



# Latin America Ministry Team

April 2007

**CRWRC**

*Living Justice, Loving Mercy*

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Haiti! Last year at this time, Caspar and I were in the Midwest, visiting supporting churches. On many occasions, I mentioned the Micah Challenge, a global Christian campaign to deepen engagement with the poor and challenge leaders to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, cutting global poverty in half by 2015.

The vision of CRWRC and the Micah Challenge are very similar and if you haven't yet signed the Micah Call (at right), you can still do so by checking out the Micah Challenge website. [www.micahchallenge.us](http://www.micahchallenge.us)



**The Micah Call**  
This is a moment in history of unique potential, when the stated intentions of world leaders echo something of the mind of the Biblical prophets and the teachings of Jesus concerning the poor, and when we have the means to dramatically reduce poverty.

We commit ourselves, as followers of Jesus, to work together for the holistic transformation of our communities, to pursue justice, be passionate about mercy, and to walk humbly with God.

We call on international and national decision-makers of both rich and poor nations to fulfill their public promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and so halve absolute global poverty by 2015.

We call on Christians everywhere to be agents of hope for and with the poor, and to work with others to hold our national and global leaders accountable in securing a more just and merciful world.



In a recent visit to the community of Tiguilotada, in Honduras, I saw efforts related to several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). *Diaconía Nacional*, a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in Honduras, is the organization CRWRC partners with for development in this zone. Many of their efforts will reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and combat HIV/AIDS, three of the MDGs.

There has been training for health promoters like Doña Liliana, who gives of her time to help others, even with her own growing family to care for.



The promoters closely monitor the growth and nutrition of young children. They maintain a small supply of medicines for basic illnesses, to sell at low cost. They also give classes about health related topics like hygiene, nutrition and the prevention of illness. Special community projects, like latrine construction, encourage practical application of the training. *Diaconía* is currently preparing to launch a program to create awareness about and encourage prevention of HIV/AIDS.

*Diaconía* partners with the churches in a community, as the base for this transformational work. The churches aren't aware of the efforts of the Micah Challenge, but favorable government policies can create conditions that allow their efforts to flourish. When churches in North America support efforts like the Micah Challenge and churches in small communities work at transformation, the MDGs seem more realistic. So how about it, why not sign the Micah Call today?

**Family Update.** It's great to say that Caspar and I are both home together!! Caspar is doing independent study during the spring term, followed by a practical assignment. He hopes to do this all in Haiti, but is still working out the details.

Reuben is finishing his first year at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia and will probably plant trees again in the summer. I remain in the same position, with new challenges and rarely a dull moment!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support

*Shalom,* *Leanne*

from the Geisterfers & Caspar

*We love to hear from you too!*

*the Geisterfers*

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