



# CWRUPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 2015

## Gernicia's Pathway Out of Poverty

Mache Kabrit, Haiti is a desolate place. It is located on the southern coast near the town of Côte-de-Fer, a remote place itself that has gotten some notoriety recently because it is the home of the current president of Haiti. All you see around Mache Kabrit is barren land. The ocean is beautiful but there is no source of fresh water. There was no resident

*“The prospect of finding a better life has sparked a glimmer of hope.”*

community leader until Eventuel relocated there a little over a year ago. His presence in the community has brought a spark of hope to the residents.

The Pathway to a Better Life project, which was formally introduced a little over three months ago, has really touched a chord in the community with both the current participants and those who would like to be included in the program. This program is unique in that it works with those who have lived in abject poverty and for whom traditional development programs

have not been successful. One of the participants in the program is a woman named Gernicia Jean. Looking at her, you would think she was nearing a hundred when she is only fifty years old. She has known poverty all her life. She has given birth to five children who are not in any better situation than she is. The prospect of finding a pathway to a better life has sparked a glimmer of hope in her. She is actually the talk of the community. Most people had given up on her, but now the first steps toward improvement are taking place. She now has a latrine as a first step forward. Those with a little bit of means do not generally invest in such a hygienic addition. She has been



Gernicia Jean participates in the Pathway to Better Life program in Haiti.

receiving some funds for food and will soon begin training on how to start a small business. The community relies on unreliable sources of water, so every participant in the program has received a five-gallon bucket with a filtration system.

Over the next couple of months Gernicia Jean and the rest of the participants in this

program will launch their small businesses This second phase should be of great benefit not only to the participants, but also to the entire community. Their homes will get a makeover through some of the income they generate in their business and some assistance from the program.

## More Work To Do in Japan...

Over the last four years, generous Covenanters and ECC churches donated more than \$400,000 to the relief and recovery efforts in northeastern Japan. We recently sent the last of those funds. We need your support to continue this recovery work. Will you give again so the work can continue?

Give now at [CovChurch.org/cwr](http://CovChurch.org/cwr)



**The evil do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely.** —PROVERBS 28:5

**“ The Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan leadership and the entire people of South Sudan are very thrilled with the tremendous support given by Covenant World Relief (CWR) and the Covenant churches in North America.**

“We are very delighted that CWR and Covenant World Mission are continuing their unwavering commitment to save thousands of lives in South Sudan.



rebellions caused suffering, death, and instability in the world’s youngest nation. Sometimes we feel like people who are forsaken by God.

“However, we still believe in God and trust that the Lord is using compassionate people to serve his

purpose in his kingdom. South Sudanese are God-loving people, but their efforts have been exhausted by tireless unrest and chaos. Therefore, we thank you and your commitment to us.”

—Mathew Jock Moses, director of projects for the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan

**“Had it not been for the efforts of CWR, some of the people who are still living in South Sudan could not make it. Thank you for your efforts and hard work.**

“South Sudan is a country marred by conflicts and instability. There are people who were born in war, like me, and grew up in refugee camps, but have never experienced peace for more than a year.

“Though there was peace for a time, a lot of ethnic conflicts and pockets of

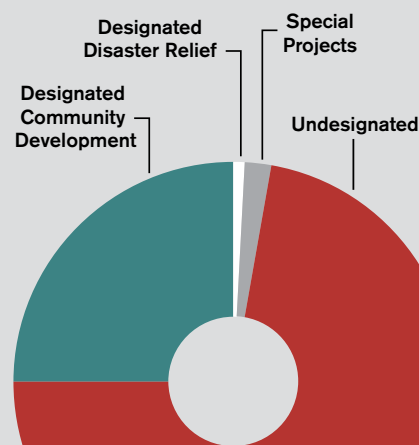
## Giving Update

**\$1.5 MILLION**

total given in 2014

**↑ 13%**

community development & undesignated giving increased 13% in 2014



**Not CWR**

**Yes CWR**

We value empowerment, partnership, and mutual transformation.

## Overcoming Obstacles to Empowerment in Cameroon

The Hope for All community organization in Belo, Cameroon, has been empowering women in small groups through chicken-raising in a CWR-funded project called Pass on the Gift. Two of the newly hatched chicks must be passed on to other women as they start new small groups.

The Hope for All leaders decided to expand the program to include goats and sheep. However, they soon discovered that in one area of Belo it is considered a cultural taboo for women to raise goats and sheep. Pastor Daniel, the leader of Hope for All, met with the husbands of two women who had expressed a desire to raise sheep and goats. Those husbands eventually gave their

permission and with a small beginning the taboo is now gradually being overcome.

At present there is a cluster of women who are raising goats and sheep and will be passing on the firstborn to other women.

