

# Partnership

A PUBLICATION OF  
Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief®

FALL 2005

Pg.2 Commitment to Fighting HIV/AIDS

Pg.3 A Ride to Remember

Pg.4 Young, Sick and Bewildered

## IN SEARCH OF A HAPPY ENDING

You want to go back home but can't. So what do you do?

Aid workers were delighted in June when hundreds of hopeful families in Sudan decided to pack their few belongings and climb aboard the trucks waiting to take them home.

Months before, these families had fled their villages in Sudan's Darfur region to escape the violence churning through the countryside, killing thousands of people. They found safety in Kalma, a camp that had become the temporary home for more than 150,000 people displaced by the violence.

Although they were safe in Kalma, living conditions were harsh. When the families heard that the violence in their home village had subsided, they wanted to do what most families anywhere would want to do—go home.

It's the kind of happy ending that Fikre Tsehai, Canadian Lutheran World Relief's refugee program director, likes to hear.

"Refugee problems demand lasting solutions," explains Tsehai. One of those solutions, and probably the best one, is voluntary repatriation, when people choose to return home because it is safe to go.

The people in Kalma technically are not considered refugees because they are still living within the border of their



Achol and her family would like to go home to their village in Sudan. Like thousands of other people, they have fled to the Jabul Aulia camp for displaced people. Photo: Hege Opseth

country. Instead, they are considered internally displaced people. There are currently more than 17 million refugees worldwide and approximately 50 million internally displaced people.

When refugees can't go back home, another good, lasting solution is needed. Some refugees flee to a neighbouring country and are able to start a new life. For example, thousands of Tajik refugees were granted citizenship in Turkmenistan in August, a welcome solution for the ethnic-Turkmen refugees who had integrated locally over the years. However, such integration isn't always seamless, and refugees often face economic, government and cultural hurdles.

A third solution is resettlement, where a country like Canada opens its doors to refugees who have little hope of ever returning home and whose lives are put on hold because they have no

place to settle down. CLWR is involved in resettlement and sponsors close to 200 refugees each year with the help of church groups and community organizations. Over the past 60 years, the organization has helped sponsor close to 32,000 refugees. ♡

### IN A NUTSHELL

Refugees flee their homes because of persecution, violence, poverty, human rights violations or a combination of these. Good options for refugees include:

- Returning home if it is safe to do so.
- Starting anew in a neighbouring country.
- Resettling in a far-off country like Canada.

Call the CLWR refugee offices at 1.888.588.6686 or 1.888.255.0150 for more information about how you can help sponsor a refugee.



## Special Gifts

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS WITH ALL

Since the publication of the Spring 2005 issue of *Partnership*, CLWR has received many gifts in memory of friends and loved ones. Such gifts provide a living testimony and memorial to the care and concern of these people for the neediest of the world.

**In memory of** Rudolph Holter, Tillie Thompson, Chad Christianson, Eleanor Lundy, Terry Brown, Ilse Stewart, Peter Schiemann, Julius Pfau, Alice Howard, Rev. Fred Haugen, Cody Leite, Dorothy Felske, Edwin Birkenhagen, Michael Long, Gerhard Jahnke, Ron Heimbecker, Margaret Westlake, Myra Chalmers, Evelyn Gilbertson, Amy Williams, Bernie Bayer, Charles Decker, Richard Long, Adolf Kletke, John George Keil, Kay Agur, Olga Stroh, Bertha Becker, Edna Bogusat, Georgine Hider, Rev. Ray Beaver, Helmut Pruefer, Jimmy Olinski, Walter Dorin, Mark Zoller, Ida Weiss, Michael Rudisill, Douglas Van Berkorn, Ruth Elstad, Darlene March, William Campbell, Ernst Anderson, Gustave Sommers, Ruth Benell, Alton Mosand, Werner Tiede, Helmut Mannes, Julius Falke, Pat McLean, Mel Bjerkan, Omer Gagnier, Vera Woodrow, Arthur Utz, Gary Mittelstadt, Don Assheton-Smith, Jacob Weing, Herbert Dressler.

