

PIM partners in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region:

- Three autonomous provinces: The Church in the Province of the West Indies (CPWI), The Province of the Southern Cone of South America (IASCA), The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil (IEAB).
- The Diocese of Cuba.
- Four theological institutions: Codrington College in Barbados, the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica, the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cuba, the Centro de Estudos Biblicos in Brazil.

There are several Canadian Companion Diocese relationships in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Diocese of Calgary and Diocese of the Windward Islands
- Diocese of Central Newfoundland and Diocese of Belize (in discussion)
- Diocese of Fredericton and Diocese of Recife, Brazil
- Diocese of Kootenay and Diocese of Northern Mexico
- Diocese of Niagara and Diocese of Cuba
- Diocese of Ontario and Diocese of Southwest Brazil
- Diocese of Ottawa and Diocese of Pelotas, Brazil
- Diocese of Saskatoon and Diocese of Guyana.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA PARTNERS IN MISSION IN THE LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN REGION

This large, diverse region consists of over 35 independent states that range in size from Brazil, roughly the same area of landmass as Canada, to the southeastern Caribbean island states, many smaller than Prince Edward Island. The gap between the poor and the rich in the region is growing steadily and alarmingly. Although the Anglican Church has not officially endorsed a 'preferential option for the poor' it is being challenged by its members to become more outspoken in its support for those who are on the margins of society and who need to hear a liberating gospel.



Of special note is our missionary relationship with the Diocese of Cuba (IEC), which was at one time a diocese within the Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA). Due to the political conflict between the USA and Cuba it was not possible to maintain this relationship, and since 1967 the IEC has been an extra-provincial diocese within the Anglican Communion. Metropolitan authority is in the hands of the Metropolitan Council of Cuba (MCC), consisting of two Anglican Communion primates and an ECUSA bishop. The president of the MCC is Archbishop Andrew Hutchison.

External funding to assist the IEC comes from two primary sources--the Anglican Church of Canada and the Episcopal Church in the USA. For a period of around 18 months, from June 2002 - December 2003, funding from ECUSA was prohibited in accordance with the U.S. Patriot Act. In 2004 a licence was obtained from the US treasury that allows some of these payments to be resumed, specifically pension payments and some other limited funding. Canadian funding has not been affected.

MISSION PRIORITIES IN THE REGION

Our Anglican-Episcopal partners in the region have identified the following areas of work as priorities: 1) theological education; 2) evangelism and missionary expansion; 3) justice-making; 4) infrastructure and material support. Since the year 2000, funding has generally been sent as a block grant to be administered by the provinces. This policy is in line with the principles of partnership that recognise the local church as being best able to make local funding decisions.

THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

REGIONAL PROFILE: LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

MEET A PWRDF PARTNER:

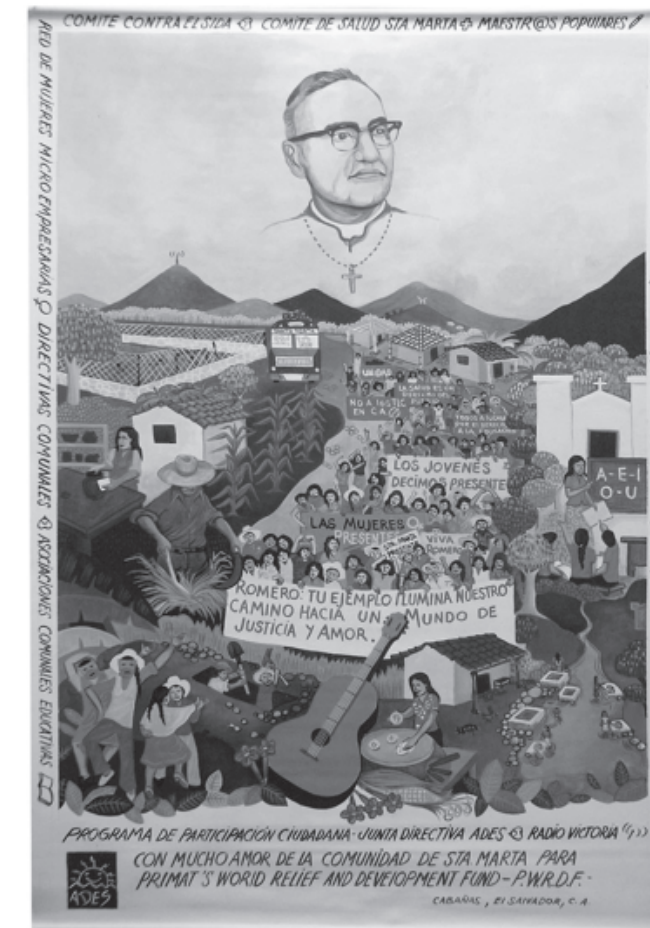
A VISIT TO ADES* IN SENSUNTEPEQUE, EL SALVADOR

In early 2004, PWRDF Director Andrew Ignatieff visited long-term partner ADES in El Salvador. The community presented him with a painted wall hanging (right) as a testimonial to their partnership with PWRDF over the years.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OF THE ADES PROJECT?

ADES emerged out of the massive violation of human rights, killing and displacement of large numbers of people, destruction of infrastructure, and the economic consequences of the protracted civil war in El Salvador. Members from ADES started working with the women of Santa Marta who were living with their children and some elders in a refugee camp across the border in Honduras. Most of their husbands, brothers, and sons had been killed when the community was flattened in an army attack during the war. ADES facilitated their return to El Salvador and started work on meeting their immediate needs for housing, health care, and education for their children.

