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### From the desk of... Andrew Marx

#### 60 Minutes over PIH

PIH friends and supporters, start your TVs, TiVos and VCRs. Come one Sunday evening in March, Partners In Health will be featured on CBS's 60 Minutes. We'll let you know the exact date as soon as we know it ourselves.

The segment about PIH will run for less than 15 minutes, distilled from hours of videotape accumulated during a week in Haiti and two visits to Boston. As Manager of Communications for PIH, I had the job of accompanying the CBS crew in Haiti and trying to steer their cameras and attention toward people and activities we hope to see featured in our 15 minutes of network fame.

We knew that they would get some great footage around the Hospital Bon Sauveur in Cange, as well as compelling interviews with Paul Farmer and David Walton in Haiti and Jim Yong Kim and Ophelia Dahl back in Boston. We weren't so sure they would widen their focus to show how our partner organization in Haiti, Zanmi Lasante, has grown and changed since the early days immortalized in Mountains Beyond Mountains, pioneering a model of community-based care that is now being replicated both in villages across Africa and in the streets of Boston.

We needn't have worried. As I should have known, you can't spend a week with Zanmi Lasante without being barraged by one example after another, each more inspiring than the last, and all animated by people whose faces, voices and stories would indisputably make for riveting television. I will cite just three examples.

With a US television audience in mind, we wondered, would the cameras lock in on the one or two North American doctors who



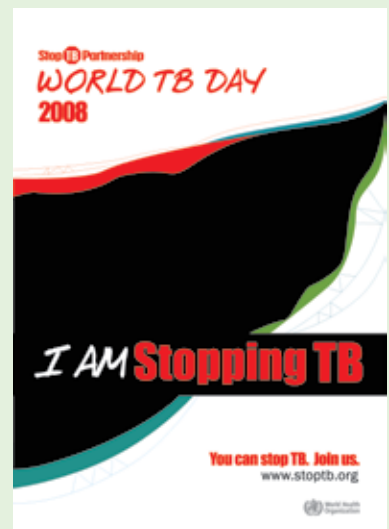
Andrew Marx

#### Quick Links:

[Calendar of events](#)  
[e-Bulletin sign-up](#)  
[Read past issues](#)  
[PIH homepage](#)  
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#### World TB Day

March 24 is World TB Day. According to a recent article in the *New York Times*, about 9 million new cases of the disease are detected each year; and one out of every 20 is drug-resistant. Learn more about how you can help stop this deadly, yet curable disease by clicking on the image below.



work with Zanmi Lasante? Or would they show that Zanmi Lasante is an organization run by Haitians and for Haitians that has become a model for the world?

Then, shortly after they arrived, an ambulance brought in a pregnant woman who was bleeding heavily, suffering from a life-threatening complication in which the placenta blocks the cervix (placenta previa). Almost immediately, she was wheeled into an operating room. And while the CBS cameras rolled, Haitian doctor Eddy Jonas performed a delicate and dangerous emergency cesarean section, backed by an entirely Haitian team. When the camera crew emerged two hours later, visibly shaken and ashen-faced, one of them asked, "What would have happened to this woman before you had an operating room and a surgical team on call?" The answer was short and unambiguous. "She would have died."

Similarly, we wondered whether they would zero in on ZL's pathbreaking success in combating AIDS and ignore our broader efforts to combat the epidemics of hunger and poverty that are the leading causes of disease, despair and death.

Again, no need to worry. On our first walk through the pediatric ward, we saw a young girl spooning a brown paste into the mouth of an emaciated infant in a crib. The brown paste was nourimanba, a nutrition-packed "ready to use therapeutic food" produced locally by Zanmi Lasante. Eight-year-old Gela's story was both heart-wrenching and heartwarming. With a paralyzed mother who could not come to the hospital, Gela had insisted on staying to care for her baby sister. Her



Gela with CBS correspondent Byron Pitts in front of her sister's crib

inquisitive eyes, incandescent smile and compelling story made her a magnet for the camera, a poster girl for the importance of treating hunger and malnutrition. And that message was reinforced two days later by a visit to the bustling malnutrition clinic at Lascahobas, where dozens of women waited patiently under an arbor of flowering vines to have their children weighed and to pick up a supply of nourimanba.