**From the estate of** Frieda Ammeter, Thelma Rollag, Freda Brenner, Virginia Mary Frank, Bertha Fry, George Wagner.

### **In celebration of**

**Anniversary:** Archie and Gloria Wells (25), Steve and Laurel Glanfield (25), Alf and Joan Kennedy (40), Howard and Margaret Overbye (50), Lloyd and Louise Busch (50), Tony and Emily Kiez (50), Peter and Isabel Petersen (50), Wil and Marion Schomburg (50), Bill and Gretchen Roesler (50), Gerry and Eula Regehr (50), Wilf and Norma Fisher (50), Shiela and John Hulsemann (50), Les and Evelyn Knoll (60).

**Birthday:** Doris Corbin, Rhoda Sylvester (80), Debbie McFadden (50), Lois Bernhardson (80), Deena McCarter, June Galenzoski (80), Irja Jalasjaa (90), Otilie Roth (90), Mary Liebrecht (90).

**Wedding:** Prema Samuel and Matthew Lyseng, Marvin Svingen and Deborah van der Goes.

We thank the many donors who choose a donation to the work of CLWR as a fitting tribute to friends and family, and in celebration of special times in their own lives.

## IN INDIA, A DEEP COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

Stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and helping AIDS victims is more than a job, says the head of the Lutheran church's HIV/AIDS program in India. It's a commitment rooted in her Christian faith.

"You represent the church and that's where you have to be [with those suffering from HIV/AIDS]," says Dr. Sheila Shyamprasad, coordinator of the HIV/AIDS program for the National Lutheran Health and Medical Board (NLHMB) in India.

HIV/AIDS is spreading rapidly in India and moving into the general population, says Dr. Shyamprasad, an obstetrician and gynecologist who lives in Chennai (Madras). The number of HIV infections in India is difficult to determine and the subject of ongoing controversy. According to government statistics, an estimated 5.1 million people in the country are believed to be HIV-positive. But Dr. Shyamprasad says the figure could be as high as 10 million. She equates the crisis with a time bomb about to explode.

AIDS cannot be cured, but it can be prevented, and so Dr. Shyamprasad and her full-time staff of 16 people are working tirelessly at raising awareness about the disease. They have organized hundreds of awareness programs in the Chennai region that have reached millions of people since the program began in 1989. Dr. Shyamprasad began working with the project in 1993.

The HIV/AIDS project, which is supported by donations to CLWR, also provides home-based care for AIDS victims, medical services and counseling. ➤



Dr. Sheila Shyamprasad: AIDS cannot be cured, but it can be prevented.  
Photo: Rick Fast





These cyclists from All Saints Lutheran in Ottawa spent the better part of a year raising funds and preparing for their 4,900 kilometre trip.

## A RIDE TO REMEMBER

Bike trek from Ottawa to West Coast builds relationships, raises funds for the poor

It was an adventure with a powerful message of encouragement. Ten youth from All Saints Lutheran Church in Ottawa bicycled from the nation's capital to Richmond, BC, this summer to raise awareness about the poor in the developing world.

"We want people to know that this is being done in service to Christ, for other people," said Rev. Greg Kjos who pastors the church.

The cyclists began their adventure June 26 and arrived in Richmond shortly after 6 p.m. on August 16—six days ahead of schedule. They marked the end of their journey with a quick dip in the Pacific—a sort of re-baptism. It felt great, said Paul Skinner, chairperson of All Saints and credited by others in the group as one of the trek's main initiators.

A fundraising goal of \$10,000 was set to support the work of CLWR and indications are they will reach it. Donations came from a variety of—and sometimes surprising—sources. A woman in Manitoba, who heard about the group from her husband, chased them down by truck and handed them a cheque for \$5,000. People they met along the way would give them cash when they heard what the trip was all about.

Three adults, including the pastor, accompanied the youth, who ranged in age from 13-21. A lot of planning went into the adventure, said Skinner. Participants spent the better part of a year raising funds and planning. They bought similar, high quality, light bicycles capable of handling the 4,900 kilometres they would travel. The cyclists learned how to maintain and repair their bikes. They made many of their own meals along the way.

