

CFH CHRONICLES

CHRIST FOR
HUMANITY'S
NEWSLETTER

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"AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE
KINGDOM WILL BE
PREACHED IN THE WHOLE
WORLD AS A TESTIMONY
TO ALL NATIONS..."

HAITI RELIEF EFFORT

On January 12th an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale shook the Haitian capital of Port of Prince and the surrounding areas for 35 seconds. When the dust finally settled, the resulting devastation was beyond belief. Haiti, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, had experienced the worst natural disasters to occur in the Western Hemisphere in the last century. World Vision statistics estimate that 200,000 men, women and children lost their lives, with hundreds of thousands injured and a million left homeless.

Haiti occupies the western third of Hispaniola, the island claimed for Spain by Christopher Columbus during his first trans-Atlantic voyage of discovery in 1492. The country is the world's oldest black republic and is the Western Hemisphere's second oldest independent nation (1804) - after the United States (1776). Though nominally Catholic, 2/3rd of Haiti's population practice a primitive religion called VODOO - a mixture of African paganism and Christian traditions. Slavery, colonialism, revolution, assassination, and coup d'etat mark Haiti's history. These dark events shape its current reputation for political corruption, civil unrest, illiteracy and poverty, having the lowest per capital income in the Americas. Given the overwhelming destruction this island nation



suffered in January, recovery will be on going for years, and Christians will be at the forefront of the rebuilding effort.

Just days after the disaster, Fellowship Bible Church contacted Christ for Humanity seeking medical supplies to help with the relief effort. Kip Ewing, the pastor's son and a designer with Ford Motor Company in Detroit, desired to personally take supplies to Port of Prince on a small transport plane. However, after repeated efforts to make arrangements, Kip learned that only individuals with Red Cross disaster training would be allowed in Haiti initially. Kip then turned his attention to finding another way to get Christ for Humanity's 7 pallets of medical supplies to the disaster area. He contacted *Samaritan's Purse*, faxing them the inventory of CFH supplies. When Kip received word that the aid was acceptable, he made arrangements for a trucking company to pick up our load in Tulsa and transport it to Boone, North Carolina, where the supplies were added to other donations and airlifted to Port of Prince. CFH aid helped supply a Baptist hospital serving earthquake victims.

Since that first frenetic week, CFH has provided aid to other ministries bound for Haiti. Doctors

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2010 GAMBIA WELL PROJECT IN THE GAMBIA, WEST AFRICA

IN 2008 CHRIST FOR HUMANITY received grant money from a Florida-based foundation to drill its very first water-well in the West African nation of The Gambia. The completion of the Latria Well Project led to funding for a second well in 2009 - this time at Kajo Keji in Sudan. Both wells projects were successfully completed in large part due to the efforts of Dave Reiersen, the founder of *Hope 2 Others* - a Colorado ministry dedicated to providing safe drinking water in Third World countries. Dave, a commercial airline pilot, has specific training in drilling new wells and repairing wells that have failed. His status as a pilot allows him to travel internationally at little or no cost and to go where needed - even on short notice. Both *Hope 2 Others* and Christ for Humanity share a common view when it comes to international outreach: Our efforts to help the poor should involve drawing unbelievers to Christ. How blessed CFH is that Dave has agreed to be our point man for future well projects abroad.

On previous trips to The Gambia, Dave noticed that many villages had wells but that the pumps had failed. Additionally, because the country's water table is so near the surface, many village wells were hand-dug, open-air pits, allowing contamination of the water supply. In November, Dave contacted CFH with a wonderful idea — to import a container of good but inexpensive well pumps and repair existing wells. After extensive research, Dave suggested purchasing 35 pumps made in India at a unit cost of \$380 (the pump CFH purchased in The Gambia for our first well cost \$2,000.00). Basically, for the cost of drilling and finishing one new well in The Gambia, our joint-venture would ultimately bring fresh water to 35 villages, with “living water” to Muslim villager as a by-product of the repair effort by Christian field workers.



