

## from Hunger to Laughter

**S**HE CAME TO US swollen, miserable, and lethargic. Dr. Yves, Lifeline's clinic doctor, said that unless measures were taken to improve her condition the 20 pound four-year-old wouldn't survive beyond a couple of weeks. Unable to consistently provide nutrition, her parents had discovered that **even when food was available, the child would eat very little.** Broken and void of hope, Rosealad was giving up.



We had to act quickly. Rosealad was placed in Lifeline's feeding program near her home in Barbancourt. Adam and I invited her to our house at the mission, where she could receive an extra Kids Against Hunger meal in the evenings and on the weekends. Grateful for this provision, her mother repeatedly completed the 30 minute walk through banana fields and across a river to bring the suffering child to get the extra meal that she so desperately needed. **Our hearts were burdened as we witnessed the effects of the physical agony that Rosealad was enduring – the child consumed very little of the life-saving nutrition that was now placed before her.**

Rosealad had Kwashiorkor, a condition more commonly referred to as "wet malnutrition". Potentially fatal, it is a body-depletion disorder characterized by extreme protein deficiency. Typical symptoms include fluid retention (edema), dry skin, and hair discoloration. Rosealad's hands, feet, belly, and face were stretched and swollen. Sores covered her frail body. She came to us one day, infected eyes oozing puss and swollen almost completely shut. Her whole face was tightly distended. To eat was something that she wouldn't even consider. All concerned began to grasp the severity of the situation. **We knew that she needed more than we could give her; and if we did nothing, she would die.** We took her to the Doctor immediately.

Within a couple of hours, the truck was loaded and we were on our way to Grace

Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince. Upon arrival in the malnutrition ward we shuttered at the sight of some of the other children there, wasting away, but somehow still living. Rosealad's mother was instructed to bathe and diaper her, and clothe her in one of the hospital's gowns. We completed paperwork and were required to personally sign as responsible for the child. This procedure is to ensure guardianship in the case that the parents do not return (sadly, a common practice among people in such desperate situations). Her mother placed Rosealad in the baby bed which would be her home for the next 6 weeks, at the same time receiving instruction as to what was expected during the 2 hours daily that she would be allowed to spend with her daughter. Scared and ailing, Rosealad sobbed and screamed as her loving mother resisted every instinct to take her baby into her arms, and go back home.

**I embraced her mom and continually affirmed her — "You are doing the right thing," "This is the best thing you can do for her," "You are a good mother."**

Knowing that necessary actions such as these were more easily spoken than practiced, I realized that my words were likely of little comfort. Regardless, we knew that Rosealad would be well taken care of; she could get the help that she needed at this critical time.

Eight weeks later a laughing little girl appeared back home. Rosealad did not even look like the same child! Having been given the protein her body needed to build muscle and thrive, **her swelling was gone, her hair and skin were healthy, and much to our joy - she could smile again.** Continually growing stronger, she is now able to visit the feeding station every day for a wholesome, protein-packed meal that provides the nourishment she needs to live a healthy life.





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### Prayer Requests

- Please be in prayer for **Sis. Pat Lemke**, Brother Lemke's wife. She is battling esophageal cancer. Thank the Lord that she made it through her surgery well but still needs prayer.
- Bro. Bob Rauch** from Lancaster, Ohio has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and needs our prayers. Please take him on your heart.
- The Haiti Lifeline Convention** will be held from February 26 – March 1. We desire your prayers that the Lord will bless this convention. Pray that people will accept the Lord.
- Bro. Robert Rice** is enduring significant back difficulties. He has been a wonderful volunteer here at the Lifeline building in Kentucky. Please pray that the Lord delivers him from this terrible affliction.

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”*

—Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

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