

Partnership Report - Fall 2007

Southern Sudan – Gideon’s Crutches

Although security issues are everyday concerns in many of the countries where GAIN projects are, sometimes it’s possible to invite people on GAIN project assessment trips in order for them to experience the effects of demonstrating God’s love to hurting and needy people. This season’s account of Southern Sudan comes to us from a guest on a trip to Southern Sudan in October 2007, Guy Saffold, Executive Director of Ministries, Power To Change, Canada:

“He came a long way on his crutches just to meet you.”

Gideon leans forward, white teeth flashing against dark skin. He grabs onto GAIN CEO Bill Blaney’s hand and won’t let go. There’s joy in his eyes. Gideon walks on crutches, but just a year ago Gideon couldn’t walk at all. A year ago Gideon’s legs were twisted and useless. The only way he could move around was to drag himself along on his bottom, using his hands to inch himself slowly forward.

The amazing thing was that Gideon had the wonderful capacity so many children have of persevering despite his limitations. He was down but not out, broken but not destroyed. Gideon had determination.

Sometimes, however, determination is not enough. Gideon

was hungry and at risk of further malnutrition. Those who are weak often have a more difficult time when food is scarce. Stronger children can run faster and walk farther. Scarce food may be “saved” for the healthier children rather than “wasted” on those who are already suffering serious problems.

Bill realized that Gideon needed help. GAIN provided transportation to the hospital in Lui where doctors from Samaritan’s Purse operated on Gideon’s twisted legs, straightening and realigning them so that Gideon would have a chance at learning to walk again. The doctors volunteered their time. GAIN provided for the cost of Gideon’s care and medicines. A year later Gideon, now walking on crutches, heard that GAIN was coming again to Mbara. Grabbing his crutches he set out for Mbara, walking on his own two feet. The legs are scarred and still a bit weak, but Gideon is moving upright under his own power.

In the “grand scheme of things” does it really matter very much whether one little boy’s legs are repaired? There are thousands of children with medical problems in Sudan; many with worse ones than Gideon’s. Is it really worth it? I ponder the question and think of vari-



ous sophisticated theological answers involving the inherent dignity of every human being by virtue of being the creation of God. These are good answers, but eventually I realize that there’s a much simpler way to resolve this question. I’m convinced that it’s the Lord’s own prompting. “What if Gideon were my own small son?” Would I consider restoring his legs “worth it?” I realize that I would not just consider it worthwhile to restore my son’s shattered legs. I would sacrifice for it. Work for it. Give up many comforts for it. “Well then you know the answer,” the Lord reminds me. “Gideon is one of my own dear children. I care about his legs, because I love him.”

With GAIN’s help Gideon has a new life before him. So Gideon has come today to say, “Thank you!”

Bill Blaney needs no thanks. Just watching Gideon walk is a joy greater than he can describe. “That’s what really keeps me going,” says Bill. “To see a life changed like that! It costs so little. The reward is so great.”

Thank-you for your partnership with us! Your compassion enables us to demonstrate God’s love and make a difference in the hearts and minds of people in Southern Sudan; children like Gideon.

If you would like to be a part of changing lives of war victims in Southern Sudan and Darfur, please click here to join us as we continue to offer food, water, trauma counselling and hope!

Benin, West Africa – Changing History with Hope

Benin's historic roots start from being a prominent 15th century a nimist West African kingdom, growing into the present day democracy through a series of conflict-wrought stages, including becoming a French Colony in 1872, achieving independence in August 1960 as the Republic of Benin, and a succession of military governments. Life continues to be a series of conflicts and victories as the multiple ethnic groups that make up native Beninese try to forge a better future while having to deal with their centuries-old differences, including culture and religious beliefs. Animism and voodoo are still widely practiced, especially in rural areas. It is believed that voodoo originated in Benin and was introduced to Brazil and the Caribbean Islands by Beninese slaves (Benin is one of the few countries to have publicly apologized for its historic role in the slave trade). Muslims are said to make up 20% of the population and Christians 30% and nominal people from both are said to practice animistic traditions in addition to their own religious rituals.

Living conditions in rural areas in Benin are very basic, so much so that food and water-related diseases such as diarrhoeal illnesses, hepatitis A and typhoid fever are still considered major diseases with very high risks of infection. In large part, the reason for this is that water sources are open, allowing exposure to animals, vehicles, people, which allows bacteria and parasites to breed, waiting to infect

people who have no choice but to use that water for washing and drinking. According to international aid agencies, annual flooding earlier this year was especially bad, affecting 10,000 Beninese and requiring international funds to disinfect open wells; distribute medicines, clean drinking water and relocate victims. Beninese officials have sited that the country's needs for clean water require 1500 wells/year for the next 10 years.

