



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.

## Why ChildCare? What Makes You Distinct?

By Rod Forrest, ChildCare International

Since I came on board as the Executive Director of ChildCare International (CCI) two years ago, these are probably the two questions I am most frequently asked. With so many good Christian agencies that our donors and partners could choose to support, why should I encourage someone to choose to support CCI? *Why* does CCI exist?

I believe that God has given me a “*word picture*” that answers these questions. Imagine a great artist (God) looking at a blank canvas. On this canvas, He wants to show His love for the world He created. He looks down and sees that He has many brushes (*agencies*) of various sizes to choose from. He asks the very large agencies to come and using their big brushes or put paint to canvas. One by one they come with the paint (*resources*) given to them. Looking at the canvas it almost appears that the painting is finished.

## Microfinance For All!

By Caroline Abbotts, cbm Canada

cbm Canada joins persons with disabilities in challenging mainstream microfinance institutions (MFI) to become disability inclusive. The inclusion of persons with disabilities within existing MFI services on the same terms as non-disabled is a new direction within disability inclusion. Many special programs exist to serve the economically active disabled population, but these have proven to be unsustainable. Mainstreaming is a guiding



However, the great artist sees that there are areas that the big brushes could not reach. He then picks up the smaller brushes (*CCI and many other agencies*) and

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tenant of cbm Canada’s philosophy and of the United Nations – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN-CRPD).

A meaningful job can provide a strong sense of worth, achievement, pride and satisfaction. And a reliable income! Microfinance is a sustainable means by which people who are poor in developing countries can build businesses that help support

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# Chairperson's Message

By Steve Clarke

Summer greetings! I hope you have had an opportunity for at least some time away to enjoy the beauty of summer. Our family has just completed a week at the family cottage in central Ontario. My "busy-ness" included fishing with my 12 and 9 year old daughters. Things got hectic when the fish were caught in rapid succession. I found myself juggling between baiting a hook for one of my girls -- while the other hauled in fish, requiring it to be de-hooked at exactly the same time. Dad needed to sprout an extra set of arms!

In this season, there is renewed optimism for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It comes in the wake of a new United Nations report released on July 1, 2013. The report highlights the role of the eight MDGs in making a real difference to the lives of millions around the world since they were adopted in 2000. According to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, "The Millennium Development Goals have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history." He explains, "In more than a decade of experience in working towards the MDGs, we have learned that focused global development efforts can make a difference."

The objective to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty has already been attained, as have the measures for improving access to drinking water and making conditions better for the world's 200 million people who live in slums. The report also outlines important improvements in primary education and health. In particular, the response to malaria, tuberculosis and HIV has been highly significant, according to the report.

In this CCRDA Summer newsletter edition, we features articles related to the *Eighth Millennium Development Goal: to develop a global partnership for development.*

*Steve Clarke is the CCRDA  
Chairperson  
and the Director of Program at  
Compassion Canada*



**cbm** tells us about mainstream microfinance institutions (MFI) and the push to make them disability inclusive. **Childcare International Society** speaks of partnership synergies in small and large organizations. **MCC** gives us an important update on Haiti's earthquake recovery efforts in their partnership with other organizations in re-building. **Visionledd** outlines achievements through their partnership with Health Partners International Canada to provide medical supplies in Zambia. **Wellspring Foundation for Education** underscores a partnership providing quality education in Rwanda. **FH Canada** shares the importance of incorporating a relational aspect into a fast-paced relief situation. Finally, past CCRDA Treasurer Grace Cheung shares with us a couple of touching personal stories, as well as a supporter of **World Hope Canada**.

As we continue in our poverty alleviation calling, let us remember the words of author Ron Sider. He challenged us at our last CCRDA Annual Forum to be ever-mindful of God's definition of justice. *"Frequently,"* Ron observes, *"God commands those with resources to treat their poor fellow Israelites with the same liberality that God showed them at the exodus, in the wilderness, and in giving them their own land (Exod. 22:21; Lev. 25:38; Deut. 24:18, 22). God wanted those who could not care for themselves to receive a liberal sufficiency for need offered in a way that encouraged work and responsibility, strengthened the family, and helped the poor return to self-sufficiency."*

May the Almighty continue to empower us through our organizations to foster robust biblical justice, bringing glory to His name. ■

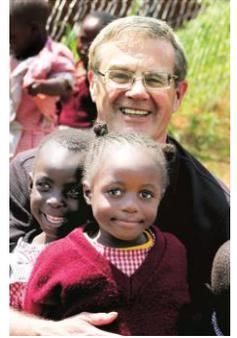
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uses them to finish the work He started.

