



# Grace!

FALL 2008

WORK IN HAITI & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

*Galatians 6:9 NIV*

## From the Director



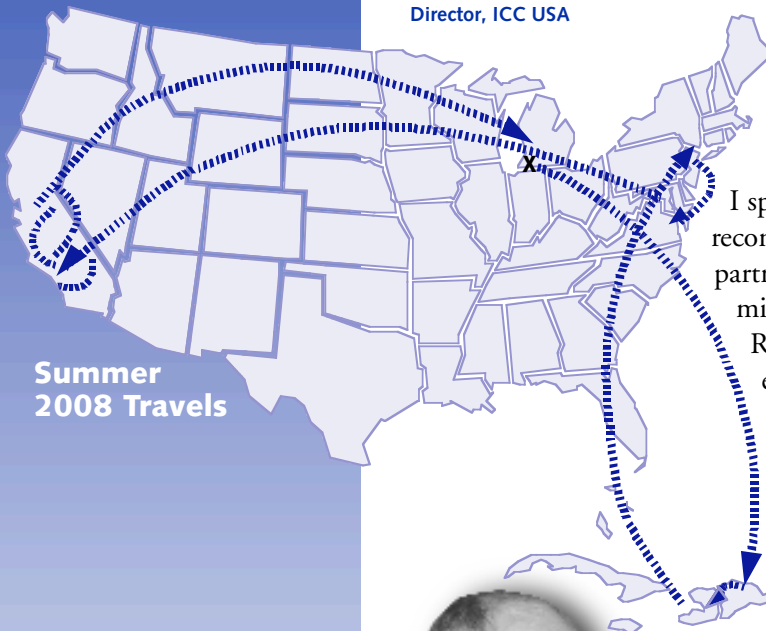
**Keith Mumma**  
Director, ICC USA

For many years we have focused the themes of Grace Newsletter on the health development programs that International Child Care operates on the island of Hispaniola. We feel it is important to keep you, our donors, up-to-date on not only the services being offered at Grace Children's Hospital, but also the various community health development and rehabilitation initiatives ICC oversees throughout Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

As always, there are many exciting things happening in the field, but there are also exciting things happening right here at home. Therefore we are dedicating this issue to updating you on some of our many important US based initiatives.

I spent much of the last few months traveling in an effort to reconnect with long-standing supporters of ICC and also forge new partnerships with individuals and churches that want to join in our ministry. My travels began with a trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. ICC is currently in the process of establishing a **Volunteer in Missions** program for medical professionals in partnership with the United Methodist Church. In May, a US Board Member, Dr. Jeannine Hatt, and I led a team of doctors and nurses as they conducted medical clinics in ICC program sites in the Dominican Republic. We also met with colleagues in Haiti to establish some future mobile clinic opportunities there. Our goal is to recruit medical professionals to provide much-needed hands-on medical

services in the remote regions of Northern Haiti. You can learn more about this pilot program and our May trip by checking out Dr. Jeannine Hatt's post on the [▶](#)

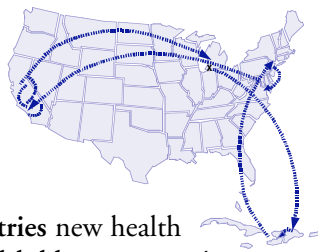


**Summer 2008 Travels**

On June 29th Keith Mumma presented an honorary clock to Jon Kelton at Centralville United Methodist Church in Lowell, Massachusetts. Jon is the newest Emeritus Board Member of International Child Care USA.



## From the Director Cont'd



General Board of Global Ministries new health blog at <http://www.umvim4health.blogspot.com/>.

In June I had the privilege of traveling to New York with Dr. Ellen Palmer – a current ICC/USA board member - to meet with Advance Special staff at the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** and key staff at the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). For over forty years International Child Care has been partnering with UMCOR and we currently have four Advance Special projects: Grace Children's Hospital (#418520), Integrated Community Health (#418847), Community Health Development (#410215) and Child to Child Health Promotion (#418242). The GBGM has generously offered to host our ICC/USA board meeting in January 2009.