Another reason for embarking on the journey was to build friendships with other parishes and within the youth group, said Rev. Kjos. They were hosted by dozens of congregations along the way who were all "extremely supportive," he said. In fact, organizers christened the cycling event C2C4C—Church to Church for Christ.

Finishing was a bittersweet experience, said Skinner. On the one hand there was the realization that a great adventure had ended. "I lay awake thinking about what we had managed to do," he said the morning after they arrived. On the other hand, it felt great to be going home again after 52 days on the road.

At a barbecue organized by the Our Saviour Lutheran congregation in Richmond to honour the cyclists, Fikre Tsehail of CLWR's Vancouver office thanked the group. ➤



# YOUNG, SICK AND BEWILDERED

Deborah Gruben of Victoria, BC, travelled to Mozambique and Zambia in April to visit CLWR-supported projects. In a barrio on the outskirts of Maputo, she met people struggling to cope with HIV/AIDS. It led Gruben to try and imagine what it must be like to learn you are HIV-positive. She then wrote the following, fictional account.

I am not feeling very well today. I awoke with uncontrolled vomiting. Diarrhea has begun to set in. I can't keep anything in. I am so weak now I can't even walk.

I am afraid I am going to die.

My grandmother and my auntie are also afraid that I am going to die. After a lengthy discussion they decide that my auntie will take me to the local health clinic. There, I am given a blood test to determine why I've suddenly become so terribly ill.

In a few days the test results are back, but no one will tell me what they are. I ask my grandmother, but she refuses. I ask my auntie, but she refuses. I beg my older sister, but she refuses. Finally, one night while lying in bed, I beg my sister one more time—please tell me about the test results.

Maybe it is the protection of the darkness or the fact that she is only a few years older than I am, but she finally agrees to tell me. The test result was positive: you have HIV.

My heart sinks and I begin to cry. I cry all night. I am only 13 years old and bewildered by this news. My mind races with questions. What is HIV? How do you catch it? Is there medicine you can take to cure it? Am I really going to die?



Deborah Gruben enroute to Mozambique.



The two women in Mozambique who inspired Deborah Gruben to write this story. Photo: Deborah Gruben

Like many others facing similar situations, I am afraid. I have no mother and no father. I live with my granny who is old. My auntie helps look after my sister and me along with her own family.

It is my auntie who takes me to meet Jesse. Jesse is a home-based support worker. She is taller than me and looks healthy and well. I like her. She tells me that she too has HIV and has experienced some of the same thoughts that I've had.

Jesse tells me about the importance of good nutrition and about medicines I can take to help me get better. As living proof of how well you can live with this medicine, Jesse gives me hope for a future. Since meeting Jesse I still know that someday I am going to die. But thanks to her and the people from Canada who help make her work possible, I know I am not going to die today. ♡

—Deborah Gruben

**Mozambique**

**Population:** 19.2 million  
**Gross National Income (per capita):** \$255  
**Life expectancy:** 38 in 2003 (38 in 1960)  
**Adult literacy rate:** 46 percent  
**People living with HIV/AIDS (2003):** 1.3 million



# A MOUNTAIN OF DONATED GOODS

As CLWR enters its 60th year, a salute to the dedication and innovation of its supporters

CLWR supporters have donated a mountain of goods over the years to help the poor in the developing world.

In the nearly 60 years since CLWR was created, Lutheran congregations and individuals have donated 6,532,144 pounds (2,969,156 kilos) of quilts, kits, clothing and medical supplies. Moving this mountain of goods would require a train 1.7 miles (2.7 kms) long.

“The dedication of some of the people making the quilts and assembling the kits is simply astonishing,” said Tim Graff, CLWR’s communications director.

Amy Williams of Camrose, Alberta, was one of those people. She died on April 28 at the age of 107 and was still making afghans in the weeks leading up to her death. At her funeral in Bethel Lutheran Church in Camrose, the pews were draped with her latest batch of afghans.

At the end of his sermon at the funeral, Pastor Randy Mohr speculated that when Amy got to heaven she was probably asked, “What took you so long?” and she would reply that she had one more afghan to finish for CLWR.