Working with other small and medium size Christian NGO's, I see how important CCI is to God's strategic plan and we all have an important part in fulfilling God's mandate to show His love on earth. God does not measure our worth by the size of the brush He has given us; we are measured by how effective we are using the tools and resources He has given.

Although each partner agency is unique in gifting and resources, working together we can change the world for Christ! ■

*Rod Forrest is the Executive Director of ChildCare International*



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their families and communities. Persons with disabilities have long been excluded from accessing these life-changing services and cbm Canada aims to change that.



*Caroline Abbotts is the Program Officer at cbm Canada.*

working with two MFIs and the Malawi Microfinance Network to create a disability inclusion model for MFIs. The model will include sensitizing MFI Boards, staff and clients about disability inclusion. Clients with disabilities will be integrated in savings groups formed by the MFIs where they will learn about financial literacy, savings and credit alongside their non-disabled peers. Following this training, clients with disabilities will have the opportunity to qualify for access to loans on the same terms as their non-disabled counter-parts.

The good practices and lessons learned from this model will be captured and shared with the MFI, disability and development communities. cbm Canada acknowledges the generous support of Stronger Together. Stay tuned! ■

cbm Canada, the Malawi Council for the Handicapped (MACOHA), and the Federation for Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA) are



*Community-based rehabilitation group in Salima, Malawi, opening the meeting with prayer.*

# Relational Relief: An Unconventional Approach to Crisis Response

By April Klassen, FH Community Partnerships

A need for relief aid is always an opportunity for so much more. When a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck Japan in March 2011, killing over 15,000 and displacing thousands more, we all – the international Church and NGO community – responded quickly in the form of food, water and shelter. Japan is a rich country, and by working together, basic needs were met quickly.

Residents, however, continued returning to the make-shift warehouses stacked with canned goods even after they had what they needed. They didn't come for food or water; they needed personal connection. Japanese church members saw the emotional needs of disaster victims and volunteered at drop-in centres. The need for a listening ear was unmistakable as the centres became busy places.



Elderly folks could get a cup of tea, children could play and anyone could sit and share their story.

Soon, the volume of people seeking emotional relief from the centres forced a request for help. Food for the Hungry (FH) quickly stepped up to provide basic training, equipping people to engage within the Japanese Buddhist culture. They pulled in other experts partnering with FH Japan, Friend of the Voiceless, Disciplining Nations Alliance, and Regent College in Vancouver, BC to co-sponsor a program to look at how the Christian community could



intentionally be an effective first-responder in future crises.

Traditionally following a disaster, physical relief is prioritized. Being attuned and responsive to emotional and spiritual needs has been shown to be equally critical. As in most of FH's programs, a holistic approach and relationships are key factors in making them "successful". This methodology encouraged FH, Regent College and several Japanese churches to re-examine the role of Christians in disaster relief. When one expands their response beyond traditional, physical aid and addresses deeper wounds facing survivors, true relief is experienced. Rebuilding sustainable, *healed* communities takes time and investment.

Recently, FH Canada President, Ben Hoogendoorn, visited Japan. Even though it's been two years since the earthquake, the Christian community there is still making positive waves. After witnessing the drop-in centres relational, Christ-centred approach in practice Ben remarked, "It was quite evident that lives were being impacted and a number of people who had been very suspicious of Christianity gave their hearts to Christ."

The co-sponsored program, *Relational Relief*, has focused on incorporating a relational aspect into a fast-moving relief situation. While this approach is still being developed and programmatically integrated, its application is being examined by a number of interested organizations. ■

[www.fhcanada.org](http://www.fhcanada.org)

## Visionledd Works With HPIC

By Cheryl Martin, Visionledd

Since 2010, Visionledd has partnered with HPIC to bring essential medicines to Zambia's most vulnerable communities. From their warehouse in Mississauga, Ontario, HPIC manages vast quantities of top-quality medicine donations from over 50 accredited Canadian pharmaceutical companies. It is through trusted partnerships with medical professionals, government agencies, NGOs and charitable partners like Visionledd that the valuable medicines are effectively distributed and accessed in developing nations. It is a relationship that makes sense from both a fiscal and impact standpoint. As a trusted partner, Visionledd obtains the medicines from HPIC for a nominal donation amount and the cost of shipping.