Such an ambitious project with the potential to draw many to Christ could not be denied. In February CFH sent Dave the necessary funds to purchase 35 water-well pumps. As Dave had submitted the necessary paperwork for importing a duty free container with the Gambian government in 2009 and had received approved from the Christian Governing Committee, only the final governmental paperwork remains before the pumps can ship from India to Banjul, the capital of The Gambia. The pumps will be securely stored on church property by New Life Fellowship International (NLFI) until they can be properly installed.

When the pumps arrive, Dave plans to fly to Banjul to begin the well repair program. A major part of this first trip involves training native Christians to do the work. A member of NLFI's congregation has agreed to spearhead the well repair project after Dave returns to the States. As NLFI well team members work to restore water supplies, they will have ample opportunities to share the love of Christ to villagers gathering to watch. One of the first wells to be refurbished is on the grounds of a village school.

Complete a Well – Help a Village

Most of the wells in The Gambia needing repair are the open-pit type. Though CFH and *Hope 2 Others* purchased enough pumps to provide safe drinking water for 35 villages, the open-pit wells will require additional labor and expense to complete. After structural adjustments are made, a concrete cap must be poured to house the pump and a sanitary seal installed to insure the water is not contaminated. Dave estimates an additional cost of \$500 per well will be needed for the project.

Have you ever wanted to know that you have made a real difference in someone's life? For \$500 you, your family or a group of friends from church could impact an entire village in one of the poorest countries in Africa with the provision of clean, fresh water. Imagine the blessing your gift would mean to men, women and children living without the most basic necessity for life - safe water.

Complete a Well in The Gambia today by sending your tax-exempt gift to Christ for Humanity. Indicate **Well Project** in the memo. The ministry will keep all donors updated as wells are refurbished.

OUTREACH IN INDIA

During the past several years, Christ for Humanity partnered with WM (ministry name withheld for security reasons) to initiate *Community Health Evangelism* (CHE) programs in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Orissa provinces in eastern India. Indian Christians, who receive CHE training in basic hygiene, sanitation, and the causes and prevention of diseases, take this knowledge back to their respective villages where they help their communities become healthier places. One of the CHE program's basic tenets is to actively involve the entire community in projects designed to improve overall village health, thus increasing the learning curve for people who might have little understanding of the source of disease or its transmission from person to person. The beauty of CHE is that as Hindus and Christians work side by side establishing safe water sources, building latrines and distributing mosquito netting, ample opportunities arise to share the love of Christ with neighbors and friends.

This year for the first time Christ for Humanity is partnering with WM to drill bore-wells in communities where the CHE program has been

initiated. The ministry submitted a grant request to a Florida-based foundation for two India projects and received funds to drill two of the four proposed wells. Local contractors will drill the wells, and villagers will be trained in the sanitation methods necessary to keep the well water free of contamination after the wells are completed.

The second 2010 India project involves the distribution of mosquito nets to 800 families living in eight villages. As you are aware, mosquitoes in India transmit terrible diseases like malaria and dengue fevers. This year, under the CHE program, CFH would like funds to purchase netting materials for all 8 villages. Villagers would use the raw materials to sew the nets for distribution to their neighbors. The nets would be sprayed with a safe insect repellent to increase their effectiveness. By taking the responsibility to make the nets, Indian villagers will have a stake in their health and will gain greater understanding of the importance of protecting themselves against insect-driven diseases. CFH received grant money to purchase enough netting material to help 400 families in four of the eight villages.



You Can Help...

Christ for Humanity's grant covered half the cost of each of the CHE projects mentioned. The ministry needs additional funds to complete each project. If God touches your heart to help native Christians in India protect themselves from insect and water-borne diseases, consider contribution to these projects:

- Two additional bore wells –\$1,200.00 each;
- Mosquito netting material to protect 400 villagers – \$2,500.00 or \$6.25 each.

Send your tax-exempt check to Christ for Humanity. Write *India wells* or *India nets* in the memo.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

One of Christ for Humanity's stated goals is to help Christians "get out of the pews and go to the poor." Our ministry accomplishes this objective in several ways: by offering the opportunity to serve Christ abroad on short-term mission trips like the one scheduled to leave Tulsa for The Gambia on June 9th; and by providing volunteer opportunities at the ministry for individuals who desire to be the hands and feet of Christ at home.