All Saints Lutheran quilt incorporates fabric from Cameroon, Africa. Photo: Tim Graff

Meanwhile, a ladies group in Westlock, Alberta, recently sent CLWR a letter asking if it would be alright to provide a substitute for baby sweaters in the layettes (baby bundles) they were assembling for CLWR.

“We are having a small problem obtaining the baby sweaters,” wrote Colleen Rude, noting the group had sent 756 kits to CLWR over the years. “We have been knitting as fast we can, but due to age are slowing down. (But) until we hear from you we will keep our needles clicking.”

The group was assured they could substitute a small blanket or extra sleeper for the baby sweater.

In Ottawa, Pat Friedrich and a group of women at All Saints Lutheran recently designed and made a stunning quilt that they are promoting and will use to raise funds for CLWR. The quilt includes fabric one of the quilters brought back from Cameroon in Africa.

Four shipments of donated goods, valued at \$364,306, were sent by CLWR during the past fiscal year to Angola, Eritrea and Darfur, Sudan. ♡

## NEW! CLWR We Care bags

YET ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF CLWR

Brighten the life of a needy child, mother or refugee with these cheerful, practical, cotton bags. Made by artisans in India, they come in two styles—handbag or backpack.

Here’s how the project works:

- Request your We Care bag from CLWR
- Assemble one of the standard CLWR project items—school kit,

baby bundle, hygiene kit, etc.

- Place the kit in the We Care bag
- Ship the bag with the kit to CLWR
- CLWR ships the bags for distribution to people in need

Suggested donation per bag—\$5.

Your donation covers the cost of the bag and transportation of the kits overseas. The added bonus? The tote bags remain useful for



A hands-on project for all ages

years to come—a reminder of the compassion of strangers thousands of kilometres away. ♡

# News Briefs

INFORMATION WORTH NOTING

## 800 HOUSES FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS



Rebuilding livelihoods and houses.

CLWR's partners continue to help victims of the tsunami disaster and are now building permanent houses in villages along the devastated southeastern coastal region of India. The United

Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI), is building 800 houses in the Kancheepuram, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts. Donations to CLWR's tsunami appeal are supporting the work of UELCI, Lutheran World Service-India, and other, smaller organizations. Other long-term projects include rebuilding schools and playgrounds, providing boats, motors and nets for fisher folk, and trauma counselling. ♡

## FAREWELL DINNER FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A farewell dinner for Dr. Ruth Jensen, CLWR's executive director, will be held on November 17 in Winnipeg. Dr. Jensen has been CLWR executive director for the past eight years and will stay on with the agency until the end of 2005. She is resigning to pursue business interests in India, where she lived for a number of years before joining CLWR. For more information about the dinner please call 1.800.661.2597 and ask for Bruce. ♡

## FOUNDING MEMBER OF CLWR DIES

George Keil, executive director of CLWR from 1961-1987, died in Pickering, Ontario, in April of this year, at the age of 87. Mr. Keil was one of the founding members of CLWR and an integral part of the organization for many years. He is one of three people listed in the original Canadian Lutheran World Relief Incorporation Act of May 11, 1965. The other two people listed are Dr. Otto Arthur Olson and Reverend Maynard Frank Pollex. CLWR came into being in 1946 but was unincorporated until 1965. A service to celebrate the life of George Keil was held at Peace Lutheran Church in Pickering on May 7. ♡

## BE AN ALTERNATIVE TRADE VOLUNTEER

CLWR is seeking volunteers in Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg to help with the organization's alternative trade program. Volunteers help pack and unpack merchandise from around the world, stock shelves, price items, take inventory when required, and help on the sales floor. CLWR's alternative trade program has expanded rapidly over the years. It works to improve the lives of artisans overseas by selling their handcrafted goods here in Canada. For more information please contact CLWR at 1.800.661.2597 or email [clwr@clwr.mb.ca](mailto:clwr@clwr.mb.ca). ♡

## UNREST IN BOLIVIA



Jaime Bravo coordinates CLWR Bolivia program.

