



THE HOPE OF LIFE IN MALI

By Richard Shaw, Director for Eastern Europe, Praise International

"Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

- Jesus Christ, as recorded in John 4:14

Water is a symbol of life. When Jesus announced that He embodied "Living Water" He made it clear that He is the answer for thirsty hearts, longing to be set free from the dry and hopeless life of trying to find meaning apart from Him.

Wonderful progress is being made in the well digging process for the St. Dorcas Children's Home in Mali. As you can see in the photos, the well is now down several feet. A team from North America is in Mali this winter to help complete the construction. We are also thrilled to announce that



Christen after baptism

another \$4,000 has been donated to Praise International for the construction of another well. The well under construction will eliminate the need to carry water by hand over long distances.

The bricks drying in the sun will be used for the construction of the St. Dorcas Children's Home. These bricks were hand-formed, and the water to make the bricks had to be carried from a water source some distance away.

A wonderful day of celebration occurred on Sunday, December 15, 2007, when 475 people professed their faith in Christ publicly in water baptism. Included in this large group of people was Christen (pictured above), one of the orphans ministered to by Pastor Christophe Dembele's church.

You can be a part of what God is doing in Mali. We are receiving contributions for the construction of the St. Dorcas Children's Home in any amount. We are also seeking sponsors for the children of pastors who need help with the expenses involved in going to school.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

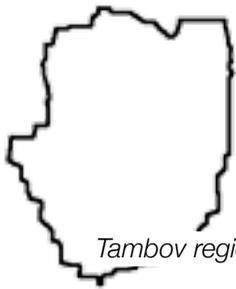
We're recruiting team members to serve the Lord by looking after our ministries in Africa and India/Asia. Regional Directors for these areas would be asked to pray for these areas of the world, become acquainted with what Praise International is already doing, help raise awareness for needs in these parts of the world, and seek partners for pastors who are still praying for monthly support.

If you are interested, we ask that you contact the Praise office for more information. Our contact information is on page 4.

They are required to provide their own uniforms, backpacks and supplies. Your gifts in any amount would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for praying about what God would have you do in this dynamic work in Mali.



Hand-made bricks drying in the sun



GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE!

Tambov region, Russia

By Richard Shaw, Director for Eastern Europe, Praise International

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:10,11

January 2-10 of this year I had the wonderful privilege to be part of a team that visited the Tambov region of Russia. In a partnership that included Praise International, The Slavic Gospel Association, and a coalition of churches centered in Idaho, we were able to help our Russian brothers share the gospel in a great outreach in the Tambov region. Funds were raised through the churches to purchase Christmas gifts for children that included a beautifully illustrated Children's Bible in the Russian language. Children and families were invited to come to the local churches to hear the Christmas story and receive the gifts. The outcome was literally amazing.



Children at the Christmas Program

A total of nine churches participated in the outreach, and 680 children and 390 adults attended the outreaches. 385 children came from unbelieving families. Seven adults prayed to receive Christ, and 47 children placed their faith in Christ. 17 families promised to begin attending regular services at the churches, and 53 children said they would begin coming to Sunday School.

"This [Christmas Program] is why I decided to receive Him in my heart and start attending the children's Sunday School."

One mother said that she really enjoyed it and that she would love to come to the worship services and bring her children to the Sunday School — "even though," she said, "I know that my neighbors will look down on me. But I saw and heard what you are teaching here, and I believe that it is the Truth, that people and children might have true fellowship with God!"

A father who brought his children said that, "As a man, it is very hard to overcome the opinion of others and come to you, but I decided to come and see with my own eyes and to come together with my children. I did not see anything bad—on the contrary, I saw that you are teaching good things and that you are very special people. I realize that it doesn't matter what others think about you and that they consider you losers; what's important is what God thinks about us. It is through the birth of Jesus Christ that God showed His love to us, and this is the most important thing. And so I made the decision to start coming with my children."

A mother who came to the Christmas celebration with her children asked to say a word during the celebration. She thanked the church for the celebration and said that she understood now what Christmas was all about and would

start teaching her children the Truth.

A girl named Masha was very impressed by the Christmas celebration. She said that she learned a lot about Jesus Christ and that she was special in God's eyes. "This is why," she said, "I decided to receive Him in my heart and start attending the children's Sunday School."

A boy named Vadim said that now he understood the true meaning of the Christmas holiday, and that he has a desire to attend the children's Sunday School so that he could learn more about Christ.

We invited orphans from one orphanage to come to the program in one of the churches, and 30 came. We were also able to personally visit two orphanages and take the gifts and Bibles there. A director of one of the orphanages was at the celebration and afterwards, when thanking us, said that he wants us to teach one Bible lesson a week at his school.

