

PEW Bulletin Stories

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. To LEARN more about the work of PWRDF partners visit the story gallery: www.pwrdf.org/stories.



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June 2006

MEXICO

PWRDF partner K'inal Antzetik aims to reduce maternal mortality

Maternal mortality is one of the major health care problems faced by Indigenous women in Mexico. The women have no access to adequate health care and most of the communities are located far from the major health centres. PWRDF's partner K'inal Antzetik works specifically with Indigenous women supporting them as they organize to defend their communities and win access to health care. K'inal provides training to traditional midwives who are key players in the communities during child birth.

K'inal also provides gender training for men in the communities, to educate them in child care and to emphasize their role as fathers during and after their wives pregnancies.

Please PRAY for K'inal Antzetik and the Indigenous communities in Mexico, as they work together to reduce maternal mortality and lobby for adequate health care.



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MOZAMBIQUE

Micro-credit union for women by women

PWRDF partner, CAIXA das Mulheres de Nampula (CMN) is a micro-credit union for women, run by women. It provides loans, training and business accompaniment to low-income women in Nampula. The organization, started 12 years ago with a handful of women. Today it has 2,300 members.

Maheja is a typical CAIXA member; she is illiterate and has difficulty with Portuguese, the official language of Mozambique. When she joined CAIXA she could only afford to borrow the equivalent of \$100 for a period, of six months. Today she is able to borrow up to a maximum of \$2000. With her husband's help, Maheja currently runs three small-scale businesses. She has 13 employees and has been able to pay university tuition for two of her children.

Please PRAY for CAIXA as they provide women with the power to be self-sustainable



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SRI LANKA

Recognising the important role of women in the aftermath of the Tsunami

The tsunami that struck Sri Lanka in December 2004, has had a major impact on the social, traditional and customary role of women in the country. It has not merely reinforced the traditional role of women as care-givers, but also given them an opportunity to play a key role in rebuilding the family in particular and the society at large. In the aftermath of the tsunami, there has been an exodus of women in search of jobs to subsidize their family income since most of the men lost their livelihoods in the fishing industry.

PWRDF partner Savisthri is working with the local communities, raising awareness and advocating for the primary role of women as care-givers to be recognized, ensuring that women are gainfully employed and providing capacity building for the women.

Please PRAY for the work of Savisthri and the women in Sri Lanka as they work to rebuild their lives



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KENYA

Living positively with HIV and AIDS

Francis Chiguyu is an AIDS worker from Christian Community Services (CCS) of Mount Kenya Diocese. When he heard that Anna Njeri's husband had died after a 'long and debilitating disease', he decided to visit Anna. He had to gain Anna's trust and respect before she confided in him and he encouraged her to be tested for AIDS. Unfortunately, the test confirmed that she was HIV-positive.

With Francis help, Anna was able to cope with the news and learn how to live with the disease. Through the continued support of the church, Anna got her training in Home-Based Care Skills and now works with the CCS Home Care Team, caring for other people living with HIV and AIDS. By reaching out to people like Anna, the church is de-stigmatizing AIDS and helping people who are HIV-positive continue to live with dignity, earn an income and contribute to society.

Please PRAY for the courageous work of the Christian Community Services staff



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CANADA

Indigenous People's AIDS Satellite

HIV and AIDS are alive and well in Canada. Indigenous people are a target population for this deadly disease with women and youth being especially vulnerable. To ensure that the issue of AIDS in Indigenous communities is fully addressed, a satellite or mini-conference is being planned during the XVI International AIDS Conference. PWRDF partner, 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations, is taking a leading role in this important gathering, and hundreds of Indigenous people are coming from around the world to discuss, plan and design strategies to address this pandemic. In fact, 2-Spirited Peoples of the 1st Nations is a leading organization in Canada doing invaluable work to support and fight for the rights of people affected and infected by HIV and AIDS.

Please PRAY for the Indigenous People's Satellite, and the important work they do before, after and during the conference



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BANGLADESH

Rays of hope for the children of the brothels

Due to the positive intervention of PWRDF partner Jagorani Chakra, young boys and girls who are born to sex workers in the brothels of Bangladesh are now living normal lives like other children. Their mothers who are sex workers, are at high-risk of being infected with HIV and AIDS. In 2002, Jagorani Chakra launched a program on Human Rights for Brothel Children and Mothers offering education, human rights training, counselling, regular classroom teaching and employment guidance for the sex workers and their children. The program provides a positive environment where love, respect and kindness are modeled. These young boys and girls now know that they have choices, that they can choose a life of self-respect, mutual love and human dignity.

Please PRAY for the life-changing work of PWRDF partner Jagorani Chakra



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Celebrate the indomitable spirit and courage of the world's refugees.

Throughout their long and daunting journey from oppression and persecution to asylum and protection, and eventually to a place they can call home, refugees show incredible strength, courage and determination. Their journey is a dangerous and arduous one and every day spent in exile is a day too long.

But in every step of their journey refugees carry with them an unshakable, unrelenting hope. By hanging on to their hopes for basic survival, sustenance and protection, and for the chance to one day rebuild their lives, refugees defy all odds.

PWRDF supports and advocates for uprooted peoples, including refugees, internally displaced populations and migrant workers, through relief and development programs, advocacy and monitoring of human rights, and networking and education in Canada.

PWRDF invites you to remember and celebrate the indomitable spirit and courage of the world's refugees.



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