

# CWR Ministry Update

Issue #4, Winter 2011

## CHURCHES AS COMMUNITY CENTERS IN COLOMBIA

**S**ometimes outsiders see the church as a club for members only and their buildings as a kind of clubhouse. This is not the case in Medellin, Colombia where two Covenant churches have become community centers in the eyes of the community. They have become a vital part of the community and are seen as a blessing. It is not a coincidence that both are healthy and growing.

In partnership with Covenant World Relief, two Covenant churches in this poor area of Medellin have been able to expand their facilities. As a result these two churches now have the capacity to care for 300 pre-school children aged eighteen months to five years. The churches are partnering with the city to provide early childhood education daily from 8 am-4 pm. In addition to providing education, the church also provides nutritious meals to the students. The vast majority of these children come from families living in poverty. For sixty percent of the children, these are the only nutritious meals that they receive.

Pastor Javier, one of the pastors of the Covenant churches, knows that education is one of the most important paths to breaking the cycle of poverty. Through this early education program the children are intellectually, developmentally and socially more prepared to succeed when they enter the public school system.

Pastor Javier dreams of even greater impact of the Covenant churches in their communities. He would like to be able to care for more children. Currently there is a waiting list of one hundred children. He would also like to provide care for the elderly in the community. The only limitation is space. Pastor Javier dreams of gaining more space to be able to better serve his community in the name of Jesus.



**Children in Colombia receive life-changing pre-school education and nutritious meals.**

## HAITI UPDATE

The media coverage of Haiti has gradually waned since the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. However, CWR remains very involved in recovery and long-term development with our partners. The devastating earthquake resulted in more than 230,000 deaths and left more



**Thirty-eight percent of Haitians are under 14 years old.**

than one million homeless. Because of the difficult situation in Haiti before the earthquake and the degree of devastation, CWR expects to be involved in Haiti for years to come. In recent months CWR has sent funds and ECC volunteer medical personnel to help address the cholera crisis. We expect to be working with our partners and the most vulnerable in Haiti for years to come.

*Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.* ISAIAH 1:17 (TNIV)

## NEW WEBSITE!

Covenant World Relief has a new website. Besides being easier to navigate and looking much better, you will find new and updated content. You can find a page for each of our current projects, new photos, videos, clear information on the vision and mission of CWR, and ways you can stay connected with CWR throughout the year. You will also find a variety of new ways to give and designate gifts to CWR. Check it out at [CovChurch.org/cwr/](http://CovChurch.org/cwr/)

## MEET BENSON BOL OF SUDAN

This is Benson Bol. He lives in Malakal, Sudan and has been orphaned because of the AIDS epidemic and civil war in Sudan. He



Benson Bol

was suffering from severe malnutrition but because of your support of the [Sudan Vulnerable Children project](#), he is now receiving nutritious meals and is in school because he has received a uniform, shoes and books. The future has changed drastically for Benson all because of your support! This project directly serves 27 children in Sudan, all of whom are the most vulnerable. Please pray for Benson and the hundreds of vulnerable children like him in Sudan.

## CWR AT YOUR CHURCH

You are probably aware CWR will send resources to you and your church, but did you know we'll also come visit? We have a team of staff and advocates who would love to come visit your church and talk about relief and development and the work of CWR. If you are interested, call us at 773.784.3000.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR SERVING THE MARGINALIZED IN ALBANIA

**D**riving into the village outside of Korca, Albania, I asked Dr. Patriot, "How did Medical Ambassadors Albania decide to address the waste water drainage problem in this village?" Dr. Patriot replied, "We didn't decide the project—the community did. That's the way it should be. Unless local people are involved in that decision they will never take full ownership." As we arrived at the site, I saw many people digging ditches and laying drainage pipes. Dr. Patriot explained that the whole community is participating in the labor and providing some of the materials.



CWR is working with Roma people to improve life in their village.

The community leadership is also providing some of the funding.

Since the village is situated at the base of a steep hill, whenever it rains, the runoff floods the village below. Sometimes the latrines overflow and occasionally the contaminated water gets into wells in that area, causing water-borne illnesses. The waste water drainage problem exists throughout the village, but the CWR funded project is being carried out in the worst affected area. The majority of people in that area are Roma people, those who are lowest on the social ladder. The fact that the community leaders chose to address the problem in that area surprised even Dr. Patriot. Roma people and other marginalized people are often ignored, but not in this village.

We are thankful for partners like Medical Ambassadors Albania who know and practice best transformational community development principles.

## STAY CONNECTED

[Covenant World Relief is on Facebook!](#) Become a fan today and receive regular updates about CWR projects around the world. Then, [check out our blog](#) for exclusive, in-depth news and information. We love to stay connected with you—if you have any questions or concerns at any time please contact Chrissy Palmerlee at 773-907-3301.



## COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

*Loving, Serving, and Working Together.*

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