

PEW Bulletin Stories:

Under the Sun: March #37

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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March 2007

South Africa

Women for Peace Community Development Program

Women for Peace is a long-term PWRDF partner. The organization is atypical in the sense that they are not organized as a formal Non-governmental Organization (NGO); rather it is a group of women who came together during Apartheid to defy the status quo. At that time, they were a revolutionary group that brought together middle and upper-middle class white women and black and coloured women from the townships to fight injustice and work towards ending Apartheid. As times changed, they regrouped and continued to respond to the needs of the poorest communities in the country, those with issues such as unemployment and HIV and AIDS.

Please PRAY for Women for Peace as they seek to address the new challenges faced by the impoverished people in South Africa



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Philippines

Stop the Political Killings!

Since 2001, more than 750 social activists, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, peasant workers and Indigenous activists, including 22 church workers, have been killed in the Philippines. These killings continue to this day. The Philippine government has not only failed to conduct effective investigations into the killings, it has been unresponsive to complaints raised by families of victims, churches and civil society groups. International pressure is crucial to stopping the political killings.

PWRDF partners in the Philippines are calling on all Canadians to pressure the Canadian government to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian Mission at the United Nations to call for an investigation into the political killings by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. .

Please PRAY for PWRDF Partners in the Philippines as they continue campaigning for an end to the political killings.



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Thai-Burma Border

Addressing Drug Abuse is Vital

Since 2001, PWRDF partner DARE (Drug Addiction Recovery & Education Program) has worked towards setting up drug recovery treatment facilities along the northern Thai-Burma border. They have also implemented training sessions for community addiction workers.

Each year thousands of tons of opium and millions of methamphetamine tablets from Burma are exported to the rest of the world through Southeast Asia. . This situation is devastating for refugees, internally displaced peoples and migrant workers who reside in Burma's border regions, particularly along the Thai-Burma border. Children in the camps start smoking as early as 8 years of age and are using drugs by the time they are 12 years old. Migrant Burmese workers are also increasingly vulnerable.

Please PRAY for DARE as they work to eradicate drug abuse and trafficking in their communities



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Canada/Switzerland

Working Ecumenically to Respond to Worldwide Emergencies and Development

PWRDF carries out its emergency relief work through Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, a global alliance of churches and related agencies in nearly 100 countries. Former director Reverend White Rakuba, says this of ACT's work: "We believe that God's love for humankind knows no boundaries. As a Christian alliance, we believe that there is no greater way of serving God than in unconditional Christian love, which serves all our neighbours in need."

In February 2007, a new global alliance known as ACT Development was officially formed. This alliance will focus on long-term development and building on the emergency response work already undertaken by ACT International. PWRDF is also a member of ACT Development.

Please PRAY for the two global alliances as they seek new ways of working together and strengthening their relationships



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Guatemala

Capacity Development for Women

Most women in the rural communities of Guatemala have no formal education and some women leaders have not completed high school. PWRDF partner Ixmucane, a women's health and birth center in Antigua, recognised that this lack of formal education hampers the progress of women's advancement in their communities. They started a training program to provide capacity and encouragement with the aim of increasing the participation and involvement of women in decision-making processes and self-reliance. They also provide opportunities for women members to attend international events and participate in national and international networks.

Please PRAY for the work done by Ixmucane as they seek to increase the capacity of rural women in their communities



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Tanzania

Goats Provide a Livelihood for People Living with HIV and AIDS in Masasi

PWRDF partner in Tanzania, the Anglican Diocese of Masasi, provides goats to people living with HIV and AIDS in 15 villages. The goats have adapted to the climate and most of them bear twins. The beneficiaries are required to pass on the first female to another beneficiary and they can either keep or sell the second offspring. Through the goat project, families are provided with supplementary nutrition from the milk. By selling milk and goats, the families are able to provide school fees and uniforms for their children.

Please PRAY for the Diocese of Masasi as they continue to support people living with HIV and AIDS



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Canada

"Leadership" chosen as theme for World AIDS Day

Some church leaders throughout the world continue to deny the existence of HIV and AIDS in the communities and congregations they serve. Governments are complacent and have not provided the leadership needed to end the epidemic. "Leadership" has been chosen as the theme for 2007 and 2008 World AIDS Day, supported with the slogan "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise," which is the World AIDS Campaign emphasis from 2005-2010. By taking on the global theme of leadership, church leaders and the communities they are a part of can help articulate a vision, build relationships and take concrete action in solidarity with all people committed to reaching universal access for HIV prevention, treatment and care.

Please PRAY for Canada's church leaders as they address stigma and challenge the government to live up to its promises.



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