

PEW Bulletin Stories:

Under the Sun: July #38

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 Canadian Anglicans who learn, act, give and pray 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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PAKISTAN

Training youth to help in reconstruction efforts after the 2005 earthquake

PWRDF partner Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan, has been assisting survivors of the 2005 Pakistan earthquake by providing vocational training to young men, giving them a means to earn an income and support themselves and their families again.

CWS-P/A established three Construction Trades Training Centers (CTTCs) in the earthquake-affected areas. So far over 400 young men have been trained in masonry, electrical works, plumbing, welding and carpentry. Upon graduation, trainees receive government-recognized diplomas and a toolbox. CWS-P/A anticipates to train and equip about 1,800 young survivors from earthquake-affected households and municipalities at several CTTCs established in the areas of Mansehra and Battagram.

Please PRAY for Church World Service- Pakistan/Afghanistan as they continue to accompany the earthquake survivors



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KENYA

Providing food security for drought affected communities

Villagers in the Tigithi Rift Valley in Mount Kenya still remember the "early years", when there were fewer droughts and more forests, but today with increased deforestation and less rain, the villagers have been facing severe droughts. PWRDF partner Christian Community Services (CCS) in Mount Kenya has been working with the local villagers on famine mitigation projects. The projects are aimed at rehabilitating irrigation schemes, providing training in dry land farming and promoting reforestation.

Because of the improved techniques in home fertilizer production, one villager said that, he had saved 1,500 Kenyan Shillings, about CAD \$25, by not buying fertilizer. The CCC trainers also teach the villagers how to cook and dry vegetables for storage.

Please PRAY for Christian Community Services as they work with the communities to mitigate drought



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PHILIPPINES

Community theatre a vehicle for social justice promotion

Teatro Obrero is a community theatre group of the National Sugar Workers Federation based in Bacolod, the capital of Negros Occidental in the Philippines. Negros Occidental is the sugar growing region in the Central South region of Visayas and 80% of its population are sugar plantation workers.

The group, made up of young people, uses open-air theatre performances as a vehicle for social education and empowerment of youth as well as the community. Their presentations reflect and decry exploitation by plantation owners and human rights abuse. Through music, dance and poetry, they challenge the community to come together and collectively deal with the human rights abuses affecting their lives on the plantations, sending a strong message of hope.

Please PRAY for the theatre group as they continue to empower their communities



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SRI LANKA

Challenges in providing relief in times of conflict

Since Sri Lanka's 2002 cease-fire between the army and the Tamil Tigers, many Internally Displaced People (IDP) in the north and east of the country have been impacted by one calamity after another – war, floods, tsunami and again war – without having the chance to fully recover.

The limited food supply in the conflict-affected areas has caused many problems for the IDPs, as well as for the rest of the communities. Medicine is also scarce and the price of the few available items have escalated beyond the reach of most people. Abductions are reported daily. PWRDF partner, the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL), has been carrying out emergency relief distributions to assist the most vulnerable communities under challenging and dangerous conditions.

Please PRAY for peace in Sri Lanka and the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka as they continue to assist the affected communities.



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BURUNDI

Helping returning refugees to re-settle

Burundi is still struggling with the effects of the just ended fratricidal civil war, where brother killed brother. There is much peace-building and reconciliation work that needs to be done. PWRDF partner, Conseil Nationale des Eglises du Burundi (CNEB) -National Council of Churches in Burundi, runs a re-settlement program for returnees who are returning from the refugee camps in Tanzania.

Through its women's department, CNEB organizes an annual peace festival that brings women from different ethnic background and provinces together to discuss issues pertaining to peace in their communities. They also seek commitment from the leadership of the country to the peace agenda.

Please PRAY for the people of Burundi as they seek peaceful ways to again live as brothers and sisters



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MEXICO

Sustainable community gardens

In Benito Juarez, Chiapas, in Mexico, villagers are still benefiting from a post-Hurricane Stan project that saw them starting community gardens. PWRDF partner, K'in al Antzetik, introduced the project. The beneficiaries, who are mainly women, emphasised that the project was not about providing seeds and other inputs, but about acquiring knowledge and learning through various workshops on family nutrition, food preparation and gardening, as well as women's health and human rights.

Women grow their native plants in some of the community gardens and are familiar with the nutritional properties of the plants, their use and conservation. The women also organise community breakfasts where they come together to discuss issues that are of concern to them.

Please PRAY for K'in al Antzetik as they continue to accompany the women of Benito Juarez.



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CANADA

Fifth Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas

Indigenous women from 17 countries across North, Central and South America gathered in Kahnawake, Quebec July 9-11, for their Fifth Continental meeting under the theme Restoring our Balance. PWRDF Indigenous partners also attended the meeting which brought together participants from Chile, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Nicaragua, Venezuela, the United States and Canada.

The women discussed among other things, human rights challenges faced by Indigenous women and legal as well as traditional and holistic approaches to remedying their causes and effects, with a special emphasis on physical, mental, spiritual and emotional healing. The goal of the conference was to empower Indigenous women and celebrate their identities and providing long-lasting solutions to the challenges faced by Indigenous communities in the Americas.

Please PRAY for the Indigenous Women as they continue to seek sustainable solutions to their daily challenges.



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