After leaving New York Dr. Palmer and I headed to Washington D.C. to visit the US headquarters of USAID.

There we hand delivered a grant proposal for American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) requesting funding to expand the facilities at Grace Children's Hospital. We will find out if our grant proposal was accepted around this time next year.

I also spent more than two weeks over the summer traveling around California and meeting with individuals and churches in the **California-Pacific Annual Conference (Cal-Pac)** of the United Methodist Church. This conference spans from San Diego to Los Angeles. With the help of Reverend Lynne Austin, a new recruit to the ICC/USA board, and her husband Dr. Ray Aller, I reconnected with some long-dedicated donors in this conference as well as met with numerous new potential partners. Over the course of 17 days I had the opportunity to update or present ICC to 16 churches, 4 Rotary groups, 1 Kiwanis group and various individuals. I also met with key persons at the Cal-Pac District Office for the United Methodist Church.

In addition, I had the opportunity to submit a project proposal to ExecMAP – a program of the University of Michigan's Masters of Business Administration – which was

## To The Ends of the Earth: *Hispaniola*

In January 2008 a group of 7 people from Portage First United Methodist Church, including local cinematographer Noah Wood, traveled to the island of Hispaniola with ICC. While visiting the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the Portage First UMC volunteers ministered to local children, visited Grace Children's Hospital, the Grace School and neighboring orphanages. The team spent time at ICC's various community health development programs and learned first-hand about the daily struggles of the Dominican and Haitian people.

This ten-day journey was captured on video and has been edited into a one hour documentary titled *To the Ends of the Earth: Hispaniola*. This is the second documentary produced by Rising Water Pictures. Rising Water Pictures, opened in 2007, was created to illuminate God at work in our world. Through documentaries and narratives, Rising Water Pictures tells powerful stories of how God's love is transforming the lives of people in developing countries.

This unique film chronicles one man's journey – Don Obermesik – as he experiences this journey with the Portage First UMC team. Obermesik is first introduced to viewers at home in Portage, Michigan. The documentary opens with Obermesik's life as a husband, father and ardent law enforcement officer in Cassopolis, Michigan. Then the real journey begins. It quickly becomes clear that Obermesik has an innate passion for mission work as he interacts with the people he meets and experiences a deep curiosity that occasionally gets the best of him. Traveling with International Child Care Obermesik encounters many less privileged than himself. A community washed away by flooding, a bizarre encounter with local police, and a hospital for gravely ill and abandoned children are just a few of the backdrops against which Obermesik's story unfolds.

From heartwarming to heart-wrenching viewers will not only see a man changed by his experiences on the island of Hispaniola, but will also see a snap shot of one man's existence as he juggles his day-to-day responsibilities, faith, and the unexpected turns that life often takes. ●



**Noah Woods captures Don Obermesik's first taste of raw sugar cane – just one of many new adventures Obermesik experienced on his journey to Hispaniola.**

accepted. Over the course of 15 weeks, a team of 6 executive MBA participants will be thoroughly analyzing International Child Care to evaluate the current operational and fundraising practices of our US office. This team of executive MBA students will also recommend changes that will help us increase our funding base and become a more effective organization. This, of course, is an excellent opportunity for ICC/USA and should greatly benefit our ability to support our ongoing health development programs in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

I hope this update gives you a good sampling of the exciting things that have been going on with ICC/USA. As always, we appreciate your dedication and support of our programs on the island of Hispaniola. Because of you, ICC is able to impact health and restore hope to thousands of people in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It is our desire to keep up the current momentum in raising awareness and funds for our field programs. If you would like to discuss how you can become more involved with our ministry, or would like for an ICC representative to speak to your church or civic organization, please contact us at 800-722-4453. ●

## Alternative Gifts International Supports ICC's Community Based Rehabilitation Program

International Child Care's Community Based Rehabilitation Program is currently featured in Alternative Gifts International's (AGI) 2008 – 09 "My Shopping List of the World" catalog. Entitled "In-Home Rehabilitation for Disabled Children" on AGI's *shopping list*, the project will raise funds to provide weekly in-home rehabilitation visits for children with disabilities as well as train new community rehabilitation workers.



Alternative Gifts International is a nonprofit, interfaith agency. AGI provides education for people of all ages about global needs and raises funds each year in its Alternative Gift Markets and from individual donors to respond to those needs. Designated grants then are sent to the established international projects of several reputable nonprofit agencies, like International Child Care, for relief and development.

Since 2000, Alternative Gifts International has granted nearly \$128,000 to International Child Care for projects such as healthy births, vaccinations and care for children with disabilities in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

To receive a copy of the Alternative Gifts International catalog *My Shopping List for the World*, or to purchase an alternative gift online, visit [www.alternativegifts.org](http://www.alternativegifts.org). ●

In cooperation with Celebration Cinema at The Crossroads and International Child Care, Portage First United Methodist Church will present

### To The Ends of The Earth:

*Hispaniola*

on Tuesday, October 7, Wednesday, October 8 and Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. Documentary showings are free and open to the public at Celebration Cinema located at 6600 Ring Road, behind The Crossroads Mall in Portage, Michigan.

For more information regarding this documentary please contact the Portage First United Methodist Church at (269)327-6761 or visit [www.p1umc.org](http://www.p1umc.org).



**Noah Woods, a cinematographer from Portage, Michigan, videos some local children at a beach in northern Haiti.**

## ICC Relocates US Headquarters

After 13 years of calling Columbus, Ohio home, ICC is relocating its US headquarters. The new office will be located in Kalamazoo, Michigan where US National Director Keith Mumma resides. This move will allow ICC to strengthen existing relationships, initiate new partnerships, as well as provide a significant savings for the organization.

Although the US headquarters is relocating, ICC USA will maintain a regional office in Columbus, Ohio. Rachel Mills, Education and Development Coordinator, will be working out of the regional office and will continue to be available for speaking engagements and events throughout Ohio.

You can reach the new ICC office by calling (269) 382-9960 or toll free at 800-722-4453. The new office is located at 3506 Lovers Lane, Suite 8, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001.



**New ICC USA headquarters located in Kalamazoo, Michigan**

*Please join us  
for an Open House to celebrate  
the relocation of our US National Office*

*Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
3506 Lovers Lane, Suite 8  
Kalamazoo, Michigan*

*Come visit the new office location and meet staff  
and board members from International Child Care USA*

## ICC Canada Hires New National Director



**Peter Montgomery**

Effective August 2008 Peter Montgomery assumed the role of National Director for International Child Care (Canada) Inc. Reporting to the Canadian board, Peter will be responsible for every aspect of performance and operations of the Canadian office.

Peter brings more than 15 years of senior-level management experience in the non-profit sector and 14 years in corporate communications and marketing to the position. Peter hopes to strengthen the Canadian arm of ICC through strategic and effective resource development, engaging communications and by developing a well-trained committed team of staff.

Peter was born in Huddersfield, England, and came to Canada in 1975. After graduating from Bible College in the UK, he studied business at Seneca College in Toronto, and later Communications at Tyndale University. He is married to Myfanwy (pronounced Muvanwoey) and has six grown children who are scattered across the globe. Peter loves to sail and play golf, but says that finding time to enjoy these activities is tricky. He has a great passion for Haiti, and has traveled there many times. He says that he has been deeply moved by what he has seen of needless suffering in the developing world, in which he has traveled widely.

Please join us in welcoming Peter to the ICC family, wishing him God's richest blessing and wisdom as he seeks to serve the Lord in this position. Please don't hesitate to contact him at [pmontgomery@intlchildcare.org](mailto:pmontgomery@intlchildcare.org)



*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 receipted for income tax purposes.

Deeply grateful for the support of our donors, International Child Care does not sell or trade a donor's personal information to any other entity in existence without their written permission.

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Canadian International Development Agency / Agence canadienne de développement international

UMCOR Advance Projects:  
Grace Children's Hospital: 418520  
Integrated Community Health (Haiti): 418847-3  
Community Health Development Program (D.R.): 410215  
Child to Child Health Promotion: 418242