



The Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) is an association of Canadian Christian organizations and individuals involved in relief, development, and justice who are committed to integrated, transformational development.

## Presence through Partnership: **The Haiti Experience**

By Philip Tanner, Christian Children's Fund of Canada

Canadian charities across the country rallied to the support of Haiti, following one of the worst earthquakes in recorded history. Over 25 Canadian agencies already had a strong presence in Haiti before the earthquake, while more than 100 recognized Canadian NGOs and many more private organizations, churches and numerous faith-based charities responded with fund-raising support for actors on the ground. The Canadian government reacted at multiple levels, with military and civilian experts deployed.

Over the past years, we have seen an increasingly globalized humanitarian environment and this is no less evident in the Canadian context. Aid agencies are under pressure to demonstrate performance, timeliness, quality and impact in their programmes; and to ensure accountability from those programmes and from those they fund. Certainly good intentions are important but demonstrating effectiveness is how organizations



*Philip Tanner is the Director of Programs at Christian Children's Fund of Canada*

are measured. It is very difficult for many organizations to turn a blind eye to the suffering around them and they are

cognizant of the humanitarian imperative that compels a response. But how should a responsible organization respond when they are not active at ground zero of an emergency operation, while maintaining the governing principles that guide a

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## Partners in **Recovery**

By Martin Silbernagel, Samaritan's Purse Canada

Responding to a disaster the size of the earthquake in Haiti is not possible without the help of local partners. Samaritan's Purse's medical advisor was on the ground within 24 hours of the earthquake. He immediately began working with our partners at the Baptist Haiti Mission Hospital, a 100-bed facility that had 300 patients immediately after the quake, with bus loads of more patients arriving in the days to

come. Samaritan's Purse sent in dozens of doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel to assist.

Dr. Kara Gibson, of Hamilton, ON, was one of our staff. In the midst of all the chaos she talks of one of the Haitian doctor's overwhelming commitment to the patients. "We raced down the hall with (the patient) on a stretcher to our mini ICU/OR," Dr.

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# Chairperson's Message

By Emmanuel Isch

Dear Friends,

It has been a few months now since a devastating earthquake hit the country of Haiti. We all saw images of how it impacted the lives and livelihoods of millions. Some of us saw this first hand, some of us may have been directly impacted by it as well. Words cannot easily describe the impact both for individuals and their families but also the country as a whole. Weeks on, we are aware that much work has been done by many organizations, both international and local, by numerous donor countries and institutions, by the Haitian Government and the Haitian people themselves in providing immediate relief and assistance but also beginning on the long journey to recovery and reconstruction.

This tragedy brought about tremendous support from tens of thousands of people across Canada and many groups wanting to help in various ways and by various means. There are tremendous

challenges but also opportunities ahead as we consider on-going relief work but also recovery

and reconstruction, and what it will take to get the country back on track. I believe the Haiti earthquake provides both the Haitian Government and people but also the international community an opportunity to rethink, to innovate and to have both a macro and micro level impact as a result.

This issue of *Now That's Progress* focuses on members' stories of local partnerships and collaboration, very essential to how we should respond, as well as human interest stories that demonstrate how Canadian Christian NGOs are taking the lead with partners and communities to move ahead on the road to recovery. I hope you are both inspired and challenged as you read on ...



*Emmanuel Isch is the CCRDA Chairperson and the VP of International & Canadian Programs at World Vision Canada*

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response and demand accountability?

Through a strong network of partnership and alliance, Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) is able to channel funds effectively and efficiently, ensuring strong results and impact. Humanitarian coalitions are emerging world-wide, in response to fund-raising realities and the need for increased coordination and transparency. Many in Canada are realizing the need to also reduce competition for limited funds and to decrease overhead costs. The result brings the opportunity for faster response times, reduced costs and a pool of expertise from which to draw lessons and ensure standards are maintained.

Like many organizations, CCFC works through partnership with international and local

organizations, as well as having an extensive federation of alliance members that can work together to leverage expertise and global resources. Through the generous donations from Child Fund Alliance members around the world and CCFC's own constituency in Canada, it is able to support organizations on the ground to help children in distress.

