

Local missions remain at work in Haiti

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vast amounts of building materials and food. Prior to the earthquake, they had two Freedom House orphanages for about 30 girls – one in Jacmel and the other in Port-au-Prince. Through donations, the Christian organization was able to build a new girls' home in Jacmel and has turned the former Jacmel girls' location into a boys' home. The orphanages now have 63 children in their care, according to Mr. Lock. Mr. Lock, along with his wife Sonya, promised God they would establish a home for orphans and abandoned children. The result was Freedom House Haiti Christian Orphanages in 2006. The organization was recently renamed Freedom Global Outreach. Haiti has long had a reputation for abuse problems suffered by girls and women, so their

orphanages are dedicated to treating and educating girls to stop that cycle. "For a young girl who is not in a good, solid family situation, to get to 20 years old and not be sexually abused is rare," he said. Mr. Lock was in Haiti earlier this month with three medical team leaders associated with a church in Illinois. More medical personnel are expected to arrive next month. Last year the organization held a trial dental clinic in Jacmel. Next year, they hope to build a medical clinic on school property. CBM's Jessica Oh planned on spending six months in Haiti shortly following the quake. She returned three weeks ago. Prior to the quake, disabled Haitians were shunned by society and it was left to organizations such as Stouffville-based CBM to provide them with medical care. Now, access to services for the disabled is easier to find.

"Someone in their family was affected", the 31-year-old occupational therapist said. "Aid shouldn't be a charity. It should be a matter of providing appropriate resources," the Torontonian said. Part of Ms Oh's work in Haiti was to create a local association for people with disabilities run by the disabled – Sant Kore lavi. "When you see the change that has been created, the world is a good place when you put the effort into it," she said. By rebuilding churches and schools, there will be stability, according to Richard McGowan, Canadian executive director of Emmanuel International, which is based on Stouffville Road. Schools teach people to read and write, which enables Haitians to gain employment. Churches provide a different type of assistance. "Through Jesus Christ we have the hope of eternal life," he said. *With files from Torstar News Service*



Dave Lock of Stouffville holds Rebecca, a girl who needed three surgeries. The Locks operate orphanages in Haiti.



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