

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.

Abandoned and Outcast

By Caroline Athuwere, Compassion Canada

Joseph has a beautiful smile. But that's not the first thing you notice about him. Joseph was born with hydrocephalous, a congenital condition which causes the head to swell and become out of proportion to the body. When he was a baby, he couldn't sit up because of it. As a boy, he couldn't walk because of it.

In his village in Uganda, Joseph's appearance made him an outcast. Joseph's parents considered him to be useless and an embarrassment to the family. They gave up on him. But when Joseph was five, a church in his community opened a Compassion-assisted Child Development Centre where he was registered. He was taken for a medical check-up, and the doctors recommended immediate physiotherapy. Through Compassion's support, he was able to start therapy, as well as receive a walking aid.

A year after he was registered, Joseph's mother, who was HIV positive, died. Several years later, his



father abandoned the family leaving bills and unpaid rent.

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Lesotho: Safe Space Project

By Habitat for Humanity

In response to Lesotho's rising number of widows, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), for the three-year period beginning in June 2007 and ending last year, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Habitat for Humanity Canada funded the Secure Tenure and Safe Space for Lesotho Widows, Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project. Implemented by Habitat for Humanity Lesotho, the

purpose of the project was to secure tenure and inheritance rights of widows and OVC who had been made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS and to reduce incidents of abuse and sexual molestation of widows and female OVC.

Due to the current trend of property grabbing by male relatives of deceased fathers and husbands, the

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Chairperson's Message

By Julia Trotter

Dear friends,

One year ago a massive earthquake in Haiti killed 230,000 people and left another million homeless. A year later, 800,000 people are still living in tent cities. Six months ago devastating floods swept through Pakistan, destroying more than 650,000 homes. Hundreds of thousands are still homeless.

As the world holds its breath awaiting results of a referendum in South Sudan, southerners returning from Egypt and Khartoum flood across the border. By the first week of January an estimated 120,000 had returned, another 2,000 crossing the border every day. There are fears that between 1.5 and 2 million southerners remaining in the north may become stateless if the south secedes, but leaving houses in the north to "come home" to the south poses equally daunting challenges (<http://www.unhcr.org/4d2713359.htm>).

We all understand the significance of "home". Having a home means much more than having one's basic need for shelter met. The people,

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Although the centre staff pleaded with their landlord, he evicted the children. Through a fund for Highly Vulnerable Children, Compassion's staff was able to place Joseph and his two siblings in a home. A loving Christian mother, Miriam, agreed to become their caregiver, and they moved to a home near the church.

Caring for Joseph was a struggle for Miriam, but she gently and graciously helped him. With her help, he practiced walking with his aid until he finally learned to walk by himself.

place and things that comprise one's home shape who one is and how one sees the world. People who lose their houses in disasters or flee their homes during conflict often lose much more than shelter; they face the loss of roots, emotional and economic stability, community, identity, or even family.

Members of CCRDA are helping people around the world find a place to call "home". Every 10 minutes Habitat for Humanity dedicates a new home somewhere in the world. Engineering Ministries International works with partners around the world on a range of building initiatives, many providing shelter and building community. Since its founding in 1994, Watoto Child Care has welcomed over 2,000 children into their very own "forever home".

I hope you enjoy reading the stories that follow about the family and housing initiatives of CCRDA's members. ■



Julia Trotter is the CCRDA Co-Chairperson and the Relief and Development Director at AIM Canada

The love Joseph received at the centre and from his caregiver has changed him. "When I was growing up, I could not walk. I crawled on my buttocks, but Jesus has saved me. Today I can even run and play some football," Joseph said while grinning.