While few people are blessed to travel abroad in the Lord's service, many have joined the Christ for Humanity team to help provide humanitarian relief to enhance the efforts of God's field workers. Volunteer staff members handle the ministry's pharmacy, medical supply room, clothes closet, and household items / furniture departments, sorting, inventorying and packing aid boxes, destined for use by other ministries worldwide. Others serve as Christian mentors in such CFH programs as 1st Steps. Christ for Humanity is blessed with more than 30 Christians who assist the ministry on a regular basis. However, the ministry also provides



special project opportunities for groups interested in serving the Lord as time permits.

One such project took place in February, when members of Christ Presbyterian Church and Keystone Hills Baptist Church spent a Saturday morning making food boxes for upcoming Adopt-a-Facility outreaches at 11 Tulsa Housing Authority facilities. After several hours work, the group had filled, taped and palletized 400 boxes for distribution

at worship services held in low-income housing projects by nine area churches.

Anyone touched by the Lord to volunteer at Christ for Humanity should contact Bob Ashinhurst, Director of Local Outreach (918) 836-2424 ext. 201.

"Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the LORD Himself is God . . ." (Psalm 100:23)

From the CFH Mailbag



As a Christian humanitarian aid organization, our staff and volunteers rarely experience the joy of witnessing people brought into the Kingdom by our partnering ministries. Our great satisfaction comes from serving God and bringing glory to His name. Yet, every-so-often the ministry receives a letter that really touches our hearts and encourages us in our efforts to be faithful servants. One such note recently arrived from a donor in El Cajon, California.

Dear Employees, Volunteers, and Friends of Christ for Humanity:

Lately God has been testing my faith. I was bound by the chains of my own greed. It wasn't easy for me to let go, but I finally sold my movie collection and began praying, "What do I do next?"

I found Christ for Humanity online and knew right away that your organization was the answer; an unselfish, generous group distributing necessities to many that cannot afford them. It is wonderful to see a non-profit truly devoted to its Mission and even willing to operate at a loss for the sake of doing Good. You have inspired me to make a change in my life. I pray that you will continue to inspire people like me to make a difference across the globe. You are making a difference.

Thank you,
C.P.

FYI . . .

Have you ever wondered about the proper way to dispose of worn out, dilapidated Bibles? Just as it is respectful to burn an old or damaged U.S. flag, in like manner it is appropriate to burn damaged Bibles. Such an action is NOT like the book burnings carried out by Nazi Germany or by Muslims to reject and insult the message. Rather, burning returns God's precious Word back to a pure state.

HAITI RELIEF EFFORT

(continued from page 1)

from *In His Image*, a Tulsa-based Christian residency program, carried CFH aid to the field in suitcases. These doctors made national news when they treated a man who survived being buried in the rubble for a month. CFH shipped medication to *White Stone Baptist Church* in Tennessee for their medical mission, and the *Southern Baptist Disaster Relief* was blessed, as well. The ministry expects to provide aid on a regular basis as more Christian groups serve the Haitian people. CFH has also received monetary donations designated for Haiti and is carefully studying how these funds can best be used to

impact people physically and spiritually - perhaps through well repair or water filtration systems.

Christ for Humanity is not a disaster relief organization and rarely makes decisions under tight time constraints. Our ministry policy is to know the groups with which we work and have confidence that the aid we provide will be used to promote Christ. How thankful we are that God opened doors in this crisis situation, allowing CFH to provide much needed aid under the parameters of our mission statement. We are most grateful to Kip Ewing and Ronda Tyson, CFH's Director of Global Mission, for their efforts in coordinating the shipment of aid to *Samaritan's Purse*. A special "Thank You" goes to all of our medical supply room volunteers, who tirelessly inventoried and packed all of the aid needed to help Haitian earthquake victims.

Looking through my "Newsletter Ideas" file for something special to use during the Easter season, I came across an excerpt from Max Lucado's book The Applause of Heaven. Years ago I had copied portions of this piece because it so poignantly speaks to Christ's love for mankind and the sacrifice He so willingly made on our behalf.