Later that day, we accompanied Dr. David Walton as he hiked for a mile along a winding dirt path to visit Clede Auguste, a 10-year-old girl suffering from heart failure. We arrived to find Clede waiting for us, dressed in her Sunday best and seated in a chair in front of the tiny, two-room shack where she lived with her parents and eight siblings. While David examined Clede, her father explained that before finding Zanmi Lasante the family had sold everything they owned hoping to get treatment for Clede--their land, their house, their two mattresses.

Now, at night, seven of the family members slept on the dirt floor, while Clede's father lay awake on a rough-hewn bedframe with his daughter propped up against him because she couldn't breathe

## **New bill promises \$50 billion to fight AIDS**

Since President Bush pledged \$15 billion to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean five years ago, hundreds of thousands of lives have been saved, according to [a recent article in the \*Washington Post\*](#). However, the program (PEPFAR--the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief) has by no means vanquished the epidemic. So last Wednesday, House leaders and the White House agreed to not only reauthorize the program, but to increase the budget to \$50 billion over five years, according to [an article in the \*Boston Globe\*](#). The bill also includes funding for Malaria, TB, and food support programs. "As someone who has been highly critical of this administration's foreign policies, PEPFAR and other investments in health have outstripped that of all other administrations," said PIH co-founder Paul Farmer in the *Post* article. The bill now goes to a Senate committee. Find out how you can [join the effort to support this important legislation](#).

lying down flat. "Every night I feel her heart pounding against me like this," he said, fluttering his hands to show the rapid, unsteady beat. "Every night I cry."

Before we headed back down the path, David Walton sadly confided that he wasn't sure we could intervene in time to save Clede's life. But we would do our utmost, he vowed, not just to treat her but to help put a roof over her family's heads and food on their plates.

Since returning to the US, I have told these stories and shown these photos many times. I haven't yet made it through from start to finish without a catch in my voice, without tears in my eyes, and without renewed determination to work in solidarity with the people of Central Haiti to restore health and rekindle hope in their communities.

When 60 Minutes airs, you will have a chance to see at least some of these scenes yourselves. I hope they will affect you as they did me. I think they will.

– Andrew Marx, Manager of Communications, PIH



**Dr. David Walton examines Clede Auguste**

## Partners in Profile: Katuska Chalco, Nurse in Peru

When Katuska Chalco started working with Socios En Salud (SES) after graduating from nursing school in 1996, she thought it would be a part-time job. But that changed once she met patients suffering from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). Talking to them about the painful side effects of their medication and the discrimination they endured both at health centers and in their communities made her self-reflect. "It made me understand that there are people who need you, and you need to help them."

Since then, Katy has worked tirelessly with MDR-TB patients in Lima and surrounding areas. She understands that MDR-TB treatment requires not only medication but the social and emotional support patients so often lack. Patients feel isolated because of the stigma attached to the disease. So she makes sure to emphasize that "they can have a normal life, do everything they want. It's not something they have forever, and they aren't condemned to die."

Several years ago, Katy started showing an interest in the research component of SES's work. She has helped coordinate several



Nurse Katuska Chalco; Photograph courtesy of SES

## ***Mountains Beyond Mountains* moves more than mountains**

The book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder has inspired many to take up the cause of social justice and health care, according to [a recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle](#). The article explores the enduring popularity and influence of Kidder's account of PIH's early days in Haiti, quoting from PIH Executive Director Ophelia Dahl and from readers who have taken on projects ranging from an income-generation program for HIV patients in Africa to a children's hospital in Cambodia. Since the article's publication, the book has leapt back into the top 10 bestselling books in the Bay area.

## **...And the First Lady reflects on moving Mountains**

First Lady Laura Bush brandished a copy of *Mountains Beyond Mountains* (quipping that she intended to read it soon) during a video conference with high school students in Missouri. The conference was part of a class on contemporary issues, which also required students to read *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. Mrs. Bush noted that Paul Farmer and PIH offered insight into how one person and a group of like-minded folks could have a big impact on the world, said teacher Matt Cone. Read [an article from the Columbia Missourian](#) about the event.