A child who once could not sit up on his own now runs errands such as fetching water, washing dishes, and sweeping his home. The centre continues to help Joseph's family by providing food, clothing, and bedding. Joseph has a different life today through the fund for Highly Vulnerable Children. Hope now fills his life because Christ's love was extended to him. ■

House of *New Dreams*

By Greg Young, Engineering Ministries International Canada

When a young person graduates from high school and moves away from home for further education, they are typically excited by this new adventure and the thought of their newfound independence. But what if home is an orphanage? What if the family being left behind is made up of fellow survivors of abuse, abandonment, parents who have died of AIDS or families that were wiped out by civil unrest? With no social standing or immediate community support, an orphan who ventures out from the loving and safe environment of a countryside orphanage to enroll in university or trade school in a city can find themselves once again vulnerable and even marginalized.

The House of New Dreams now fills this gap between the sheltered environment of an orphanage and a living arrangement lacking in social and emotional support. This new transition home in Cambodia's capital city of Phnom Penh was commissioned by Place of Rescue (www.placeofrescue.com) and designed by architects and engineers volunteering with Engineering Ministries International Canada. House of New Dreams has the capacity to house 22 young people and their house parents in a communal environment, and is currently home to seven young adults – one is learning sewing, three are completing high school and three are in university.

Christian development work goes beyond providing shelter, clean water and proper sanitation. It is vital

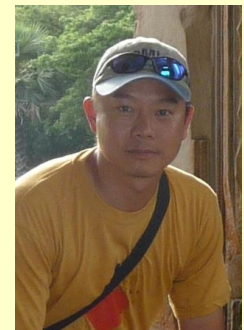
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project first focused on an educational campaign to disseminate information regarding basic ownership and inheritance rights to vulnerable households. The project's second phase sought to provide safe and adequate living spaces for females and OVC through the construction of new homes and additions to existing homes.



to also play careful attention to the emotional and spiritual needs of each person we are able to assist. As the children of Place of Rescue, House of New Dreams will be the place where these young adults can extend childhood friendships to build mature relationships and become further grounded in their faith and in their understanding of community.

If your organization requires assistance to design purpose-built facilities where ministry and community happen, check out www.emicanada.org to see how we can help. ■



Greg Young is the Executive Director at Engineering Ministries International Canada.

At the end of the three year period, 62,448 community members had been reached by public awareness campaigns executed by 60 paralegals. As well, the project saw 250 safe and secure living spaces created for 540 women and OVC, and 150 ventilated latrines constructed to reduce health-related incidents resulting from lack of access to decent sanitation. ■

Helping Haiti Earthquake Survivors **back into Homes**

By Kristie van de Wetering, CRWRC Haiti



“Getting a house has changed my life,” Theodore proudly declares as he shows off the new home he helped build with the support of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) in Haiti. Theodore, a 30 year old father of 3, lives in Macombe, a small community in Léogâne, the epicentre of the quake. Like nearly 90% of families living in Léogâne, his home was destroyed in the catastrophic earthquake that rocked Haiti one year ago, killing more than 220,000 and displacing approximately 1.5 million.

With scarce resources and a pre-earthquake unemployment rate of 80%, Haitian families like Theodore’s do not have a safety net of savings available. Many do not have the financial reserves to repair or rebuild the homes they lost in the earthquake.

To date, CRWRC has helped more than 830 families in 5 communities build new wood framed homes that are earthquake and hurricane resistant. The plan is to build more than 2,000 homes.

Moving people out of tents and into proper housing is not only a question of human dignity but also a question of human security. Haiti is prone to

hurricanes, tropical storms, periodic, torrential rains and flash flooding, which make people living under tents and tarps more vulnerable. People in tents and makeshift shelters are at greater risk to become victims of criminal activity. Women and children, especially young girls, are more vulnerable to acts of aggression and violence when they do not have access to safe shelter options.

“Before, we were living in a yard with 35–40 other people under tarps and tents; everyone on top of each other. There was no security,” explained Theodore, who has three little children. “Now we can lock our belongings in our house and not worry about things being taken. And we can be safe when we sleep”.