In supporting the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Christian Blind Mission in Haiti, CCFC has been able to respond to the emergency through activities that address basic needs in food, non-food items, temporary shelter and water; as well as addressing the needs of children with disabilities and injuries and, ensuring a safe place to receive education, play activities, rehabilitation and psycho-social support. ■

# Rebuilding Haiti: Technical Advice Provides Peace of Mind

By Michele Wiens, Engineering Ministries International Canada

Why did so many buildings collapse in Haiti and others survive? What happens to damaged buildings . . . can any be repaired or salvaged? What are the next steps for ministries in Haiti with marginally damaged buildings . . . do they demolish, salvage, and start again, or can they repair and move on?

Since the earthquake, Engineering Ministries International (eMi) has been providing ministries on the ground in Haiti with the expertise to answer these questions. By drawing on their network of experienced volunteers who have both the technical skills and a heart for God's children, eMi has been able to send structural assessment teams to dozens of agencies who have requested inspection of their buildings.

For buildings that were deemed structurally sound, eMi teams provided inspections, a report, and signage for the buildings to declare them safe. For buildings that could not be saved, eMi provided an external voice able to make the difficult decision to tear down. For buildings that could be repaired, eMi provided detailed designs and discussed with staff and contractors methods to make the buildings safe again, and to build

safer buildings next time.

eMi Canada's Kevin Wiens, P.Eng, led a structural assessment team to Haiti at the end of



*Michele Wiens works in the office at eMI Canada*

March. He summarized the team's findings: "Our observations were that buildings by and large failed because of inattention to detail during construction. The worst failures were in buildings that were very top heavy. Thick, heavy concrete slabs on each floor and on the roof, with inherently weak columns and no effective shear walls, resulted in buildings swaying in the earthquake resulting in column and wall failures on the first floor . . . it's not that Haitians don't know how to build well, it's that the lure of cheaper costs draws them to short-change themselves with weaker construction practices."

Haiti will be rebuilding for many years to come, and we hope and pray that as ministries rebuild, these lessons learned will be reflected in the new construction. ■

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Gibson said. "Dr. Claude, our young Haitian colleague, came in immediately with his arm out saying, "I am O+." I quickly took his blood and pushed it into her."

In Cite Soleil, we partnered with a local church to distribute basic staples such as rice, beans, and oil to approximately 500,000 people. We were also able to restore a medical clinic in the church, which is now seeing an average of 100 people per day.

After assessing some of the obstacles to initial recovery operations, Samaritan's Purse chartered a cargo ship to bring heavy equipment to Haiti, including dump trucks and bulldozers. We are now employing more than 350 Haitians — 42% of them women — to help remove rubble and debris. Through this program, we have

cleared miles of road and prepared sites for churches and businesses to begin rebuilding.

Samaritan's Purse will continue to focus on engaging the churches and people of Haiti in bringing recovery and the love of Jesus Christ to a broken nation. ■



*Clearing ground for shelter in Haiti*

# Soup's On!

By Shelley Stone, Ontario Christian Gleaners

Carrots shaped like hockey sticks. Red and yellow swirled peppers. Gigantuous beets. Weekly, the Ontario Christian Gleaners take 25,000 lbs of vegetables and turn them into a dried, nutritious soup mix. Since the earthquake, we have shipped 1.6 million servings of soup to Haiti with various mission organizations.

One week after the earthquake, a phone call came from FTC Canada. "Tonight we are sending a team of 13 medical staff to Haiti for relief. They are taking two things with them: medical supplies and Gleaners' soup. That's how much we value your product."

One bag of soup weighs 3 lbs and serves 100 people. This light-weight product is packed into plastic pails and donated to Christian relief and development agencies for distribution. We operate entirely on donations. Our product is given away (free!) knowing that agencies need to cover the cost and arrange the shipping. Pictures and stories come back from agencies and are recounted at the 10am coffee break at the Gleaners building. This visual 'thank you' is the generator that keeps this volunteer powered organization moving ahead.

