



**“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”**

**JOHN 20:21, NLT**



Dear Friend,

December 2008

I was shocked. As I stood in a mud-covered street in Myanmar, I took in the damage left by Cyclone Nargis. Houses were literally nothing more than pieces of scrap litter lying scattered on the ground. Many families were still living under the emergency shelter tarps – children and grandparents, mothers and fathers crowded together under just a small sheet of plastic.

Yet in the midst of this destruction and sadness, I also came face to face with hope.

People eagerly ran to greet me, full of gratitude for the help ERDO had brought them in the days immediately following the cyclone. While many aid organizations hadn't been allowed to enter the country for many weeks after the storm, we were able to start work almost immediately, bringing critical supplies of food, clean water, clothes and emergency shelter to children and adults who had lost everything.

**When I visited Myanmar, ERDO was already helping many of these families rebuild their homes. After feeling like victims for so long, they were excited to have this opportunity to take back their lives.**

Cyclone Nargis was just one of the challenges we, and many others, faced this year. But I am so grateful to God. He continues opening doors to us in these challenges, bringing ERDO many opportunities to serve on your behalf and be neighbours to our brothers and sisters in need.

I want to tell you about a few more places I visited this year – each one more heartbreaking than the last. But I came home from each trip confident you, along with other compassionate and generous donors, would help us meet these needs.

In Zimbabwe I met girls and boys with stomachs distended from hunger; arms and legs so small and thin. In this drought-prone country, parents find it almost impossible to obtain food to feed their families. In fact, as I write, Zimbabwe is facing one of its worst food crises in recent history. Many are eating only one meal a week.

The need is so great. How do we even begin to meet it?

We start in faith, with simple acts of compassion. This year, in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we were able to



## YES! HERE IS MY GIFT FOR THOSE SUFFERING...

### Here is my gift of:

\$50  \$200  \$350  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to support ERDO on a monthly basis.

Here is my first monthly gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment options:

VISA

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a cheque made payable to ERDO

feed 11,000 children in Zimbabwe through school programs! We also began working with many communities to develop advanced farming techniques so they can better withstand drought. We look forward to continuing this project over the next three years.

Morne Longue in Grenada is another community where I saw incredible need but also great hope. In 2004, Hurricane Ivan pummeled this small Caribbean country. 80% of its infrastructure was destroyed and nearly 30,000 homes brought to rubble. Yet the people of Grenada are resilient and much has since been rebuilt.

However, the village of Morne Longue continues to struggle in extreme poverty.

You, as a donor and partner with ERDO, have an amazing impact in Morne Longue. The village school was severely damaged by Hurricane Ivan and few children could even afford to attend. But through the generosity of our donors, we helped the community repair the school. Through ChildCARE Plus sponsors, many of the villages' boys and girls are able to go to school and receive the medical care and nutritious food they need to build strong futures.

At the heart of ERDO, we have a great sense of privilege. Just as Christ came to dwell among us and minister to us in our brokenness, it is our privilege to follow His example and live, work and be present among those in need. He has sent us to be His hands to a hurting world.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the One who came to serve, I ask you to consider giving a special year-end gift to the ministry of ERDO.

**Whether you are able to give \$50, \$200, \$350 or any other amount, your gift is an act of worship, ministering to men, women and children facing desperate situations.** Together we extend the hands of Christ where there is poverty, hunger, disaster and injustice.

A favourite quote of mine comes from Mother Teresa: "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."

I have seen what great love can do. May we never forget its power.

Sincerely,



Kelvin Honsinger  
Executive Director

**PS: I have enclosed a bookmark for you with the story of Sheeba, a young girl I recently met in India. She is like so many children we reach out to – poor, hungry and looking for hope. Keep this bookmark as a reminder of how your gifts are changing lives.**

# GOALS FOR 2009

- 1. Strengthen** ERDO's relationship with our friends through regular faith-building communications and enhanced donor care.
- 2. Continue** ensuring ERDO stewards all funds for the greatest impact in the lives of poor and vulnerable people.
- 3. Establish** a distinct website that connects people to ERDO's important work around the world, including timely response to world crises.
- 4. Undertake** four development projects that build on community strengths and lead to transformed lives.
- 5. Engage** a greater number of ChildCARE Plus sponsors to bring hope and wholistic help to children and their families facing challenges of poverty.

...doing good