Children's Testimonies

"I love the gifts and the Christmas play."
-- Violette, 8 years old

"There were many children. I got presents and a Bible and a stuffed animal and candies. And we also sang about Christmas, about Christ who came to earth. I loved the games!"
-- Angelina, 5 years old

Testimonies of Parents

"I believe that the children should have more of these events that have moral Christian messages. I love that they were telling the children about the meaning of Christmas. I also think that the children really enjoyed playing together."
-- Tatyana, a 28 year old mom

"The children loved getting presents, playing together, and seeing the show. I think that these events are very good for them; the children have an opportunity to play with each other and make friends, as well as to show off themselves, to recite a poem or sing a song. We loved the play! We learned something new about Christmas and about the meaning of this holiday."
-- Olya, a 51 year old Grandmother



DESPERATE HUNGER

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

James 2:15,16

The native Taino Amerindians, who inhabited the island of Hispaniola when it was discovered by Columbus in 1492, were virtually annihilated by Spanish settlers within 25 years. In the early 17th century, the French established a presence on Hispaniola, and in 1697, Spain ceded to the French the western third of the island, which later became Haiti. The French colony, based on forestry and sugar-related industries, became one of the wealthiest in the Caribbean, but only through the heavy importation of African slaves and considerable environmental degradation. In the late 18th century, Haiti's nearly half million slaves revolted, and after a prolonged struggle, Haiti became the first black republic to declare its independence in 1804.

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has been plagued by political violence for most of its history. 80% of Haiti's population lives under the poverty line, and 54% are in abject poverty.

Perhaps you have seen recent news images from Haiti of cookies being made from dirt, water, salt and shortening. Dirt has been consumed in Haiti as a source of calcium in the past, but now desperately poor people are eating dirt cookies because of rising food prices and high unemployment. Doctors warn that the dirt may be dangerously contaminated, and while people realize eating dirt is unhealthy, they are desperate to fill their empty stomachs.

In addition to the poverty and economic hardships so many people have to



Pastor Dor and his family represent all the pastors who are faithfully serving the Lord in Haiti.

deal with, there is another Satanic grip on this country. People live in the bondage of spirit worship, magic, and occult practices. This darkness is far more serious and dangerous than the physical hardships. The outward difficulties are only a hint of the far deeper, far more serious problems that are created by living in spiritual darkness. The Bible has the truth to set people free. Jesus came to give life, and to give it in abundance, to the full. Please pray for the people of Haiti, that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ will shine into their hearts, bringing hope, peace, joy, love and freedom from the bondage of darkness.

Praise International has been ministering in Haiti for a number of years, through our support of national pastors and children's ministries. Often pastors struggle along with their people, and your sponsorship of national pastors can help make the difference between hunger and adequate food for a family.

Jim Cardillo, the General Director of Praise International, is traveling to Haiti this month (February) to meet with our national leadership there and evaluate our current ministries. Please pray for our ongoing ministry in this desperately needy country. If you would like to support a national pastor in Haiti for \$30 per month, please call, write or email our office.

Praise International Prayer Line

Please join us in prayer for:

- Encouragement for all of our pastors and families
- Permanent location for the Praise International offices
- Safety and effective ministry for our traveling teams in 2008
- Provision for special projects for 2008
- Support for pastors waiting for sponsors

Field Trips Scheduled for 2008

Our teams from Praise International are planning the following trips this year:

February: Haiti

March: Romania & Moldova

June: India & the Philippines

August: El Salvador & Honduras

Current Projects

- **Pastor Sponsorships** - \$30 per month
- **St. Dorcas Medical Clinic** in Mali - \$35,000 needed to construct this clinic
- **Two motorcycles** for pastors in Honduras at \$1,700 each
- **Medical Clinic** in Honduras - \$4,000 needed to match funds already given to complete the clinic.
- **Haiti Orphans** - need 10 sponsors willing to give \$100 per month for orphan children
- **Children's Home Corporate Sponsorships** - \$250 per month

Our Praise Team Contacts

Praise International

P. O. Box 1377
Caldwell, ID. 83606

1-800-777-2473
www.praiseinternational.us

General Director

Jim Cardillo
208-454-1377 ext.100
jimc@praiseinternational.us

Office Manager

Doug Teuscher
208-454-1377 ext.101
doug@praiseinternational.us

Regional Directors

Africa - Open
India / Asia - Open

Central America / West Indies

Mike Keefer
256-895-0725
mikek@praiseinternational.us

Eastern Europe

Rev. Richard Shaw
208-459-4614
richards@praiseinternational.us

State Representatives

Oregon/Washington

Jeff Miller
360-921-8940
jeffmiller@tds.net

Idaho

Rob Kelly
208-898-9066
robk@praiseinternational.us

Newsletter Editor

Rev. Richard Shaw
208-459-4614
richards@praiseinternational.us

Graphics

Anne Wallace
annewallace72@gmail.com



Praise International is seeking a director for the Kids of Praise ministry. This is a position which requires you to raise your own support or serve on a volunteer basis. The director will give oversight to the many projects which Praise International supports that help provide for children's needs. Please contact us for more information.



Coming soon! The opportunity to help support the ministry through the purchase of interesting items from around the world, including organic



coffee from Central America, fresh water pearls from China, and other interesting and useful items. Watch for information in future newsletters.

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

Mark 9:37

We need to hear from you!

Many of you prefer receiving information by email, and we would like to correspond with you by email! Email is immediate, convenient, and cost effective. We believe it could be a more efficient way for you to receive our quarterly newsletter. After you read it, you would be able to easily share it with others to read.

Would you please send us your email address so we can begin this transition? You may send your email to doug@praiseinternational.us, or include the information in the enclosed return envelope and mail it to us in the conventional manner.

We promise:

- To send the newsletter in an easy to read format.
- To send other information from time to time that we believe is important to you.
- Not to share your email address with others.
- Not to clutter your inbox with needless information.

For you who do not have an email address, we will continue sending you a printed copy of the newsletter by regular mail. Thank you!