CRWRC is one of the few organizations in the Léogâne area providing more permanent, wooden structures as opposed to traditional wooden and tarp transitional shelters. These core houses provide the initial structure upon which families are adding additional rooms and verandas as, according to their means and needs, they make these houses homes. ■



Kristie van de Wetering is the Communications Manager for CRWRC in Haiti.

Hope House

By Mark Partington, World Hope Canada

Hope House is more than a residential home for girls; it is a community. For the girls living there it becomes their home, their family and their social network. They live in a safe place, learn much needed life skills and receive a vocational education. While it is always a challenge to accept a new lifestyle, four girls have now graduated. Two are pursuing further education and two live together as they put their new skills and education to use. Fourteen girls now call Hope House their home.

The project that initiated Hope House, Street Life to Stability, began with a matching grant from CIDA in response to the many at-risk young women in the Odessa, Ukraine area. With little or no education, girls, 'aged out' of orphanages at 16 years old or living on the street are very vulnerable and face the threat of being trafficked. They have limited life skills, no prospects for safe employment and few social skills. Hope House offers an opportunity for safety and transformation.

The keys are a Christ-centred motivation and the

impact of a loving community – living in a home where expectations are agreed



Mark Partington is Director of Operations & Finance at World Hope Canada.

upon up front whether related to chores, gardening, studying or how one behaves around others. The result is changed lives – young women who no longer simply survive but actually thrive – perhaps as a translator, a teacher, a receptionist, a building store professional, a medical technician or something else.

A few years ago, World Hope Canada met with the director of Nashi, from Saskatchewan, whose work is in Western Ukraine. They travelled to Odessa to see Hope House and are now putting plans together to build their own “Hope House” in 2011. They have gleaned enough from World Hope Canada’s experience so they can start down a successful path from the outset. ■

Where has all the money gone?

By Dr. Sam Martin, The Arms of Jesus Children’s Mission

As many in Haiti and in Canada ask “Where has the money gone?”, The Arms of Jesus Children’s Mission feels it is important for its donors to know that it has spent 86% of its funds received since the Earthquake, to meet the needs of the people who lost everything as a result of the Earthquake in January 2010. This does not include the funds used in the construction of permanent homes for families. To date, 32 homes have been built and given to families who lost their homes as a result of the earthquake, and another 18 are to be constructed in the days ahead. This is over and above our ongoing “earthquake recovery ministries” which include spiritual, medical, educational and social outreaches (provision of



water/food/clothing etc. to needy families). The house construction program also provides employment for a number of Haitian men. One highlight was the presentation of finished homes on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. We thank God for His continued provision and we seek to be good stewards of that provision. ■

Forever Home

By Watoto Communications Services Team, Watoto Canada

Arriving at Watoto's Suubi and Bbira Children's Villages this afternoon, 28 children originally from a government run centre have finally found their 'forever home' at Watoto.

Welcomed by their mothers and new brothers and sisters, their two week long orientation at Watoto's Buloba Village came to an end today when their moms collected them and took them to their new home. During the children's stay at Buloba, their orientation with Watoto staff included an in-depth look at what their new lives would look like, what would be provided for them and what would be expected of them. To help ease the transitional period of moving from Buloba, the children's mothers paid regular visits and spent quality time with each child.

The 30 minute drive taken today from Buloba to Bbira and Suubi was a mixture of anticipation and nerves as the children anxiously awaited the sight of their new village. When they arrived at Suubi Children's Village, the children's faces were practically glued to the glass windows as they drove past children happily playing, mothers cooking dinner, boys playing soccer and girls chatting under a tree.



Once the bus finally pulled to a stop, the children piled out and took their bags and followed their mother to Cluster 3.



Each child was given a new backpack, fresh clothes, shoes and a special blanket. Each mother then took her new children to their particular home and showed them to their room, gave them a place to put their things and helped them to prepare their bed.