The result is astounding! Last year over \$385,000 (27 tons) worth of quality pharmaceuticals were

## To Provide Essential Meds

delivered to mobile medical clinics in Zambia for a total cost of \$25,000. In case you are keeping track of the math, that's \$15 of medicine for every \$1 donated! With those medicines, over 54,000 patient visits were made possible. On the field, it means widows, orphans, and vulnerable families who could not afford or access primary healthcare have new hope and healing. Visionledd works in rural and peri-urban slums with HIV rates as high as 23%. The ailments associated with depressed immune systems, poor nutrition and lack of care can be deadly. The antibiotics, antifungals, painkillers, and other medicines we supply bring relief to infections, pain, and suffering. Real lives are changing for the better because of the cooperation between pharmaceutical companies, HPIC, and relief and development organizations like Visionledd! ■



## Partnering Together for Quality Education

By Andy Harrington, The Wellspring Foundation of Education

It's a sad but true fact of life that part of the international NGO world revolves around competition. Competition for influence, funding, personnel and many other areas connected with resource and effectiveness. In a sense it's natural and it happens in most types of work. **Yet collaboration should be central to our efforts to alleviate poverty and enhance development. None of us can do this alone.**

One of our core values at Wellspring is Partnership. That's why we've been a key mover in forming the Rwandan Education NGO Coordination Platform, a group of forty NGOs working in the field of education in Rwanda. RENCP allows these organizations to partner on activities across the education sector and represents education based NGO's to the Government of Rwanda with a clear and unified voice.

As well as general assemblies where all the organizations meet and dialogue, RENCP has created five working groups in areas ranging from Early Childhood Care and Development to Teacher Development and Educational Leadership.

Chaired by member organizations, these working groups organize learning labs, field visits to areas of operation, provide input into policy dialogue, and much more. Wellspring has had the privilege of playing a leading role in the creation and operation of RENCP and facilitates collaboration at many levels within the group. The resulting dialogue with the Rwandan Ministry of Education has allowed for a strong participation in the formation of the next five-year strategic plan for education and feedback into the national policy-making framework. Perhaps even more importantly, it fosters a culture of cooperation and NGO's across the education sector are learning to truly respect and appreciate each other. This bears fruit in numerous partnerships and collaborations and is inspiring a growing understanding that not only do we need each other, but for the sake of those we work with, we need to get along! ■



# Partnership in Haiti

Linda Espenshade, Mennonite Central Committee

Three years after a massive earthquake devastated Haiti, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) continues to address long-term needs for housing and sustainable livelihoods. Housing was in short supply even before the earthquake, according to Kristen and Wawa Chege, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Haiti policy analysts. The quake on January 12, 2010, worsened the situation – as more than one million people were displaced from their homes.

To address this urgent need, MCC is working with its partner, SKDE, a Haitian Creole acronym for Christian Center for Integrated Development, to build 100 houses on the outskirts of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. At the end of the project, an estimated 500 people will be able to move into permanent housing. The development in Cabaret will include a community centre, market and playground. MCC is also currently expanding a vocational training program in Desarmes, a community about 50 kilometres northeast of the city. Much of the funding for these projects is coming from CIDA.

MCC Haiti's earthquake response has been effective in addressing needs in many people's lives, said Kurt

## Fish for Hope

By Peter Corey, World Hope Volunteer

Next month marks one full year since the beginning of our aquaculture support project in DR Congo. Since July of last year, we have delivered updated training to more than 600 fish farmers, at least 10% of whom have been women. We have provided a \$25 tool subsidy (worth 3–4 hand tools) for pond improvement and expansion to 200 of those farmers. We have equipped a Regional Aquaculture Coordinator with full-time salary, transportation costs, and a dirt bike for travel to seminar and fish farm sites. And this full-time salary has provided a viable livelihood for a family of eight people. In July we will hold our fifth seminar with likely 100 people in attendance, further adding to our impact. We are contributing to the revitalization of the aquaculture sector in DRC.



Hildebrand, an MCC representative in Haiti. "However, the country's recovery overall

continues to be slow and full of challenges." There still is no centralized government housing authority to manage land ownership, zoning or planning, including where and how to build new permanent housing. It's not uncommon for several people to have papers claiming the same land. The International Organization for Migration says about 360,000 people still live in tent camps.