## Hope in the Rubble

By Ben Hoogendoorn

Haiti was just another small country in the western hemisphere at the dawn of the new decade. On January 12, it was violently thrust into the global spotlight. But we have seen hope as the global community came alongside to carry this burden. Haiti is no longer in the distance. Haiti became a part of us. FH Canada exists to build thriving communities through partnerships and integrated development programs and has had a presence since June, 2008 in the Cachiman area of Haiti. Recognizing that emergency relief in Port-au-Prince would not succeed without collaboration, FH Canada worked with partners under the Global Relief Alliance.

After the 2004 tsunami struck Indonesia, FH Canada deployed a medical relief team. Some members from that

Mennonite Central Committee, Northwest Haiti Christian



*Shelley Stone is the Manager at Ontario Christian Gleaners*

Mission, Corem Deo (Adoration Christian Centre), OMS International (Men for Missions), God's Littlest Angels, and FTC Canada have been some of the distributors of our vegetable soup mix since the Haiti earthquake.

*To view a short video of our work or download an application to receive our food, visit us at [www.ontariogleaners.org](http://www.ontariogleaners.org) or tour our operation. ■*



*Ontario Christian Gleaner soup being served*

same group have responded to the immense need for medical professionals in Port-au-Prince and treated an average of 400 people each day. One of the nurses travelling to Haiti with FH encouraged local drug stores and pharmacies to join our relief endeavors by donating medical supplies. We're thankful for the work that was done through these supplies.

One of our overseas workers, Kristee Watson, travelled to Port-au-Prince for three weeks to assist the FH finance office. Watson served as an interim finance manager and accountant. She also helped in the process of hiring and training

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# Existing Presence Strengthens Earthquake Response

By Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, CRWRC

When an earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010 it killed hundreds of thousands of people and brought the economy of much of the country to a halt. The international community responded generously, and organizations such as the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), who had projects in Haiti were able to channel this support into meaningful programs.

“The first two weeks after the quake were a challenge as the earthquake shut down the cell phone system, gasoline stations and banks,” said CRWRC’s International Disaster Response Senior Project Manager, Ken Little.

“Communicating, accessing sufficient diesel fuel, and accessing cash for purchasing supplies such as food and tarps were a challenge. However, because of CRWRC’s long presence in the country, our staff were able to find both fuel and food locally for distribution.”

In fact, because CRWRC had been working in Haiti since 1975, it had relationships with five Haitian organizations and the network of churches and community leaders through which these organizations worked. When the disaster struck, CRWRC was able to use these partnerships to quickly identify needs and distribute aid.

The ministry center of CRWRC’s partner, the Christian Reformed Church of Haiti, was used to house medical volunteers who provided antibiotics, surgery, and emergency care to nearly 15,000 people. Similarly, the campus of another partner, the Union of Baptist Churches in Haiti, became a camp for a couple of thousand people who were homeless after the quake. CRWRC was able to distribute emergency supplies to these survivors.

Today, CRWRC is continuing to work with local Haitian organizations to assess needs and distribute aid. This provides CRWRC with volunteer labour as well as expertise into the local area and access to families most in need. “When we came to survey homes in Masson (near Leogane), the Progressive Youth Organization of Masson (OJPM) divided the town into 10 sectors and provided a guide for each sector to assist the surveyors,” explained Toni Fernhout, a CRWRC international Relief Manager in Haiti. “In three days 850 surveys were completed. Amazing work

in such a short time! The next step was to create a distribution list and distribute emergency tarps.



Kristen deRoo VanderBerg is the Communications and Marketing Coordinator for CRWRC

The OJPM organized 5 distribution sites and gave cards to eligible community members. The distribution was a huge success.”

“The Haitian people are amazingly resilient. They have dignity and strength and should be counted as an asset as the international community looks to rebuild the country,” said Little. “By working with and through the Haitian people, we improve our ability to meet the needs of those affected in a way that best benefits them and builds up Haitian knowledge and leadership for the future.” ■



Tarp distribution in Masson

## Rubble from page 4

a new Haitian accountant.