Through the collaboration between ADES and the women of Santa Marta, the community has come back to life. A whole new generation is growing up in peacetime, attending school, planting and harvesting crops, setting up small businesses, and communicating with the outside world. The pioneering ADES work in Santa Marta has engaged the commitment of people from the surrounding region so that more than 40 communities are now participating in leadership development and capacity building training as well as social, cultural, and economic development projects. There is a strong emphasis on youth involvement in all ADES projects. This is true development from the ground up!



*We plant seeds
that one day will grow.*

—Oscar Romero



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The first years of the 21st century have been ones of economic and political upheaval for the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

- In December 2001 Argentina's economy, once considered one of the strongest in the region, collapsed, and virtually overnight Argentina's poverty rate jumped from 35% (12 million) to 53% (19 million). The election in Brazil of Luis Inácio da Silva, "Lula", in October 2002, highlighted the growing opposition in various countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to economic policies established by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

- January 2004 marked both the 10th anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and of the indigenous uprising by the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), who linked NAFTA to their historic and continuing marginalization and oppression.

- Since September 11, 2001, the U.S. has increasingly militarized the region. It maintains and has expanded military bases and operations in Guatemala, Cuba, Honduras, Panama, Puerto Rico, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Aruba and Curaçao, and is pursuing bases in El Salvador, Argentina and Brazil.

REGIONAL PROFILE: LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Despite declining and stagnating incomes in the region, hope and creativity continue to emerge in quite different ways that are counter to the formal political party structures of the 70s and 80s. People organize around common cultural and ethnic identities. Groups mobilize for basic human rights locally, nationally and internationally. Networks emerge out of specific and shared suffering. PWRDF works with partners engaged in such groups in Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

BUILDING A MORAL ECONOMY AND WEAVING A CULTURE OF PEACE WITH JUSTICE

PWRDF's Latin America/Caribbean program emphasizes training for capacity building and advocacy, policy work, and the building and strengthening of networks and grassroots groups to affect social change and lobby for human, economic, social and cultural rights. It supports organizations and individual efforts aimed at strengthening democracy and reducing or eliminating inequalities based on race, social class and gender.

Food and environmental sustainability are a part of the sustainable program of the Cuban Council of Churches and of the food production at the Christian Center for Reflection and Dialogue in Cuba.

Partners find themselves responding to ever-increasing demands for social education and training as part of expanding urban and rural social movements. The Latin America Press, a Latin America and Caribbean alternative newspaper, raises public awareness throughout the region by reaching out to the public, governments and other NGOs through regular bulletins, a Web site, and newsletter publications that address a variety of important issues. The Martin Luther King Center Leadership Program in Cuba and the Training School for Social Movement Educators (EQUIP) in Brazil, deliver training programs for youth in individual communities in various states.

TRANSPARENCY WITH GOVERNMENTS

In their efforts to improve access to social services and lobby against corruption, several PWRDF partners have been successful in establishing a more democratic and transparent dialogue with municipal, regional and national government authorities. Christian Medical Action in Nicaragua has achieved credibility with both official authorities and local communities that allows it to play an active role on health matters, such

as lobbying for people's access to essential medicines. The Brazilian government agency *Fundação Palmares* and the Regional Prosecutor's office recognized KOINONIA (Ecumenical Responses to Major Brazilian Social Issues) as a main actor in defence of Black Communities' Rights. KOINONIA also established a relationship with the International Labour Organization to work towards convincing the government to treat cases of rural workers, forced to grow drugs, as a situation of a "most dangerous form of labour" and not as a police matter.



SOUTH-SOUTH NETWORKING

The strengthening of south-south networks plays a central role in most of our partners' work. For organizations like Madre Tierra and Ixmucane in Guatemala, organizations made up of women who reside in various spread-out communities, networking makes it possible to develop regional strategies. In Brazil, KOINONIA managed to bring together a mix of churches for cooperative discussions, including Pentecostal churches that traditionally have been very hostile to ecumenical cooperation and that still refuse to see HIV/AIDS as a very serious problem in Brazil. The development of the National Protestant Solidarity Network for HIV/AIDS work increases KOINONIA's capacity to influence churches and civil society at regional and national levels.

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Latin American and Caribbean women face great economic disadvantages. Regional networks, such as the Women's Pastoral Training Program CEDEPCA, and the Continental Network of Indigenous women, as well as CIEDEG, IXMUCANE and Madre Tierra in Guatemala have been able to train more female leaders and open more spaces for women's participation in development. Their communities benefit as women take their places in public deliberation and decision-making.

We continue to work with ecumenical colleagues in Canada, particularly KAIROS, to better strategize about, and coordinate work in Central America.

Despite the increase of democratically elected governments in the region, the political and economic reforms of the last 20 years have not produced the desired results.

- 20% of the population owns 60% of the wealth and the poorest 40% has just 10%.

- 10.7% of the work force in the region is unemployed.

- Nearly 60% of the 193 million children and adolescents in the region are poor.

- 1.6 million of the Latin American population are now infected with HIV. The Caribbean has the second-highest prevalence in the world after sub-Saharan Africa. (World Health Organization)

—from United Nations Development Program report on Democracy in Latin America, April 2004