

## PWRDF STORIES December 2005

### 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 as 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](http://www.pwrdf.org/resources) and click on General Resources. To LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partners visit the story gallery: [www.pwrdf.org/stories](http://www.pwrdf.org/stories).

**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada  
[www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org)

### Health, land and water in Nicaragua

PWRDF supports Christian Medical Action's (CMA) Land Bank Project in Matagalpa, which allows families to become self-sufficient and own 3 *manzanas* (0.5 hectares) of land after ten years. CMA obtains land and gives it in trust to families who cultivate it to provide resources for daily subsistence and income to purchase the land. CMA reinvests the repayments by buying additional land to expand the number of beneficiaries. Growing organic corn and beans as staple subsistence food is an immediate, short-term result. Over time, vegetables are introduced. With long-term economic results in view, families plant trees that will eventually be harvested for the construction and furniture industries.

Visit [www.pwrdf.org/stories](http://www.pwrdf.org/stories) to LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partner Christian Medical Action.



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

### Success! Now move on.

For a decade the development staff of the Diocese of Ruaha (The Anglican Church of Tanzania) worked with the people of Uhambingeto. Located in a hot, dry plain, the community had no source of clean water, no proper health care, and the quality and quantity of food was inadequate. After ten years of support and accompaniment the village now has clean water that has reduced water-borne diseases by 80%, to say nothing of eliminating the drudgery of carrying water from many kilometres away. A medical clinic, now supported by the Government of Tanzania, has reduced maternal and infant mortality rates to almost zero. The situation in Uhambingeto is vastly improved and now self-sustaining. It's time to move on. Other communities are waiting for help.

Visit [www.pwrdf.org/stories](http://www.pwrdf.org/stories) to LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partner the Diocese of Ruaha.



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

### Bringing together anthropology and missiology

How do the churches accompany indigenous peoples? In Brazil, staff of the Protestant Missionary Working Group (GTME) sit in a thatched longhouse perched above a magnificent waterfall on the Formoso River. They listen quietly to the dreams the Parecis people have for lifting themselves out of poverty and marginalization—developing the area into an eco-tourism destination run by five villages of the Indigenous Territory of Rio Formoso. In order to do that, they need to control the headwaters of the rivers that run through their territory. It is the staff's job to be a bridge between the Parecis and the churches, to better articulate the mission of the churches in and with indigenous communities, bringing together “anthropology and missiology”.

Visit [www.pwrdf.org/stories](http://www.pwrdf.org/stories) to LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partner GTME with Indigenous people.



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

## International Initiative on Corruption and Governance

What will positively benefit the lives of poor communities in the global South—the urban poor and industrial labour workers, peasants and small farmers, fisherfolks, indigenous communities, professionals and the urban middle class—who suffer from exorbitant water rates, lack of access to and control of irrigation water and fishing areas? What can stem the tide of ecological destruction and the private appropriation of ancestral domains due to large-scale dam projects? The International Initiative on Corruption and Governance (IICG) will raise the issues and develop policy positions at a discussion-forum “Corruption and Governance Issues in Water Resources in the South” at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Mexico City, March 2006.

Visit [www.pwrdf.org/stories](http://www.pwrdf.org/stories) to LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partner IICG.



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

## Overcoming Shadows in Burma

“Water has many moods. It can be bright and sparkling, reflecting the sun. It can be still and deep, calm and reflecting. I can feel the water inside me—sometimes salty like tears and sometimes like a deep deep well of wisdom...All of you have taught me now to be strong like water. You face so many obstacles, so many boulders and rocks blocking your way. But like water, you never stop. You keep moving, finding your way over, under, around. Slowly, slowly wearing away the stone. You keep pushing on—pushing, pushing home. Like water.” —Laura

—from *Overcoming Shadows*”, a little book published by the Women’s League of Burma, with stories by women who are building peace in their home countries

Visit [www.pwrdf.org/stories](http://www.pwrdf.org/stories) to LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partner Women’s League of Burma.



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

## Land justice in the Philippines

Marmol tenant farmers (Cebu, Philippines) are avid listeners to PWRDF partner FARDEC’s Sunday radio programs in which farmers discuss agrarian reform laws and basic rights. When Marmol landowners informed tenants that they should prepare to leave the land, the farmers went to FARDEC’s office to seek help. Research revealed that the acreage is classified as “public land” with jurisdiction by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and therefore no landowner can lay claim to it. Standing up for their rights has brought harassment and death threats to the farmers, but the United Farmers in Marmol (NAMAMA) is a dynamic organization with strong leaders and active members.