These initiatives represent FH Canada’s long-term strategy of sustainable community development. “This strategy will help us to ‘walk with’ the people of Haiti in respectful recognition that they too have things to offer in the solution of their country,” says Ben Hoogendoorn, president and CEO of FH Canada, adding that “it is core to FH Canada’s goals and objectives.” ■

# Cash-For-Work Brings Hope to Haiti's Unemployed

By Laura Blank, World Vision Canada

You would never guess Silvina Francois' age by the strength of her sinewed arms in the hot Haitian sun, but her weathered face and slightly-hunched back give her away. The 75-year-old woman has already beaten the odds in a country where the average life expectancy for a woman is 63 years old, and she's still hard at work. Silvina used to live in Impasse Bazil, a neighbourhood within Port-au-Prince, until the earthquake on January 12 destroyed her home.

"My grandson came to my house that day looking for something to eat," she recalled. "Just as we started to eat, I felt the earth turn upside down and everything started shaking; people were screaming." As she tells her story, she waves her arms wildly, moving around from side to side, illustrating what it felt like to be inside her home while the earth shook violently.

In the days after the quake, Silvina and six of her family members made their way into the nearby neighborhood of Petionville, Port-au-Prince. After living in a camp on the grounds of a local seminary, they heard that the land where they used to harvest corn and bananas had been turned into a camp, and they started out for what is now known as "Enaf 2." Her new home in Enaf 2 is built with various types of materials - wooden poles whittled from trees, corrugated metal sheets taken from the rubble of her home, old blankets and rusting beds. Silvina said it took her family a month to build their new home.

Today, two months later, life isn't easy. Food can be hard to come by, and hunger is not uncommon. "You know, we are poor people. We do what we can with [the food] that we have," she says. "By the grace of God, we are hungry but we are okay, we are safe."

Two weeks ago, things changed for Silvina. She says that's when she started participating in World Vision's cash-for-work program in her community, cleaning the newly-built latrines every day in exchange for a small stipend. Every day, Silvina and her neighbour, 49-year-

old Claudette Vendredi, work together to maintain the camp's latrines. In addition to providing these women with an income, the job gives them something to help fill the long, hot hours in the camp. "[Life in the camp] has been difficult for everyone," agrees Claudette. "But it's better than sitting here all day with nothing to do."

The women take pride in their work. The latrines are spotless and surprisingly odorless. Silvina explains that World Vision has given them special enzymes to put into the pits. It breaks down the waste and helps to keep the area free from the sorts of smells you might expect.



*Silvina Francois participating in a cash-for-work program of World Vision*

The cash-for-work program like the one Silvina and Claudette participate in is just one of the ways World Vision is working in camps throughout Haiti's capital city to help displaced families begin to rebuild their lives.

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# MCC's Haiti Response Continues

By Mennonite Central Committee

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) medical teams and structural engineers are providing immediate assistance in Haiti now, and distributions of food and relief supplies are ongoing even as MCC plans the next steps in its multiyear response to the January 12 earthquake.

MCC continues to provide rations of rice, beans, cooking oil, canned meat and spaghetti to nine communities, reaching at least 6,000 people who have been forced from home by the earthquake. It is likely that food is also being given to additional relatives and friends, echoing the strong emphasis on sharing in Haitian culture.

MCC is also providing materials for bamboo and cement-base showers for people living in camps of displaced people. Those living in the camps had identified the need for a private space to wash, especially for women, said Betty Kasdorf, MCC's Food, Disaster and Material Resources program manager.

MCC relief kits, tarps for shelter, comforters and bed sheets are being distributed as soon as they arrive in Haiti, and additional shipments are on their way.

"What struck me most is the complexity of the situation," said Kasdorf, a Winnipegger who recently visited Haiti as part of an MCC assessment team. "The whole country is affected by this."

Kasdorf said the group heard from non-profit organizations, from MCC partners and from government officials that what is needed now is for relief, government services, education and jobs to be made more widely available throughout the country.

