



Hal and Chis Nuninger, the parents of H.I.S. Home, a Crèche in Haiti



Playground Goes to Haiti

By Sandra Webb

In October 2010, Brian Nichols and I travelled to Haiti with Mission of T.E.A.R.S. This Toronto based agency does humanitarian work in many countries around the world (www.missionoftears.ca). Our work was primarily with H.I.S. Home for Children (www.hishomeforchildren.com), a Crèche for children. The Crèche has 80 children in their main home. H.I.S. Home was asked by Social Services in Haiti to begin a separate home for girls who have been sexually abused in the tent camps. Brian and I were asked to look at the feasibility of setting up therapeutic programs for these girls. We feel fortunate that we were able to go to Haiti. We witnessed firsthand the devastation that this country has experienced including the effects this has had on the children of Haiti. It was a privilege to be able to go to Haiti and offer our expertise in Play Therapy, Art Therapy and Sandtray Therapy. The plan was that we would return to Haiti

every three months. Unfortunately, Brian and I concluded that the staff of the girl's home was not qualified to support the therapeutic programs in our absence and that this is not their role. For now, the home and its staff are focusing on the basic needs of the children – safety, food and shelter. The board of Mission of Tears is reviewing the plan for this project in Haiti and our possible role in the future. When we began our careers, we had no idea where it would take us. It is good to trust in this process and know that our lives will take us to the places we are meant to be. Brian and I felt so blessed to have skills to offer these children and the country of Haiti.

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