

PEW Bulletin Stories:

Under the Sun: December #39

How to use these stories- LEARN, PRAY, ACT, GIVE

These short stories are primarily designed for pew bulletins or church newsletters to encourage generosity and learning about PWRDF ministry. They are also useful for bulletin boards, case studies in workshops and illustrations in sermons. Equally important are the prayers you offer publicly and in private for PWRDF partners around the world. PWRDF is the work of Anglicans in Canada who learn, pray, act and give for the realization of a world where there is *enough for all*.

For a PDF version of the most recent bulletin stories go to www.pwrdf.org/resources and click on General Resources and then Bulletin Stories. To LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partners visit the story gallery: www.pwrdf.org/stories.



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December 2007

CANADA/GLOBAL

Calling on the Canadian government to engage in constructive dialogue with Indigenous peoples

Canadian human rights and social justice groups joined Indigenous peoples' organizations in welcoming the September 13 decision of the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the long-awaited UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous peoples in every region of the world face daily threats to their well-being and survival. The adoption of the Declaration sends a clear message that this has to change. Now that the Declaration is part of the international rights laws and standards, human rights groups and Indigenous peoples' organizations in Canada are urging the federal government to return to a constructive dialogue with Indigenous peoples about its implementation.

Please PRAY for Indigenous peoples and their quest for self-determination.



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CANADA

PWRDF assumes its membership at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

PWRDF is now one of the fifteen members of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), an organization working to end world hunger. On behalf of its members, the Foodgrains Bank collects grain and cash donations, provides funds and expert advice for projects submitted by member agencies and their partners, manages the procurement and supply of food commodities, and engages in public policy and education activities related to hunger and food security. We are thankful to all individual Anglicans and parishes who have been journeying with CFGB in its noble mission. We also would like to welcome and encourage other Anglicans in Canada to join us and be part of this work to end world hunger.

Please PRAY for the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and for the millions of people who go to bed hungry every night.



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BURMA

Villagers come together in protest and prayer for peace

As the international community focuses its attention on the growing urban protest movement in Burma, awareness of the emerging village-level demonstrations in Karen State, and across rural Burma, is crucial, reports PWRDF partner the Karen Human Rights Group. Villagers in rural areas of Karen State started their own local actions in solidarity with wider anti-regime demonstrations. This group included Buddhist monks as well as both Buddhist and Christian teachers and parents and students from neighbouring villages. Community leaders and monks provided information regarding the broader country-wide protest movement and led fellow villagers in both Buddhist and Christian prayers in accordance to their particular religious beliefs appealing for a peaceful outcome in the country, an end to violence and the triumph of tolerance and loving-kindness in Burma and around the world.

Please PRAY for the people of Burma as they seek peace and an end to violence.



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CUBA

PWRDF partner is the backbone for the community

PWRDF partner Christian Centre for Reflection and Dialogue (CCRD) is located in Cardenas, a city of approximately 100,000 near Varadero, Cuba's largest tourist city. The centre provides meals, pastoral care and psychosocial support to the community. Educational and agricultural programs are also offered. The Christian Centre also has a farm that produces food for 13 local institutions and provides nutritional food for patients living with HIV and AIDS. The centre also produces bio-gas as an alternative source of energy. Of the 190 bio-gas plants found in Matanzas Province, 97 of those were built by CCRD.

Please PRAY for the work of the Christian Centre as they continue to live up to the challenges and provide the necessary services for their community.



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INDIA

PWRDF partner advocating for the safe return of refugees

PWRDF partner the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfFERR) is advocating for the safe return of Sri Lankan refugees who are based in Tamil Nadu, India. Few of the 800,000 people displaced by war have been able to return to their villages in Sri Lanka amidst many challenges; many of their homes are in "High Security Zones" controlled by the government military and others are in areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Over a million landmines are scattered in war-affected areas, fishing restrictions in coastal areas, the absence of jobs, schools and hospitals are all factors faced by the returnees. In spite of these obstacles, the Tamil refugees reaffirm their resolve and their right to return to their country as part of a democratic peace process.

Please PRAY for peace in Sri Lanka and for the refugees' safe return to their home country.



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KENYA

Home-based caregivers lead by example

PWRDF partner, Holy Will Women's Group based in Nyanza, Kenya, is leading by example as all of their members who volunteer as care-givers were tested for HIV at a local voluntary counselling and testing centre. This prompted other community members to be tested. The women's group trains peer educators, who in turn raise awareness around HIV and AIDS issues with their peers through weekly campaigns and events at various market places and at the local beach. Nyanza is one of the areas in Kenya hardest hit by HIV and AIDS. Several houses have been abandoned, in one village of approximately 35 households, 30 of those have buried one or two family members who have died of AIDS.

Please PRAY for Holy Will Women's Group as they continue to accompany community members in their fight against HIV and AIDS.



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GLOBAL

2007 World AIDS Day focuses on Leadership

According to latest UNAIDS estimates, there are now 39.5 million people living with HIV, including 2.3 million children. During 2006 some 4.3 million people were newly infected with the virus. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before they are 25 and die of AIDS before they are 35. The 2007 theme, "leadership", highlights the need for innovation, vision and perseverance in the face of the AIDS challenge. The campaign calls on all sectors of society such as families, communities and civil society organizations - rather than just governments - to take the initiative and provide leadership on AIDS.

Please PRAY for those affected and infected by HIV and AIDS and for each of us to become a leader in the fight against AIDS.



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