Mass protests in Bolivia paralyzed the country this spring, disrupting day to day life and forcing the resignation of the country's second president in two years. CLWR's offices in the country were closed because it was often impossible for staff to go to work, says Jaime Bravo,

who coordinates CLWR's projects in the country. A key issue for the strikers is the amount of tax paid by foreign energy firms tapping into Bolivia's rich natural gas reserves. The situation has cooled somewhat with the various parties agreeing to give peace a chance in the months leading up to the country's elections on December 4. ♡

## QUILTS, BLANKETS ARRIVE IN SERBIA-MONTENEGRO

A CLWR emergency container of quilts, blankets and health kits was distributed to flood victims in Serbia-Montenegro in August. A week of torrential rain in late April caused widespread flooding in Serbia-Montenegro, Romania and the Republic of Georgia. Thousands of homes were flooded, families displaced and livestock lost. The 20-foot container of goods was distributed by Ekumenska Humanitarna Organizacija (EHO), a church-related humanitarian organization. Meanwhile, another shipment of goods was sent to Tanzania earlier in the year. ♡



# DONOR GENEROSITY BOOSTS GIVING TO CLWR IN 2004–2005

Donations to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) this past fiscal year ending March 31, jumped 9.3 percent from the year before.

Total income from CLWR's constituency in the 2004-2005 fiscal year was \$2,740,165. This includes donations through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's Global Hunger and Development Appeal, Lutheran Church–Canada, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and directly to CLWR.

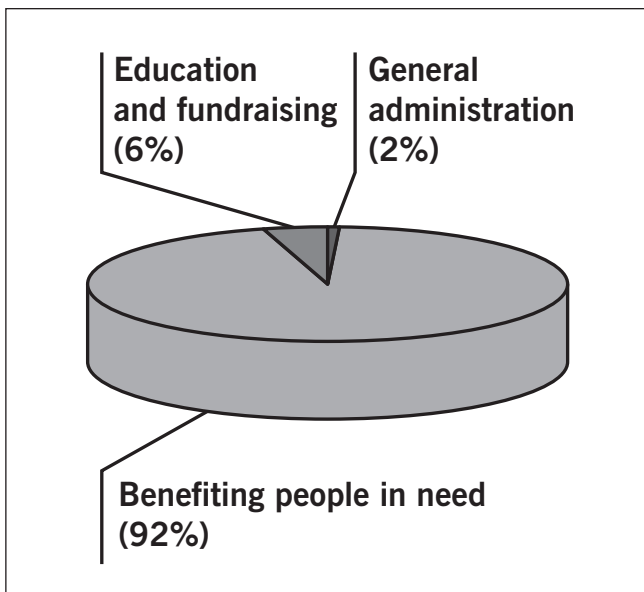
This figure does not include most of the contributions to CLWR's tsunami appeal, which have exceeded \$1 million. Some of the tsunami donations are earmarked for long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation projects and will be spent in the coming months and years.

The previous year's income from these sources was \$2,506,861.

CLWR's total income this past year, including cash donations, government grants and interest was \$6,201,543, up 18.9 percent from the year before. This does not include the value of donated goods like quilts, blankets and kits, which would add another \$273,577. Last year's total income was \$5,222,593.

"The increase in income was due to strong giving from supporters and to more funding this year from the Canadian government," said Erling Nielsen, CLWR's comptroller.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our many supporters," he added. ☺



## The View From Here

BY RUTH E. JENSEN, D.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

It is time to bid adieu, say farewell and thank you for your partnership over the past eight years. It has been a privilege to be the executive director of CLWR. Through this post I have had the wonderful opportunity

to meet many who will read this column. We have traveled together; I have spoken in your congregations and to your groups. We have sat together at meetings, we have planned, we have argued, and we have discussed and come to conclusions that we believed would be of benefit. Together we have promoted the work and witness of God in the world, reaching out to the poor and the dispossessed. Together we have made new opportunities for people to improve their lives and that of their communities. For this I thank you.

