

PEW Bulletin Stories:

Under the Sun: September #35

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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PHILIPPINES

Standing for the rights of small scale farm producers

PWRDF long time partner Southern Partners and Fair Trade Corporation (SPFTC) face many challenges in their advocacy work for alternative trading to help improve the lives of small producers in central Visayas and southern parts of the Philippines. SPFTC strives to serve as the direct link between the small farm producers and the consumers by giving due and just value to the producers' products and opening up alternative venues for marketing their products at a just and fair price. Most of the small farmers are landless, they are given permission to farm a small plot of land on the large landowners farms in return they have to give a third of their produce to the landowners.

Please PRAY for SPFTC and the farmers they support to be strengthened in their advocacy work.



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BURUNDI

Refugees in camps make HIV and AIDS priority

PWRDF partner "STOP AIDS", is a community based HIV and AIDS organisation that was started by Burundian refugees living in camps in the western part of Tanzania and is run by refugees. STOP AIDS raises awareness and operates a community based care program in the camps and provides counselling services.

Noe Sibisaba, founder of STOP AIDS, is himself HIV-positive. He lost his wife and a child to AIDS. His willingness to talk openly about his status gained him confidence and respect among his students and from there STOP AIDS grew from a small club in a refugee school into an organization now operating in four major refugee camps.

Please PRAY for Noe Sibisaba and all the STOP AIDS volunteers in the refugee camps as they battle to address and respond to HIV and AIDS in their communities.



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CHINA

Addressing the plight of Asian migrant workers

Among many challenges faced by Asian migrant workers in Hong Kong, one of them is the lack of sexual health and reproductive rights. The migrant workers jobs are always on the line, an employer can easily terminate a contract if an employee falls sick. Cases are reported where women migrant workers have died of ovarian cancer, because of fear of losing their jobs, the workers just give themselves self-medication and treat the cancer as ulcers.

PWRDF partner, St. John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre, in Hong Kong has been in the forefront of addressing the plight of the Asian migrant workers. The centre involves the migrant workers in workshops through songs and dramas that address issues of HIV and AIDS, sexual health and reproductive rights. The workshops are held in the streets and the parks. This helps the workers to talk openly without fear of intimidation.

Please PRAY for the work done by the Centre and also remembering the migrant workers.



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BRAZIL

AIDS and the Church project

Although progress is being made in Brazil in reducing the rate of HIV and AIDS infections, the issue of stigma against people living with HIV is still a concern. According to PWRDF partner KOINONIA, an ecumenical organisation based in Brazil, HIV-positive people are not totally accepted in the churches. They are considered guilty and in some cases they are punished or expelled.

In response, KOINONIA established an "AIDS and the Churches Project" with the aim of educating and raising awareness within the churches to overcome prejudice and become welcoming and healing communities for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Please PRAY for KOINONIA and their continued work to stop the stigma that still exists in the church around HIV and AIDS.

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MEXICO

Centre for Women's Human Rights

New PWRDF partner, Centre for Women's Human Rights based in northern Mexico in the state capital of Chihuahua carries out legal representation on behalf of numerous families in Ciudad Juarez and Ciudad de Chihuahua whose daughters have been disappeared and/or assassinated.

The Centre is also involved in education and advocacy work with the municipal, state and federal governments, with the United Nations and the Organisation of American States (OAS), as well as carrying out media work, political mobilization and psycho-social accompaniment to some of the victim's families. The Centre in part grew out of a national debtors' movement known as El Barzón, which addressed the plight of both urban and rural Mexicans who were not able to pay up their personal debts due to the charging of usurious interest rates.

Please PRAY for the Centre for Women's Human Rights in their legal work to find answers for the families whose daughters have been disappeared or assassinated.

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SRI LANKA

Call to end the escalating civil war in Sri Lanka

PWRDF partners in Sri Lanka have joined forces with other local organisations in their call for an end to the escalating civil war in Sri Lanka. The call was made through an umbrella body known as People to People Dialogue for Peace and Sustainable Development, which is an initiative built among farmers, urban, rural and plantation workers, fisher people and women's organizations in the South, North, East and in the Hill Country of Sri Lanka.

They called on the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) to stop the violence and to respect the agreements reached at the Geneva round of negotiations. They also emphasized that "sustainable peace can only be achieved on the basis of a sustainable development approach that benefits the ordinary people address their genuine needs."

Please PRAY for the people of Sri Lanka and everyone involved to find a solution for an everlasting peace in the country.

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KENYA

HIV and AIDS program reaches out to Security Guards

In Kenya, security guards in general have been sidelined in national programs that address the AIDS pandemic. The guards generally lead a street life, they fall in the low income bracket and suffer from low self-esteem. They also interact with other street people who suffer from rejection and low self-esteem. To seek comfort and acceptance, they easily get involved in prostitution, drug use and alcohol that make them vulnerable to HIV and AIDS.

In turn PWRDF partner, Springs Ministries, started an HIV and AIDS program for security guards in the city of Kisumu. The program addresses health, psychological, spiritual and economic status of the security guards through education, awareness raising and income generation projects which are geared towards behavioral change.

Please PRAY for the work being done by Springs Ministries as they address the plight of Security Guards in Kisumu, Kenya.

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