With 75 percent of tent camps located on private land, three years later these land owners are resorting to forceful evictions, with support from police and local officials. MCC Haiti will continue to build houses alongside local partners, while supporting Haitian organizations that are pressuring their own government to provide permanent housing. ■

In January of this year, I had laid out a budget and plan for the first half of 2013. It involved raising \$15,000 and completion of all of our first-year objectives, minus one seminar. Thanks to the generosity of our donor network, most of them individuals, we have met our goal! Assuming conservatively that fifty percent of the seminar participants adopt practices that improve their pond productivity and thus food security for their families, as of July we will have impacted the lives of 1400 people!

I have been asked many times why I do this—Fish for Hope, that is. The best response I can come up with is that I feel compelled to do it. It has never been out of a need to prove myself to

others, or to myself for that matter. It's part of His design that I have the privilege of living out; it's ultimately about people; it's about responding to a need, contributing to the solution. And it's not just myself, but as part of a network of people with compassion.

I lost my dad a few weeks ago. He was a unique man of deep character who lived a life of meaning and integrity. His obvious support for my work, as well as his analytical mind and professional skills augmented my own efforts toward realizing a dream. In his memory, my family requested that donations be made to Fish for Hope. More than \$3,000 has been received from more than 70 donors. I consider it tremendous affirmation and a great honour that these funds have been entrusted to a project for which I am responsible. The support and affirmation of family is energizing.

## Reaching Out to the “Least of the Least”

By Grace Cheung, Former CCRDA Treasurer

In spring of 2012, I travelled to Indonesia to visit a grassroots social ministry group called Mahanaim to observe and participate in its various programs. With the goal of eradicating poverty and equipping children to be responsible citizens, Mahanaim runs a local school (from elementary school age to highschool level) as well as an orphanage to house and nurture many underprivileged youth in a suburban area outside of Jakarta.



In addition, Mahanaim has outreach programs to reach out to many communities. This is done in the form

of a shelter home where ministry workers engage the children and mothers for a time of sharing and community teaching. Visits are also made to jails and detention centres to offer counseling and encouragement seminars to inmates/detainees across various provinces.

I had a first-hand contact with the staff who worked

Furthermore, I am proud to continue Dad's legacy in this way.



And so we enter the second year of this two-year project with momentum generated by our initial success. We will hold at least five additional seminars, reaching out to hundreds more for whom poverty and food availability are daily challenges. We are part of the solution, with compassion. ■

at a shelter home near one of the largest garbage dump sites in nearby Jakarta (called Bantar Gebang). The families in this neighborhood make their living by collecting plastics waste from the dump site. Out of the shelter home, the staff offer free music lessons to the children, run kindergarten classes and hold fellowship gatherings for high school children. Even though the site is so filthy, the ministry workers have a strong sense of calling for reaching out. I was so impressed by the Christian love that they expressed.

Local transformation does start from the scratch, reaching out to the “least of the least.” Through various visits and the opportunities to participate, I observed partnerships in many forms – between schools and parents, between justice authorities and the ministry organization and between co-workers from ministry groups. The love of Christ is about reaching out to those who do not know Him. True transformation will occur when the love of Christ is being experienced through the ministry organizations as well as with these genuine partnerships that have formed. ■

# Calendar of Events

- September 23, 2013**     **Western Workshop**  
Trinity Western University  
Langley, BC  
*Partnerships & CIDA Merger*
- October 7, 2013**     **Eastern Workshop**  
Wycliffe College  
Toronto, ON  
*Private Sector Engagement & CIDA Merger*

# Meet CCRDA's Board

**Steve Clarke - Chairperson**  
*Compassion Canada*  
Director of Program

**Chris Bosch**  
*World Vision Canada*  
Director, Program Strategy

**Tracey DeGraaf**  
*Crossroads Christian Communications Inc.*  
Senior Program Officer

**David Kupp**  
*Wycliffe College*  
Professor of Pastoral Theology, Urban and International Development

**Laura Solberg**  
*Greater Vancouver Youth Unlimited*  
Director—The Elevation Project

**Philip Tanner**  
*Christian Children's Fund of Canada*  
Director, Global Programs



*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 Fall issue will be sent to you in October. 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.



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