In these eight years, CLWR has developed the *Learning and Development Program*, which has made it possible for groups and churches to create programs that assist their congregations and individuals to learn more about the world in which we live through travel or other creative methods. The self-financed *Tours of Discovery* have provided learning and exposure opportunities for CLWR supporters and members of the board of directors to visit field programs in Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bolivia and Peru. We developed the *Church Priority Countries Program* that makes funds available to the ELCIC and LCC for programs that are of special priority to them and their constituencies. The program formerly known as MESH has been greatly enhanced and enlarged and, in cooperation with the women of the ELCIC, the LCC and the Anglican Church, is making a significant contribution to lives of third world artisans. Finally, the *International Volunteer Program* is now ready and will be launched in association with CLWR's 60th Anniversary.

Special thanks are extended to the CLWR board of directors; the CLWR staff; the ELCIC and LCC; Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon; Lutheran World Federation DMD/WS, and to all our partners around the world for your partnership and friendship these past years.

May our great and wonderful God add blessings to your work and that of CLWR today and always. ☺

## DONATIONS MADE SIMPLE!

Forget about writing cheques, searching for stamps, and making trips to the mail box. CLWR is able to accept pre-authorized donations.

1. Complete and sign the authorization form;
2. Attach your personal cheque marked "VOID"; and
3. Mail to CLWR, 1080 Kingsbury Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2P 1W5

### PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATION AUTHORIZATION



Canadian Lutheran World Relief®

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY, PROVINCE AND POSTAL CODE

PHONE & EMAIL

HOME CONGREGATION

ELCIC  LCC  Other

I (we) authorize Canadian Lutheran World Relief to process a debit in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on my (our) account:

- monthly, on the first day of each month, beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate month).;
- quarterly, on the first of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_; or
- annually, on the first day of \_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate month).

Please issue an official receipt for income tax purposes (please indicate):

monthly,  quarterly,  annually (December 31)

SIGNATURE & DATE

## NEW RESOURCES

Information and Ideas from CLWR and others

### STUDY GUIDE ON HUNGER



A new study guide that explores what the Bible has to say about hunger is now available from CLWR. Produced by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, *Hunger in a World of Abundance* is designed for people of faith interested in discussing hunger issues in the context of economic globalization, technological advancement and world governance. The six sessions are geared towards adults. Free.

### DARFUR DVD

This DVD about the humanitarian disaster in Darfur, Sudan, offers an overview of the situation faced by hundreds of thousands of Sudanese who have fled their homes because of ongoing violence. It was produced by Action by Churches Together (ACT), an agency supported by CLWR. ACT is providing food, shelter, health care and other services to many of these displaced people.

### ONE GOOD THING—CHILDREN'S PROJECTS

How are your children learning to share the love of God? As a Sunday school teacher or someone who works with children, you want to help them grow to become loving human beings—people of God. So how can this happen? This simple leaflet provides a variety of practical, hands-on projects that enable children to do One Good Thing. ➔

## Partnership

*Partnership* is a publication of Canadian Lutheran World Relief ©2005. Material from *Partnership* may be reproduced for use by congregations. For additional copies, contact:

#### CLWR CANADIAN OFFICES

Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
1080 Kingsbury Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2P 1W5  
☎ 204.694.5602 or 1.800.661.2597 (CLWR)  
☎ 204.694.5460  
✉ clwr@clwr.mb.ca, www.clwr.org

**Vancouver:** Fikre Tsehaj, Refugee Program Director  
202-5066 Kingsway Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5H 2E7  
☎ 604.435.9750 or 1.888.588.6686  
☎ 604.435.9923  
✉ clwr@axion.net

**Toronto:** Jan Drews, Refugee Coordinator  
125-1440 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5R 3J3  
☎ 416.962.9747 or 1.888.255.0150  
☎ 416.962.3268  
✉ clwrto@web.net

Editor: Rick Fast, Design: Sandra T. Zukanovich

CLWR is the service delivery arm for overseas development programing and relief for Lutheran Church—Canada and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada—Global Hunger and Development Appeal.



Canadian Lutheran World Relief®



GLOBAL HUNGER AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL



LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA

