

GLOBALLINK



Giving
Hope
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD MISSIONS DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SPRING 2017



Major Brenda Murray with Haitian girls



BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE IN HAITI

On January 12, 2010, Haiti was rocked by a 7.0 earthquake. Approximately 3.5 million people were affected by the disaster, 230,000 died, more than 165,000 buildings were damaged and 105,000 were completely destroyed. Thankfully, tragedy always seems to bring out the best in humankind and this was the case in Haiti as countries and NGOs offered immediate aid and long-term recovery support.

With almost a 70-year history of service across Haiti, The Salvation Army was uniquely positioned to immediately assist and provide meaningful support during the recovery phase. This year marks the completion of the Integrated Family Support Project, a \$3.6 million multi-pronged program, funded by donors in the Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory and administered by the World Missions office.

The project has provided direct support to 3,400 beneficiaries although the reach was much broader when immediate and extended family relationships are considered. The Salvation Army Community Action Teams identified 213 of the most vulnerable families and built permanent housing for them – houses that are earthquake proof and hurricane resistant.

Another 900 beneficiaries, mostly women, participated in the livelihood micro-credit business program, which provided a US\$100 loan to start or expand community-based businesses. A further 1,100 individuals participated in the agribusiness program, which provided training for Haitians wanting to start a small agriculture business. The fourth program enabled 1,200 young people to benefit from vocational training in partnership with state schools.

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“Ask the Lord for rain in the spring-time; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.” (Zechariah 10:1)

Spring is a wonderful season; trees sprout new growth and flowers bloom as nature comes alive after the deep sleep of winter. The changing seasons are also a reminder of God’s goodness and provision. Just as we thank Him, we thank you for your ongoing interest and support in every season.

The World Missions team understands that “all good things come from God” and it is with this in mind that I invite you to consider the exciting stories in this edition of *Global Link*. Be sure to read *Tres Arroyos* (Part 2), the continuing story of the Army’s work in Argentina as well as the Brighter Futures Children’s Sponsorship program in the India Central Territory. Our feature celebrates the successful completion of the Integrated Family Support Project in Haiti and highlights the momentous closing ceremony attended by Territorial Commander, Commissioner Susan McMillan, and the World Mission office in January 2017.

Today, the World Missions team manages more than 200 projects in 38 countries around the world — but it’s only because of God’s provision and grace that we are able to accomplish all that we do. As we celebrate this new season, we pause to thank you for your good, practical and prayerful support!

In closing, I invite you to visit saworldmissions.ca to learn more about our work and that of the Army’s.

Happy spring!

Major Brenda Murray
World Missions Director

Haiti continued...

Commissioner Susan McMillan, Territorial Commander of The Salvation Army’s Canada and Bermuda Territory, travelled to Port-au-Prince in late January 2017 with members of the World Missions office to participate in the Celebration and Project Conclusion ceremony. “It was a privilege to partner with our Haitian colleagues and to provide vital support, encouragement and hope to those most deeply affected by the earth-quake,” said Major Brenda Murray, World Missions Director.

Commissioner Mark Tillsley, Territorial Commander of the Caribbean Territory, was generous in his praise when he said, “These multi-year projects are very

complex and difficult to complete. Thanks to the people of Canada and Bermuda for making this happen.”

In her concluding remarks, Commissioner McMillan thanked the people of Haiti for their grace and strength in times of great personal sacrifice and difficulty and she also expressed appreciation to Canadians and Bermudians for their ongoing faith and support in the work of The Salvation Army.

Haitians are a strong and resilient people. While there are still NGOs and UN peacekeepers working in many communities across the country, the days ahead look brighter for many, thanks to the support of our donors. For this, we thank you.

Finding Hope Among the Rubble



Few communities in Haiti were unaffected by the 2010 earthquake. Homes and buildings were destroyed, bridges and roads collapsed and thousands died; it’s taken years to rebuild. However, in every situation there is hope, and the World Missions team recently met with some livelihood development beneficiaries in Arcahaie, a 90-minute drive northwest of Port-au-Prince.

At 33, Beverly is a seasoned business woman. Prior to the 2010 earthquake, Beverly operated a consumer goods business out of her home for 10 years. While small, it was successful.

However, out of everyday crisis and disaster there are rays of hope. Following the earthquake, Beverly relocated to Arcahaie from Port-au-Prince and, thanks to a US\$100 livelihood micro-credit loan, she re-established her business, and it has blossomed. I started small, selling sandals and household goods,” says Beverly.

Today, her store, which is located on the main thoroughfare of the community, is busy from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. She stocks everything from groceries to household goods and reports that her number one selling item is solar lamps. “My business would have folded if I hadn’t received the loan,” says Beverly. Some days she can’t keep up with the flow of people, she’s so busy, and has repaid the US\$100 loan in full.

“Livelihood development projects are a lifeblood in communities all around the world,” says Major Brenda Murray, World Missions Director. “These programs are exciting and positive and they help change families and strengthen communities in a meaningful, practical way. Thanks to the support of our donors, they are helping to rebuild communities across Haiti.” For more information about The Salvation Army World Missions, please visit saworldmissions.ca.

Tres Arroyos Part 2 – *Children of Change*

In our last edition of *Global Link*, we explored the ways in which The Salvation Army is providing a haven for women who have experienced gender-based violence in Tres Arroyos, Argentina. We looked at how the lives of women have been positively impacted through group therapy sessions where participants can openly share their stories and learn from each other. However, it is clear that children are also deeply affected by the violence that they see at home and often reflect it at school – if they choose to go – with friends and even with family.

As part of the initiative to help the victims of gender-based violence in the area, The Salvation Army has implemented a program called “Learning Through Playing” (LTP). LTP is designed as a recreational program for children, aged seven to 14, where all activities aim to teach children to understand and recognize violent behaviours, while also helping them find non-violent responses to situations that challenge their lives. The program teaches children that there are better ways to relate to other people and express their feelings.



LTP has three main areas: a football school with two physical education teachers (one male and one female that promote the development of good gender relationships), a Teen Home League (for arts and crafts) and a Bible school (which includes snacks and spiritual reflection).

Since the beginning of the program, just over a year ago, more than 70% of children have been able to discuss the issues they face at home with the youth psychologist and

social worker. Additionally, the football school now has five girls attending regularly.

There have been major improvements in the children's lives as a result of Learning Through Playing. School attendance has risen, children are actively participating in all activities and many are now demonstrating new, positive ways of expressing themselves. This could not have been accomplished without the love and support of friends across Canada and Bermuda. Thank you!

Strength After the Storm By Major Bill Barthau

When my son was 10, life was filled with exciting adventures. He enjoyed sports, games, school, music and friends. He had experiences that all young children hope to have, but when disaster strikes, lives change and children are deeply affected. This couldn't be more apparent than one day in December 2016, when I was working as part of a response team distributing emergency food assistance to Haitians in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

That day I met a lady named Yavara Estache. Her son Lorvens, 10, clung to her side. He was visibly distraught after experiencing the carnage of the hurricane.

This Category 5 storm smashed into the south-western tip of Haiti with brutal destruction, levelling trees and buildings, while ripping roofs off others. Schools were badly damaged or repurposed as emergency shelters for those who had lost their homes. Lorvens, along with many of his friends and teachers, had lost all their possessions: school supplies, uniforms, textbooks. There was no place to cook any food. It was a frightening and desperate



time. Even the bravest of children got caught up in the despair, fear and uncertainty around them.

Lorvens asked what to do since all the toilets had been destroyed, roads were cluttered with trees and debris and the electricity lines were down. He felt helpless; there was no school for two

months, no way to help replant the family garden since their tools were lost and nowhere to get seed. He had no way to get his mind off what he experienced. His family just kept looking at ways to survive, one day at a time.

Getting food supplies at our Salvation Army distribution centre in December was a highlight of the advent season. Lorvens' school that reopened, even without supplies, closed for a day so the children could help parents carry their food home. It was a day to celebrate the help and caring from people he will never meet. But, Lorvens was grateful for the compassionate 'friends' from overseas who gave donations to help his family and the community.



The Future is Bright in Bapatla

Many single moms have a tough time supporting their families. In the slums of India, living in thatched huts with poor sanitation and a daily pittance wage as farm labourers, moms struggle every day. There is never enough, and certainly not for the luxury of sending children to school.

In Bapatla, 400 kms north of Chennai on the east coast of India, orphans and children of single mothers find hope at The Salvation Army. Through our sponsorship program, we support over 100 children at the Bapatla Salvation Army Boys' and Girls' Homes. Due to the holistic nurture that we provide, all primary and secondary school children pass their government exams after Grades 7 and 10. Through education, medical check-ups, a balanced diet, games and life-skills lessons, the children in our homes are flourishing – happy, having hope for a brighter future.



This was certainly true for Thokola Swathi, who recently passed her high-school exams. Her hopes for anything had died when her father passed away, leaving her mother to try to provide for the whole family. When someone told Thokola's mom about The Salvation Army Bapatla Girls' Home, she made enquiries and Thokola was accepted to live there, receive holistic care and a good education.

Likewise, Mamidi Sudheer is from a very poor family and came to live and study at the Boys' Home. He loves to study, gets good marks and passes his government high-school exams. Mamidi is actively involved in every program that is offered for teens. He recently shared, "By participating in the programs I am developing myself and growing in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me."

The many children and their leaders, who strive to offer the best care possible, thank you for your faithful support through our Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program.



Gifts of HOPE



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