Visit [www.pwrdf.org/stories](http://www.pwrdf.org/stories) to LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partner FARDEC (Central Visayas Farmers Development Center).



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

## Empowering First Nations to find solutions

Vancouver Island is renowned for the unique culture and traditions of the 14 Nuu-chah-nulth speaking First Nations who have flourished there for thousands of years and represent approximately 8500 people. Through a partnership with PWRDF the Nuu-chah-nulth Language & Culture Program was established in 2002 to support the Nuu-chah-nulth people of Vancouver Island in language recovery and revival. Enthusiasm has spread through the communities. Language immersion camps and resource development projects are beginning to be common in the villages. People are beginning to be more optimistic towards the future survival of their language.

Visit [www.pwrdf.org/stories](http://www.pwrdf.org/stories) to LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partner Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation.



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

## Knowledge is power

—and never more so than when it comes to fighting AIDS. PWRDF partners throughout Kenya and Tanzania counsel, educate and accompany victims of the disease. Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres (VCTs) exist throughout the region but getting people to use them is a challenge. People learn that with medicine and improved nutrition, a healthier HIV positive life is possible and a friend will be there to help cope with the test results. Abstinence, marital faithfulness and the use of condoms are important aspects of education in the war against AIDS. In Nairobi a billboard for VCTs shows a lovely woman with her healthy husband and children—”I’m getting tested because I love my family.”

*Please PRAY that our partners in Kenya and Tanzania may have the strength and clarity to continue the work they do for people affected by HIV/AIDS.*



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

## Battling AIDS through nutrition

**Mount Kenya Region Christian Community Services, Kenya**

PWRDF is helping Kenyans battle AIDS. In Kimathi, staff reach out to minister and educate. A nurse brings needed medicine and advice on nutrition. An agricultural officer helps people improve their crops in order to supplement their diet and thus improve nutrition. Helen, a young woman of 23, suffered from such severe opportunistic skin infections that she could not walk or talk—but now she can. Esther, a girl of 13, has lived with HIV for years and has already lost both mother and father. She lives with her grandmother and is now healthy enough to once again attend school. With improved nutrition people like Helen and Esther have hope.

*Visit [www.pwrdf.org/our-work/partnership-for-life](http://www.pwrdf.org/our-work/partnership-for-life) to LEARN more about AIDS work supported by PWRDF.*



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

## The healing power of love

**Soweto Home-Care Givers Association, South Africa**

An organization that provides homecare services for victims with AIDS, Soweto Home-Care Givers Association really goes the extra mile. 12 women, 3 men and 32 youth volunteers bath, treat bed sores, provide food and bandages as well as take time to share stories and conversation with dozens of people lacking the strength to care for themselves. For the 156 patients who received care this year, these self-sacrificing individuals are angels walking on earth. With so much death and dying, there is a high turnover of staff. “A while ago, we had a volunteer who came for three months... she lasted three weeks. She couldn’t cope with so much death.” This is the reality of a world with HIV/AIDS: it is a disease that is shockingly visible leaving behind terrible devastation. These volunteers are working unceasingly and with few resources, to minimize the pain and ease the burden.

*Please PRAY for those who work at the Soweto Home Care Givers Association.*



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

## Hearts for AIDS in Etwatwa

A huge bowl of soup cooks on the stove as women gather to create beaded, heart-shaped pins with the red AIDS ribbon at its centre. These HIV positive women in Etwatwa, South Africa, some of whom shared their hopes and fears in the PWRDF Point of Light AIDS Vigil, are making the hearts in a job creation project at the John Wesley Community Centre. South African bead artist Patience Ford, who also designs and creates beaded copes, taught 40 women in their 20s and 30s how to create the pins that are being sold through The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund for \$5 each. \$1 will return to the Etwatwan women and \$4 will go to PWRDF-supported AIDS programs.

*Please PRAY for the young women in the Point of Light project as they accompany one another through life and into death.*



**Thank you for GIVING to**  
**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
The Anglican Church of Canada