Even as MCC's response in Haiti continues, planning for the next five years is also well underway. MCC believes it can meet significant needs in areas including shelter and housing, economic development, food security, education, peace-building and advocacy, health and trauma healing.

To learn more about MCC's response to the Haiti earthquake, go to [mcc.org/haitiearthquake](http://mcc.org/haitiearthquake). ■

## Camp for Kids

By Leura Jones and Amber Van Schooneveld, Compassion

In the weeks following the earthquake, thousands of Haitian children have lived in crowded tents or on the streets with no focused activity and no hope of schools opening any time soon. One way Compassion is responding is through multiday camps organized to address the psychological, physical, nutritional, and cognitive needs of children.

Here, children gather in the courtyards of their child development centres to participate in spiritual activities—prayer, Bible studies, singing—physical activities such as sports, dancing, and crafts, and activities designed to address deeper psychological needs. The children are excited for a chance just to

play a simple game of dominos with friends and share a hot meal of rice and beans.



*Children enjoy fun activities together*

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# The Untold Story

By Andrew Atkins, Emmanuel International

A week after the Haiti earthquake, I was in Port-au-Prince. A few bodies were still unclaimed in the streets. The deep shock of a traumatized people and nation etched the faces of our associates at our partner church, the Oeuvre Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda (OEBB). As we hustled food to distribute, we discovered the Dominican Republic was already on the ground with food, medicine, and supplies.

This is one of the untold stories of this tragedy. Historically, the Dominican Republic keeps its distance from Haiti. The earthquake changed that: the DR opened its heart, its arms, its supply-sheds, and its border to assist its neighbour. And that's the story of a new Emmanuel International partnership. That first foray into Haiti was supposed to be a charter flight directly into Port-au-Prince. That flight was non-existent. A series of phone calls later, our threesome - Dave Lock, Andrew Lock, and myself - were headed into Santo Domingo. A friend of a friend of a friend, Pastor Jose Lopez met us, hosted us, and sent us into Port-au-Prince.

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Here, in Enaf 2, World Vision has provided the camp with latrines, showers, water tanks (and clean water delivery), tarps for emergency shelter, a Child-Friendly Space for the children to play and learn, and a mother's club for the women in the camp.

For a 75-year-old woman to be the breadwinner for her family of three children and several grandchildren, pride is tinged with sadness. Even her 26-year-old grandson cannot find work. She starts to cry as she considers what might happen to them. "I wish I could give them a good education," she says. She shakes her head in uncertainty and holds her hands up to the sky. "I don't know what will happen, but I just give them all to Jesus." Still, the cash-for-work program has helped Silvina see the bright side, too. "We can now say we have hope," she says with a smile. "Before, we didn't know where we would get any money." ■

A few days later, we scrounged food from a general of the Dominican Republic civil defence. Set up in a massive warehouse close to the airport, they readily provided food, water, and medicines. A couple of trucks from the DR showed up at the OEBB's door: these supplies provided the initial aid distributed.

Meanwhile back in the DR, Pastor Jose told us it would be a privilege to assist in any way possible. We took him at his word: ever since he has manned the ongoing supply pipeline utilized by Emmanuel International to meet the needs in the OEBB vicinity. Although a bit cumbersome - it's an 8 hour journey from Santo Domingo to Port-au-Prince - this Dominican partnership is providing the food, water, medicines, tents, tarps, and other supplies for the OEBB's 9 distribution points and approximately 10,000 families. ■

## Camp from page 7

At the camps, children are treated by forty trained social workers and psychologists who meet with children individually and in groups for trauma counseling. Those who need further psychological evaluation and follow up are identified.

Kids of all ages are benefitting from these camps, such as Lemaguerre Edouard, a teenager, who said, "We thank Compassion for such an initiative. It helped me not staying in the neighbourhood thinking of anything wrong related to the earthquake that could come to your mind to get you down. Here, I have had fun with other children, learned new songs and games and ate together. I wish it could just go on."