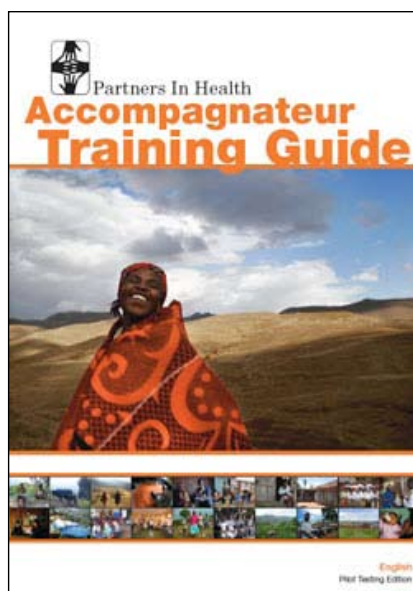
epidemiological studies, and is now taking a leadership role in the first research at SES ever funded by the National Institutes of Health. Her heart, however, remains with her patients. While she is proud of the lifesaving care she has provided, she is quick to point out that she has received as much from her patients as she has given. "They help show you how you could be a better nurse, how to be a human being," she says. "They serve as a guide for your own life."

## **Accompagnateurs 101: Training community health workers**

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*Accompagnateurs* (community health workers) are the backbone of PIH's health care programs, and essential for task shifting. So how do *accompagnateurs* become *accompagnateurs*?

Find out for yourself! PIH's training team recently completed a [pilot curriculum for training \*accompagnateurs\*](#), which is now available online. Based upon adult learning principles, the 15-unit curriculum focuses on treatment and support for patients with HIV/AIDS, STIs and tuberculosis. The curriculum has two overarching goals: to help *accompagnateurs* develop competence in active case-finding for diseases and social needs; and to instill a sense of solidarity and social justice in supporting patients, households and the community.



Pilot testing has already begun with PIH's partner program in Rwanda. "Participants and trainers were extremely enthusiastic just to have a resource like this," said Jill Hackett, PIH's Training Program Manager. "Good materials lead to better trainings, and *accompagnateurs* that are better prepared to do their jobs."

Other partner programs in Lesotho, Malawi, and Haiti hope to test the new curriculum soon. At the same time, PIH would like to learn from your ideas and experiences. Please [visit our website](#) and let us know what you think!

## **Dateline PIH**

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**Dance Dance Revolution:** A 24-hour dance marathon organized by students at Stanford University and [FACE AIDS](#) raised over \$110,000 for PIH. With no caffeine or sitting down allowed, dancers had to rely on their commitment to social justice (and jugs of gatorade) to keep their bodies moving into the wee hours of the morning and beyond. "Dance Marathon and events like it not only provide direct support for PIH's work on the ground in Rwanda, they inspire students to become advocates for the cause of global health equity, and social justice more broadly," said FACE AIDS Director Dave Ryan. Read [an article about the marathon from the Palo Alto Daily News](#).

## **Blogging for Global Health and Delivery**

Check out the [new blog](#) organized by PIH's partners at Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Experts from each organization will post regularly, sharing information, expertise, and experiences.

**Grand rounds on a grand scale:** Doctors from PIH's newest site in Rwanda made the first home visit to a patient—a young mother of five living a two-hour hike from the new Burera health center. Burera is the first health center in an effort to scale up PIH's model for Rwanda's national rural health system. [Read more about this scale-up.](#)



Patrick Almazor, a Haitian physician, completes a milestone for PIH's newest site in Rwanda—a patient home visit. Patricie, the patient, lives a two-hour walk from the health center.

**Sharing another piece of PIH's model with**

**the world:** The WHO recently released [a new report](#) endorsing several of the keys to PIH's model of care, including paid community health workers. Staff from PIH and Zanmi Lasante were among an international committee that developed report, which outline guidelines for task shifting. To read more, please visit our site.

**Партнеры во имя здоровья:** A new Russian homepage for Partners In Health is now online! [Check it out.](#)