When there are many different interests and long histories of conflict, bringing a better future into reality can take much time, and judging the results can be a challenge. Your partnership with GAIN is an active part of bringing a better future today through providing clean, pure water through drilling sealed water wells. To date, 56 wells have been drilled, transforming the lives of up to 56,000 people in Benin! When GAIN staff have arrived to drill water wells in villages, people have been amazed that they have returned to keep their promise to help. Your partnership is giving people something even more valuable than clean water leading to better health, better crops, less hunger, and more time & energy to spend raising a family--your partnership is restoring hope. Here are some accounts of hope, told by our in-country GAIN staff:

"Hahame is a village about 100 km from the capital, Cotonou. It is located not far from a lake whose water is salty. Any well drilled in the area had never accessed clean water, making

people sick, or yielded salty water, which was difficult to drink and very bad for washing clothes. When the GAIN drilling team went to Hahame to drill a well, the people were sure that the water quality wouldn't be good. They were surprised to find that the well water was abundant, clean & sweet. It was unbelievable but true!"

"Metohoue is a village about 150 km West of Cotonou. Over 90% of the people there practice voodoo worship. They were in serious need of drinking water when the GAIN team went to drill a well for them. And they were told that the well was donated by people from Canada, thousands of kilometres from Benin. One day the chief villager declared this: "I can't believe what these people from Canada do; they come from that long distance to help us with their own means! They have very good heart and true love. Everybody should try to know their God and serve him."

Committed to drilling 70 water wells a year between two drilling rigs, GAIN's water well drilling activity counts for close to 20% of the current well drilling activity in Benin.

Please click here to become part of a legacy of health and hope – join us in demonstrating God's love in word and deed to the people of Benin through the gift of pure water!

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Sri Lanka – Completion of Dickwella Community Dawns

In the days following the tsunami in December 2004, the obvious needs were overwhelming. After GAIN's initial response to the tragedy provided much needed food and non-food aid to over 15,000 families, the government of Sri Lanka allotted 12 acres of land to GAIN to establish the Dickwella Housing Complex, a community with 100 homes in the village of Kirihandeniya Watta, District Matara. Now, hope and dignity are being restored to families as new homes are being built from the resulting partnership between the government of Sri Lanka, GAIN, and donors like you. These houses are a practical demonstration of God's love to people as they build their futures.

The Chilliwack Aid Response Team (C.A.R.T.) is a partner with GAIN on this project. CART was formed as a result of a vision of business leaders from the City of Chilliwack, British Columbia to make a difference not as individuals but as a city united behind a common effort to provide relief, hope and spread goodwill. Their

involvement included endorsing a CART volunteer team (comprising of youth and volunteers from the community) to travel to Sri Lanka with GAIN last year to help complete the first homes and begin initial ground work to build the next phase of homes. Families have been living for over a year in the first 25 homes, and are settling into new lives. The remaining families will be assigned homes in this new community when all of the remaining houses are completed.

The general pace of the rebuilding efforts in Sri Lanka since then had been slowed for all humanitarian aid organizations, in large part due to constant armed conflict in the north of the country. Fifty of the remaining homes were completed by the end of summer, and our in-country staff tell us that the remaining 25 homes should be completed by the end of November. As was the case with the first 25 families, we are confident that when the remaining waiting families receive their houses, they will be deeply touched by the reality that people they did

not know crossed the world to come help their country, at no cost, to give them newly built homes. In the worst of circumstances, God has brought good out of disaster and touched many lives. **Thank you for your partnership with us and restoring hope and dignity to recovering families, helping them re-build their shattered lives!**



Benin, West Africa – Changing History with Hope - Photos



**Left: Well drilling rig in action
Middle: Installing a water pump
Far Right: Your donations bring smiles across Benin**



Paraguay – The Compassionate Power of 31

Paraguay is a South American nation that struggles towards a better future. Its culture has been shaped by Roman Catholic traditions, and a history of money laundering, smuggling, arms and illegal narcotics trafficking, and fundraising for extremist organizations. Life has improved over the past 3 years due to greater confidence in the current government, but many in rural Paraguay are poverty-stricken. Often, if they move into the city and are unable to find work, they turn to crime to earn enough to survive. It is common for children to leave turbulent families to live on the street and become addicted to drugs and alcohol, and for girls to turn to prostitution. It is a heartbreaking cycle of poverty, crime, & hopelessness.

