



INTERNATIONAL AID FIELD REPORT

AN UPDATE ON IA TRIPS TO ASIA, HAITI AND LIBERIA



Praise God for the work He is doing at International Aid!

In recent months, IA employees have been on two foreign continents, with another employee traveling to a third this month. Here is an update on IA's work at all three locations:

JAPAN/SOUTH KOREA

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, IA CEO Brian Anderson traveled to Japan's northern region that was greatly affected by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. He met with Christian partners and discussed how IA could continue supporting them through the rebuilding process.

Though there is much work left to be done on the island nation, Anderson left the country encouraged by the ministry opportunities that are now possible in Japan. Currently, the Christian community makes up one percent of the Japanese population.

"Because the government is truly focused on infrastructure, it does create an opportunity on the personal level for the Christian community to make some inroads with the people and to be able to share the Gospel," Anderson said.

Before Anderson returned to the States, he stopped in South Korea to encourage partners in the area. Strong relationships with humanitarian organizations in South Korea could be incredibly helpful in distributing aid to this region of the world.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

At the beginning of December, IA Biomedical Technician Brian Barker spent a week in Haiti training technicians at Bernard Mevs Hospital, home of Port-au-Prince's only trauma center.

Five students participated in Barker's program and were trained to troubleshoot on numerous types of medical equipment.

"It went better than I thought it would," Barker said. "The people who were selected to be trained were incredibly enthusiastic and ready to learn."

Barker also repaired multiple pieces of medical equipment while at the hospital.

LIBERIA

This month, IA Biomedical Technician Jim Loeffler is returning to Liberia to continue working with key hospitals and clinics IA has identified. He will conduct thorough hospital assessments, deliver a small donation of medical equipment and meet with government officials to further establish a distribution system for future IA shipments.

Please pray for safety in travel and effectiveness in mission for Loeffler as he seeks to glorify God through his work in Liberia.

MISSION STATEMENT

International Aid exists to be used by God to provide relief in the crisis and to equip missions engaged in the process of rebuilding and developing God-glorifying relationships.



Healing the Forgotten:

Rotary clubs team up with IA to bring relief to some of Chile's overlooked patients

Unwanted and abused children. Physically and intellectually disabled men. HIV-positive orphans.

What do these groups of people have in common?

They exist in Chile. They need treatment. They are often forgotten and ignored by Chilean communities.

And they are loved by Viola Sotomayor.

Born in Chile, Viola has always had a passion for the people of her home country. Therefore, when she became involved with Rotary International—a worldwide organization dedicated to humanitarian service—it was no surprise that her local clubs in Michigan began pouring into the South American nation.

For over a decade, Viola has traveled back and forth to Chile with the goal of connecting Michigan rotary clubs with Chilean rotary clubs. These partnerships fund various humanitarian projects Viola identifies in Chile, and International Aid has been providing the medicines and medical equipment needed for their work since 2000.



As Viola travels, many of the projects she finds have one underlying theme: healing the forgotten. The Rotary has a heart for people who either are viewed as social outcasts or have no one else to care for them.

Not only do they try to meet the physical needs of these groups, but they also pair Chilean rotary clubs with missions that serve these groups of people so that there is continued care for them after the Michigan rotary clubs and International Aid have addressed their needs.

During one of her trips, one of the local rotary clubs, Vitacura Rotary, asked Viola to help a home that took care of over 100 physically and mentally disabled men. When she examined the home, she realized that the home was struggling to house all of these men who had nowhere else to go.

“Who wants to take care of 114 disabled men?” Viola said.



Viola Sotomayor, right, poses for a photo with IA's Deb Null.

“This is why we needed to get involved.”

Working with International Aid, Montague Rotary and Ludington Rotary, Viola and her husband, Alan Hiddema, were able to bring over \$100,000 of aid to the home so that they were able to continue to house the men.

Chile's Santiago Rotary also told Viola about a monastery where nuns cared for 96 orphans that are infected with AIDS or are HIV-positive. Viola got involved, and contacted International Aid to see how we could help these children.

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We were able to send the nuns a shipment of child-sized wheelchairs, medicines, food, sun block and small hospital beds.

A third ministry Viola couldn't turn away from was a home for children who were abused and neglected by their parents. Working again with International Aid, the Montague Rotary Club was able to send medicines and other relief items to the ministry.

Viola and International Aid have also done work to help rebuild Chilean hospitals after natural disasters. When a devastating



earthquake hit Chile on Feb. 28, 2010 and destroyed 250,000 homes and 14 hospitals, International Aid sent medicine and medical relief to clinics Viola had identified in the region.

As Viola continues to reach out to those in need,

she thanked International Aid for helping make Rotary's ministry in Chile possible.

"I don't think it could be done without International Aid," she said.



INTERNATIONAL AID | BY THE NUMBERS

\$70+ million

The amount of aid sent to partners serving in the areas of greatest need—both in the U.S. and abroad—between July 1, 2011 and Dec. 31, 2011.



53

The number of countries that received product from IA between July 1, 2011 and Dec. 31, 2011.

115

The number of partner organizations that received aid from IA between July 1, 2011 and Dec. 31, 2011.

THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT YOU!

Because of the support of generous people like you, International Aid has already been able to do great work in the past six months. Thank you for making International Aid your ministry, and for tangibly demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ to a hurting world!



Caring for Cancer Patients: IA teams up with The Cancer Fund of America

There are some organizations that International Aid can't help but partner with. Their hearts for ministry move us to action, their mission resonates with the calling God has given our organization, and the people who receive their aid linger in our hearts, minds and prayers.

One of those partners is The Cancer Fund of America, Inc.

CFA provides assistance to cancer patients who live in poverty and cannot afford to meet basic needs due to the financial strain placed on them by cancer treatment costs. According to their website, the nonprofit "provides aid to thousands of cancer victims and their families every day." This aid is given free of cost.

Some of these patients are elderly and alone. Others are

parents to young children. Others are elementary students who just want to feel normal again. Others are infants whose parents simply can't pay the both the medical and grocery bills.

These people are in great need, and International Aid is committed to serving them.

For years, International Aid has proudly supported CFA by connecting them with socially conscious organizations and providing them with aid at a minimal service fee. In the past two months alone, International Aid has shipped the Cancer Fund of America assorted over-the-counter medications, protein bars, mouthwash, burn gel, antibiotics, hydrocortisone, hand wipes, soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner.



According to CFA's Lance Connatser, International Aid's partnership with his ministry has been "a true blessing."

"International Aid assists our organization greatly by helping us locate products that we need to provide to our cancer patients and their families," he said.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to work with CFA, and we pray that God continues to use our ministry to bring relief and comfort to these patients.