented Haitian Madsen Gachette and the three partner organizations that CFTC is working with in Haiti.



**Charlie Guy**  
National Director, ICC/Canada

A second project with CFTC is already in the planning for the 1st quarter of 2004 for \$100,000 to improve the quality of life and nutritional status of people living in ICC's intervention area in the Northern department (Grand Riviere and Bahun). By developing a partnership with Canadian Feed the Children, ICC is endeavoring to reinforce its capacity to meet the needs of people in these northern communities.



**A Grace Children's Hospital cook enjoying the new kitchen facilities.**

## Partnerships in Pastoral Care

As the current Chaplain at Grace Children's Hospital, I am excited to share about our partnerships in the area of pastoral or spiritual care. Our partners in this work are many and very faithful!

Every morning our work at Grace Children's Hospital (GCH) begins with a time of prayer in each clinic. On Mondays and Fridays, we also hold morning devotions, including Scripture reading, singing and a short message, in the outpatient TB clinic for staff and patients. There is a group of wonderful GCH staff members who share in the responsibility for this effort - Antonyne, one of the nurses in the TB clinic; Reynold, a computer technician; Maud, GCH's manager of administrative services; Appolos, a laboratory technician; as well as various other personnel from the clinics. All of them do this in addition to their regular work responsibilities and are committed partners in the spiritual care of all our patients and staff.

In our inpatient children's ward, I was expecting my work to be more like that of a traditional hospital chaplain, but was pleased to discover that that work is regularly done by the mamans, auxiliaries (nurse's aides), nurses and doctors. Throughout the course of each day, there are many occasions for prayer and conversation as children and their families face the crises of serious illness and the celebration of healing. As a staff, we partner together daily to provide pastoral care in this setting.

I am also fortunate to have North American visitors as partners in care for the children. Whether people visit the hospital in person, or send greetings via mail, you are all partners as we provide for the spiritual and emotional needs of the children here at Grace Children's Hospital. Thank you for partnering with ICC to provide health and hope for the children of Haiti!

**Reverend Susan Kronbach**  
Grace Children's Hospital Chaplain



**Children at GCH enjoying get well cards sent from North American partners.**

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## Creating a Common World View Together

The concept of partnership is a way of articulating everything International Child Care does. It sums up our primary purpose. Being in partnership says something about human rights being sacred and human dignity being holy. Partnership is living out a person-to-person relationship in which people make the love of Christ come alive in each other. Partnership is a long-term commitment. At International Child Care we believe in a mutual benefit for each partner, not simply a one-way fix or a charity. We're continually looking to grow and struggle together.

Jesus used the Greek word Koinonia when He wanted to define a true sense of community; one He shared with His disciples and one Paul shared with the church. We seek to broaden our own sense of community to include others. We must walk in each other's shoes and join our individual strengths in a covenant partnership to grow and mutually benefit.



We all have a right and responsibility to raise the consciousness of each other to more accurately understand the needs, hurts and joys inherent in our communities of origin. When we grow from the knowledge of each other's culture, perspective and point of view, we create a common world view together. This brings to reality a true partnership mentality and the essence of International Child Care.

**Rev. David David**  
National Director, ICC/USA

# ICC Celebrates Milestone in the Dominican Republic

In November, International Child Care celebrated a milestone in its organizational history. After 15 years of operating under the legal auspice of ICC/USA, ICC/Dominican Republic has become an official and fully recognized partner of the organization under the Spanish name of Cuidado Infantil Dominicano (CID). The new board, under the presidency of Antolin Rodriguez, has received their official charter as a fully recognized non-governmental organization in the Dominican Republic.

To celebrate this important step towards independence, the Joint Ministry Council of ICC has officially recognized Cuidado Infantil Dominicano as one of the four partners in health development with the signing of the amended Joint Ministry Agreement of International Child Care. The meetings, held in November 2003, took place in Santiago, Dominican Republic and were an historical event in the history of International Child Care.

One of the unique aspects of the Joint Ministry of International Child Care is the fact that all four organizations (ICC/Haiti, ICC/DR, ICC/USA and ICC/Canada) share the same Vision and Mission. It is this shared vision and mission that binds us together and makes International Child Care strong and committed to work coordinated and united towards health and wholeness for children and families in empowered communities on the island of Hispaniola.



**Trudy Bekker**  
National Director, ICC/Dominican Republic (CID)



**Partnership is strengthened as Cuidado Infantil Dominicano is officially recognized with the signing of the amended Joint Ministry Agreement of International Child Care.**

**If you would like ICC's 2003 Financial Statement, please log on to our website at [www.intlchildcare.org](http://www.intlchildcare.org) under Financial Accountability or call your national office.**

## ICC and Partnership in Haiti

International Child Care's pioneers recognized by the early 1970s that they could not achieve their vision of "Health and wholeness for children and families in empowered communities" by themselves. Within just a few years of taking care of children with tuberculosis at Grace Children's Hospital, they realized that their initiative would not have a real impact unless they participated with other tuberculosis control programs across the country.

With that realization, they searched and eventually obtained, through the Crusade Against Tuberculosis (CAT), an agreement with Haiti's Ministry of Health to work together to address this important public health problem that was affecting a high number of the Haitian people. ICC's contribution to this new partnership was to bring their BCG vaccine mass campaign and their Case Finding and Treatment program to existing health centers throughout the country with the aim of reducing the spread of the tuberculosis. In 1990, the Case Finding and Treatment program became known as the National TB Program in which ICC is the most important partner.



This partnership notion, by doing with rather than doing for, is part of International Child Care's philosophy and is an vital part of the relationships ICC has within every level of its ministry.

**Dr. Harry Geffrard, MD, MPH**  
Director General, ICC/Haiti



*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 accepted 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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