GAIN has been able to help, amidst these difficulties, thanks to your compassionate partnership. Compassionate Church Action and The Praina Project are two important already active works, whose founders are reaching out to needy children & families in Asuncion. Compassionate Church Action is a network of hard working pastoral couples from a group of churches who pour out their lives reach out to feed children in poor areas. They offer them love, hope, and school classes and life training. The Praina project is the work of the First Lady of Paraguay, and reaches out to street

children, to rescue them from a hopeless lifestyle and give them the skills to pursue an honest life with confidence. Children voluntarily progress through 3 stages, with the loving support of a counselor. While children are helped to break their addictions to drugs & alcohol, they learn the skills they need to stay off the street and hopefully, reunite with their families. This program provides the boost these children need to become capable and hopeful of their future because they have consistent support of good role models in a daily environment.

GAIN Canada had shipped a container of humanitarian aid to Asuncion which included dried soup mix, canned soup, dehydrated apples, energy bars, dehydrated fruit snacks, new children's clothes, blankets and toys. For the months of September and October, 31 churches linked up in 38 locations and served a total of over 5100 children over 60,900 meals made from this received food!

One of these locations is a private orphanage. The director is also like a mother, treating each orphan as her own child. Currently this orphanage is home to 185 children, the most recent of whom is William, a 17 day old boy that was "dropped off" that day. The workers are older orphans that help take care of the younger orphans. Dr. George Rhoades, ALERT Director of Trauma Training, visited the orphanage in order to bring some animal balloons and help the children laugh and play. When children have lived through trauma, they stop being children as they are forced to grapple with the adult horrors. Making opportunities for them to play and have fun is the first step in helping them to trust again, a prerequisite for them beginning to talk about their tragic experiences, receive counselling and begin to heal. Dr. Rhoades walked into a room full of children excited to get an animal balloon. When he tried to hand a balloon to the first child, he was told that the little girl couldn't speak and it was obvious that one of her hands didn't

function properly. The next balloon he tried to hand to a small boy, only to be told that he was blind. He encountered rooms that were small, holding up to 34 children per room, most often four to a bed, with mattresses laid down on the floor also. In spite of the crowded conditions, the facilities were very clean and there were a lot of smiles. He asked them questions, "How are you able to continue this work?", & "How long do your children stay in the orphanage?" Her response to the first question was "By God's Grace" (He learned later that the food they had that day was all that was left, as a truck with supplies coming to them that day had broken down before it arrived). The director answered the second question with her own question, "How long do



you allow your children to live at home?" GAIN has the privilege of providing meals for this orphanage through until at least January.

Thank-you for being a part of practically demonstrating God's love to Asuncion's hungry children and their poor families who are unable to provide for them consistently.

Please click here to become part of multiplying and empowering this network of compassionate help for men, women and children who want to break their chains of poverty in Paraguay and live a future of promise & hope.

A.L.E.R.T.—Acts of Love Emergency Response Team

A.L.E.R.T. teams bring medical intervention to GAIN's practical work, offering holistic help and demonstrating God's love to hurting and needy people around the world, as part of either existing projects or international emergencies. These highly trained emergency response professionals seek to help people affected by conflict and/or calamity by meeting their physical,



emotional, psychological and spiritual needs. We have a growing variety of specialists including paramedics, registered nurses, doctors, clinical psychologists, counsellors & hygiene specialists. Each of them volunteers his time with GAIN on these A.L.E.R.T.

trips, for which we are very grateful.

Medical aid is the need when we hear about humanitarian relief efforts, but how disaster victims cope emotionally and spiritually is something rarely addressed. ALERT's trained clinical psychologists and volunteers help people with grief & the emotional wreckage inside, offering hope through counselling. Trauma counselling training is opening doors worldwide for GAIN, as participants in Sudan, Paraguay and Brazil in September & October urgently request additional training after the initial sessions.

In Asuncion, Paraguay's capital, social tensions were running high when GAIN ALERT staff traveled there to conduct counselling training seminars as part of our holistic commitment to restoration in people's lives. Migrant Indians settle in the capital because they can no longer earn enough to support their families by farming. Thousands of people live in makeshift tents all over the city, and have poor success at finding jobs. Families are strained, alcoholism and abuse are rampant, and

the number of street children rises as they leave their families in hopes of escaping the pain.