Although "normal" will never return to Haiti in quite the same way, it is important for the children to return to some sense of daily normalcy. In addition to providing a safe, engaging place for children who have missed two months of school, these camps will jump-start Compassion's regular project activities and create momentum for their eventual reopening. ■

## Member News

- The **Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC)** is pleased to announce that Mr. Wayne deJong has accepted the position of Disaster Response Team Leader, based in the Burlington, Ontario Christian Reformed Church home office. Wayne previously worked at CRWRC as the Canadian Director from July, 1996 to October, 2005. Since leaving CRWRC, Wayne has been working at Habitat for Humanity as Vice President of International Programs and Strategic Partnerships. With Habitat, Wayne has had a hand in helping design new programs and expanding Habitat's impact in developing countries.

Wayne brings years of experience to the Team Leader role as well as being a Certified

Management Accountant (CMA) and having a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. Wayne will begin on May 17, 2010 and will spend his first weeks getting oriented to the many changes that have transpired in our relief programming. Wayne's new email address will be [wdejong@crwrc.org](mailto:wdejong@crwrc.org).

- **Samaritan's Purse Canada** has impacted more than 20,000 families in Central and South America with BioSand Water Filters installed through their Household Water Program.
- **Opportunity International Canada** is hosting *Micromax Challenge Canada*. Young leaders and entrepreneurs aged 18–35 have until June 15 to take a \$100 loan and turn it into much more to be used for OIC's microfinance services.

## Master's Program in Development Completes its 1<sup>st</sup> Year

By Dr. Thomas Power, Wycliffe College

The new Master in Theology Studies (Urban and International Development) is completing its first year at Wycliffe College, Toronto. It has been a very successful year with the initial cohort of students completing a variety of foundational courses, one of which, *Forging the Kingdom*, was taught by staff of World Vision Canada, a partnership we value. We have two summer school courses in development issues, one on *Urban Poverty and Development* (taught by David Kupp of World Vision), the other on the *Cross-Cultural Christian* (taught by George Sumner, Principal of Wycliffe College), both of which are open to all to take. We continue to plan and design elective courses that will have a development focus.

During the year some of our students volunteered with organizations in the GTA including Yonge Street Mission, Muskoka Woods Youth Foundation, and Opportunity International. A number of our students will intern with a variety of NGOs beginning in May. These include Prison Fellowship of Canada, Mennonite Central Committee in Bosnia, Latin American Mission in

Costa Rica, Sanctuary Ministries in Toronto, and Emmanuel International in Malawi.



*Thomas Power is the Coordinator of Internships for the MTS in Urban and International Development at Wycliffe College*

We are excited about the possibilities for the future as we train Christian leaders to work in development in urban and international contexts. The program may also be of interest to staff of NGOs who might want to take a course on a topic of interest, or upgrade their skills in a particular field. Further information on the program can be had on our website: [www.wycliffecollege.ca](http://www.wycliffecollege.ca). If you are interested in the program or would like to recommend it to someone else, please contact Barbara Jenkins at 416-946-3525 or [barbara.jenkins@wycliffe.utoronto.ca](mailto:barbara.jenkins@wycliffe.utoronto.ca). ■

## Calendar of Events

June 23–25

**CCRDA Forum 2010**  
**Forum on Relief and Development**  
*Leadership for Impact*  
Queen of Apostles,  
1617 Blythe Road, Mississauga, Ontario

Please see [www.ccrda.ca](http://www.ccrda.ca) for the schedule, registration form, and speaker information. You don't want to miss this event!

Keynote Speaker: Stan Remple  
Also featuring Cardus, Professor Hagher, and a CCRDA member panel presentation on Haiti

June 24

**CCRDA AGM**  
3:00 PM  
Queen of Apostles, Mississauga, Ontario



*Now That's Progress* is the quarterly newsletter of CCRDA. If you would like to suggest a theme for a future issue or have an idea about an addition to the newsletter, please let us know. We welcome your feedback! The Summer issue will be sent to you in July. You will receive a request for articles next month. Your general news and announcements are always welcome. Through collaboration, we can maximize the impact of our efforts in relief, development, and justice activities.



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