Walking around Cluster 3, one little boy was absolutely thrilled with a soft toy airplane that was given to him and was showing it to anyone and everyone that would look. Others were eager to set up their bedrooms with their special blanket and new mattress, whilst some were trying to take in the fact that the new shoes and clothes they were wearing were theirs for keeps.

Today was a very special day for these 28 children and one they will, no doubt, remember for the rest of their lives. It's important to remember that the children who are part of this intake have come from a background of extreme poverty, abuse or abandonment. Even though this is an exciting time of change and progress it is also a delicate time where the children are learning to trust and feel comfortable in their new surroundings. Please do keep these precious children in your prayers as they continue to make this big adjustment. ■

Land Ownership in Haiti

By Jeff Adams, Samaritan's Purse Canada

Haiti has a long history of land ownership disputes, dating back even to when Christopher Columbus first landed there in 1492. Today, large portions of Haiti's land are jointly owned; in other areas, various parties are contesting ownership. Widespread poverty also means many people are "squatters" living on land they don't own.

The confusion around land ownership is a primary reason why, as of December 31, despite the efforts of 33 NGOs, only 31,656 temporary shelters and 1,119 new permanent homes had been built since the earthquake. That represents only about one-tenth of the number needed, assuming five people in each home and 1.6 million people needing homes.

Of those temporary shelters built by the end of 2010, Samaritan's Purse was responsible for 10,242 – or almost one-third of the total. We have built another 400 since then and have plans for several thousand more. However, in some of the shelter communities, including one known as Cabaret One, land was only able to be secured for three years. After that, shelter recipients will have to move their homes or stay on illegally.



"We've focused on temporary shelters (designed to last two years, but often used for much longer) because they've enabled us to help a much larger proportion of Haitians escape homelessness than if we'd focused on permanent housing that costs much more, takes much longer to build, and requires long-term land access that is difficult if not impossible to get," said Matt Ellingson, Samaritan's Purse's Country Director in Haiti. Ellingson hopes that during the next 2 ½ years, Cabaret One's residents will either negotiate a new arrangement with the landowner, or save enough money to begin renting or buy land elsewhere. Whatever happens, the residents are survivors. One woman named Clerzina confidently told Samaritan's Purse: "God will show us a way. I have never doubted Him." ■

Member News

- The transitional children's ward for inpatients at **International Child Care's** Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince has been completed! They are now moving on to the next phase of rebuilding a new hospital which will be larger and better equipped to provide a variety of paediatric services as well as a large outpatient department and a maternal health unit.
- **BethanyKids** is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Justus Marete, the Director for Africa. This full-time position with **BethanyKids** encompasses all administrative (i.e. non-clinical) responsibility for the operations of **BethanyKids** in Africa as they begin to seriously explore becoming established in East African countries beyond Kenya, particularly Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Madagascar.
- Did you know there are less than 300 doctors for the entire population of Malawi? **Lifeline Malawi Association** provides primary health services, treating over 150,000 patients every year. For more information visit www.lifelinemalawi.com.
- Providing clean water benefits the economy of a country nine-fold, putting resources into development, rather than into costly programs aimed at fixing problems caused by dirty water. Read about **Emmanuel International Canada's** ongoing clean-water projects at www.eicanada.org. ■

Calendar of Events

March 21–22 **CCRDA Forum 2011 and AGM**
Forum on Relief and Development
Such a Time as This: Speaking to Princes, Policy-makers, and the Public (Esther 4:14)
Queen of Apostles,
1617 Blythe Road, Mississauga, Ontario

Please see www.ccrda.ca for the schedule, registration form, and speaker information. You don't want to miss this event!

Keynote Speaker: Bruce Clemenger

March 22 **CCRDA AGM**
9:00 AM
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 Spring issue will be sent to you in March. You will soon receive a request for articles. Your general news and announcements are always welcome. Through collaboration, we can maximize the impact of our efforts in relief, development, and justice activities.

Meet CCRDA's Board

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Senior Projects Director

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