During the week of the seminars, endorsed and organized by the First Lady of Paraguay, close to 300 medical, social work, justice professionals and lay-people attended personally. Training seminar subjects were well received by these participants, including Trauma with Children and Adolescents, Anger Management, the Power of Forgiveness, Psychological First Aid and the Treatment of Trauma and Dissociation. All of these are especially relevant right now in Asuncion, where child abuse and teen suicide rates are very high. Often the professionals themselves are in painful need, and would approach the ALERT instructors during seminar breaks, wanting consultation with them and help for how to cope with guilt they carry from times when they could not help children cope with their own traumas. Hospital staff told a heartbreaking story of a little girl, only 11 years old, who committed suicide. Her parents, both forced to work long hours to scrape up a living, required more and more responsibilities of her in order to hold the household together. Finally, she couldn't cope anymore, and ended her life. GAIN staff were able to demonstrate the use of and leave behind a tool for use in



diagnosing trauma especially in children, called a Sand Tray (below). This effective tool is more widely used in the North American trauma counselling field, but none

of the medical staff in Paraguay had even heard of one.

Often it takes much emotional and spiritual stamina for ALERT staff to conduct trauma counselling training, because the pain and the needs of even the participants in counselling roles is overwhelming. The seminar participants are so grateful to have this material, and all of them are in positions to apply what they've learned. Unexpected radio and TV interviews were given to ALERT staff, which were a fantastic encouragement, as the broadcasts were heard by countless numbers of people, and will be re-aired. ALERT interviews like these, given in neighbouring Brazil, will be aired repetitively to an audience of 20 million people! Opportunities like this ensure the spread of practical knowledge that will be of comfort and use by others to address emotional pain and point the way to healing.

Thank-you, on behalf of the people of Paraguay who were trained at these seminars. Because of compassionate partnership like yours, these professionals and lay-people in Asuncion are now equipped with knowledge and practical techniques to reach out more effectively to hurting men, women, and children to stop cycles of abuse and suicide and begin healing. Please consider partnering with us on an ongoing or special need basis as we provide for the costs of sending ALERT teams to offer medical treatment, medical supplies, training in practical counselling techniques, and hope to hurting people worldwide.

Please click here to partner with us on an ongoing or special need basis as we provide for the costs of sending ALERT teams to offer medical treatment, medical supplies, training in practical counselling techniques, and hope to hurting people worldwide.



Above: Feeding Program by one of 31 Churches
Center two pictures: traumatized children begin to laugh and heal

Opposite Page, Right: Role Play using a Sand Tray to diagnose trauma in children

DPRK - “Water, Water Everywhere, and Not a Drop to Drink”

This quote, originally from The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, begins to help us have a feel for current conditions in DPRK and what the effects are like for men, women, and children affected. Although there is some improvement in water quality due to the delivery of emergency water purification aids by international aid agencies, this supply will last for a maximum of 4 months.

Flooding in mid August this summer caused severe floods in nine provinces of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), including the capital city, Pyongyang. The floods affected almost one million people and displaced nearly 170,000. Officially, almost 500 people were reported dead and over 150 were reported missing. Official government reports cited more than 40,000 houses were destroyed and 200,000 submerged or badly damaged. Unofficially, thousands of schools, hospitals and other public buildings were destroyed or damaged beyond repair. In addition to this devastation, Typhoon Wipha struck DPRK for 3 days in mid-September, leading to further severe damage in four provinces. The DPRK Red Cross Society figures estimate over 109,000 hectares of farmland damaged and an additional 1,649 people left homeless.

According to international sources, diarrhoea is still being reported as the main health problem for flood-affected areas, due to the disruption of water supplies. (A 30-40% increase in diarrhoea-related diseases was estimated after the floods, as well as an increase in respiratory tract infections and skin diseases) Though distribution

of emergency medical supplies is slow in reaching all the affected areas due to logistics problems, international aid agencies continue to work together to combat this problem and are seeing some improvement. Post-reconstruction efforts of roads, bridges, and new houses have been led by the DPRK government, with major mobilization of manual workers observed in some flood-affected counties. Officially, the remaining housing and infrastructure repairs are to be completed by the end of November, but their temporary housing is still the main shelter for some flood-affected areas even now, three months after the flooding.

GAiN Canada’s most recent container sent to help orphans in DPRK is filled with baby food, canned soup, oatmeal bars, clothing, blankets, and various medical supplies such as syringes, hospital beds, crutches, walkers and wheelchairs. As happened with the 3 other containers sent by GAiN Germany earlier this year, we expect that this container will arrive at the Nampo port very soon, for distribution to over 870 waiting boys and girls. We are preparing another container with basic anti-diarrhoea and skin rash medications requested by medical staff during our staff visit to 4 orphanages in June, and an additional container has also just left Europe from GAiN Germany. Thank-you for your partnership with us, which is what makes it possible for us to demonstrate God’s love to these needy children and the staff that care for them.