A SATISFIED THIRST Max Lucado

"Mommy, I'm so thirsty. I want a drink." Susanna Petroysan heard her daughter's pleas, but there was nothing she could do. She and four-year-old Gayaney were trapped beneath tons of collapsed concrete and steel. Beside them in the dark lay body of Susanna's sister-in-law, Karine, one of the fifty-five thousand victims of the worst earthquake in the history of Soviet Armenia.

Calamity never knocks before it enters, and this time, it had torn down the door. Susanna had gone to Karine's house to try on a dress. It was December 7, 1988, at 11:30 A.M. The quake hit at 11:41. She had just removed the dress and was clad in stockings and a slip when the fifth-floor apartment began to shake. Susanna grabbed her daughter but had taken only a few steps before the floor opened up and they tumbled in. Susanna, Gayaney and Karine fell into the basement with the nine-story apartment house crumbling around them.

"Mommy, I need a drink. Please give me something." There was nothing for Susanna to give. She was trapped flat on her back. A concrete panel eighteen inches above her head and a crumpled water pipe above her shoulders kept her from standing. Feeling around in the darkness, she found a twenty-four ounce jar of blackberry jam that had fallen into the basement. She gave the entire jar to her daughter to eat. It was gone by the second day.

"Mommy, I'm so thirsty." Susanna knew she would die, but she wanted her daughter to live . . . The two were trapped for eight days. Because of the darkness, Susanna lost track of time. Because of the cold, she lost the feeling in her fingers and toes. Because of her inability to move, she lost hope. "I was waiting for death . . ."

"Mommy, I'm thirsty." At some point in that eternal night, Susanna had an idea. She remembered a television program about an explorer in the Arctic who was dying of thirst. His comrade slashed open his hand and gave his friend his blood.

"I had no water, no fruit juice, no liquids. It was then I remembered I had my own blood." Her groping fingers, numb with the cold found a piece of shattered glass. She sliced open her left index finger and gave it to her daughter to suck.

The drops of blood weren't enough. "Please Mommy, some more. Cut another finger." Susanna had no idea how many times she cut herself. She only knows that if she hadn't, Gayaney would have died. Her blood was her daughter's only hope.

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"This is the new covenant in my blood," Jesus explained, holding up the wine. The claim must have puzzled the apostles. They had been taught the story of the Passover wine. It symbolized the lamb's blood that the Israelites, enslaved long ago in Egypt, had painted on the doorposts of their homes. That blood had kept death from their homes and saved their firstborn. It had helped deliver them from the clutches of the Egyptians. For thousands of generations the Jews had observed the Passover by sacrificing the lambs. Every year the blood would be poured, and every year the deliverance would be celebrated. The law called for spilling the blood of a lamb. That would be enough. It would be enough to satisfy the command. It would be enough to justify God's justice. But it would not be enough to take away sin. "... because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin." Sacrifices could offer temporary solutions, but only God could offer the eternal one. So he did.

Beneath the rubble of a fallen world, he pierced his hands. In the wreckage of a collapsed humanity, he ripped open his side. His children were trapped, so he gave his blood. It was all he had. His friends were gone. His strength was waning. His possessions had been gambled away at his feet. Even his Father had turned his head. His blood was all he had. But his blood was all it took. "If anyone is thirsty," Jesus once said, "let him come to me and drink."

So the thirsty come. A ragged lot we are, bound together by broken dreams and collapsed promises. Fortunes that were never made. Families that were never built. Promises that were never kept. Wide-eyed children trapped in the basement of our failures. And we are thirsty. Not thirsty for fame, possessions, passion, or romance. We've drunk from those pools. They are salt water in the desert. They don't quench — they kill.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness . . ." Righteousness. That's it. That's what we are thirsty for. We're thirsty for a clean conscience. We crave a clean slate. We yearn for a fresh start. We pray for a hand, which will enter the dark cavern of our world and do for us the one thing we can't do for ourselves — make us right.

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"Mommy, I'm so thirsty." Gayaney begged.

"It was then I remembered I had my own blood," Susanna explained. And the hand was cut, and the blood was poured, and the child was saved.

"God, I'm so thirsty," we pray.

"It is my blood, the blood of the new agreement," Jesus stated, "shed to set many free from their sins." And the hand was pierced, and the blood was poured, and the children are saved.