Will you please consider joining us in demonstrating God’s love and hope to children living in desolation in DPRK? [Click here to respond!](#)



Orphans waiting for help and hope

The floods affected almost one million people and displaced nearly 170,000.

Global Aid Network, Canada “... demonstrating the love of God, in word and deed, to hurting and needy people worldwide through relief and development projects.”

GIK – A Long Term Need, Answered at Last!

Crop failure...floods...earthquakes...hunger & thirst...homelessness...sickness...loss of livelihood. Each of these critical needs requires tangible aid for relief. Whether used to purchase humanitarian aid from countries of abundance, funding always plays a critical role in bringing relief and demonstrating God’s love in word and deed to needy people. GAiN’s current partners for GIK (Gifts In Kind) donate goods and services which make a big difference in lowering the cost of providing food, water, clothing, medical supplies, livelihood equipment and other much needed items to hurting people. This networking of individuals, agencies, and companies contributing their labour, influence, and expertise all dramatically help to stretch the funding other GAiN partners give. Working together this way, we are able to help more people, often getting aid to them more quickly. Thank-you for your partnership! Because of it, not only do these people receive physical relief, but they also experience God’s love demonstrated to them, blowing on the ember of hope, fanning it into flame again.

This year we have sent or provided funding towards 29 containers of humanitarian aid or water well-drilling equipment to GAiN projects internationally. The needs of people are increasing as worldwide calamities and instabilities show no signs of slowing. While we have also experienced generosity from our GIK donors, our warehouse space has been limited, and we have been looking for additional alternatives to enable us to store more

humanitarian aid and be ready to help meet more of the rising desperate needs. Three weeks ago, a local shipping company began to partner with GAiN Canada, offering not only 10,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space (with 40 foot ceilings), but their services to load our containers, arrange our shipping logistics, and cover the port-to-port cost of shipping containers to most countries worldwide! This is an incredible offer, worthy of celebrating by all our partners, as this will open up the doors wider for us to receive more GIK donations and ship them out to their destinations more quickly. This in turn will free up more funds to pay for acquisition of goods, containers themselves & overland transportation costs.

GAiN Canada is able to offer tax receipts for approved GIK donations, and we welcome opportunities to discuss possible GIK donations from across the spectrum--from individuals and agencies to manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers. By all of us working together, we are able to mobilize resources and demonstrate God’s love in word and deed more effectively, and our collective impact is greater than what any of us could accomplish alone.

Please click here to become part of mobilizing resources through this network of compassionate action!



Organizing your GIK donations and shipping hope overseas

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GAIN is committed to compassionately providing immediate, practical relief & development aid to hurting & needy people around the world; to restoring hope & dignity.

partnership - Our partnership with you is maximized by good relationships with government leaders and key decision makers in-country. The effect is catalytic; it boosts the flow of progress & escalates effectiveness of short term relief & long term development.

emergency response - GAIN mobilizes resources to help relieve crises arising out of natural disasters, calamity and conflict.

ongoing aid - GAIN strives to ensure that people receive help as it's needed, even long after the initial crisis.

development - GAIN purposes to holistically meet people's needs, helping them rebuild their lives and hope for their futures.

Funds are still needed for ongoing projects such as in Darfur & Southern Sudan, Paraguay, and DPRK. These areas are not currently in the news, but GAIN is working to help meet people's continuing needs.

Please consider giving to these ongoing projects, our operations needs, A.L.E.R.T. medical intervention program, or to Water for Life, as we expand to begin work in Tanzania

Give online at: www.globalaid.net



William (Bill) Blaney
CEO, GAIN Canada



Message from Bill Blaney

"Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded empires; but upon what do these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His Empire upon love; and to this very day millions would die for Him." Napoleon (1769 – 1821).

Many of the places GAIN is called to work are in empires founded on "power". Peoples' lives tend to be viewed as acceptable losses or "collateral damage" under such regimes. The Global Aid Network is called to demonstrate the love of God in Christ through word and deed, to these hurting and needy people. This demonstration of Christ's love deeply touches the heart, changing them forever. Where there is love, there is hope, where there is hope there is joy, where there is joy there is life. Thank you for partnering with us as we bring Christ's love, hope and joy to those who have lost all hope.

Canada, and the thousands of people worldwide whose lives are changing because of the difference you're making.