



E-news of the Global Food Crisis Fund

www.brethren.org/genbd/global_mission/gfcf.htm

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Guatemala program engages 24 communities in two years

A food security program in western Guatemala supported by the proceeds from the growing projects of Foods Resource Bank has well exceeded its goals for the first two years.

The Totoncapán program has set out to diversify family food production, provide training in water and soil management, open new markets, and bolster local indigenous organizations in a region of extreme poverty and deteriorating environment. The initial target was to enlist 20 rural communities and 570 families in two years. In actuality, it reached 24 communities and 674 households.

The Church of the Brethren is the lead partner for the work in Totoncapán, aligned with Church World Service and the Conference of Evangelical Churches in Guatemala.



Church World Service

Community workers in Totoncapán utilize new tunnel-type greenhouse.

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Churches urged to display children's hunger posters at home

Eager as the Global Food Crisis Fund is to receive children's posters on hunger for exhibiting on the GFCF website and at Annual Conference, congregations are also encouraged to display the artwork in advance in the church or in the local community. Submissions for the "Regnuh: Turning Hunger Around" Poster Project are due to the Global Food Crisis Fund April 30. The project invites children ages 6 to 14 to illustrate their ideas on reducing global hunger.

Humanitarian crisis widens in western Sudan

As the humanitarian crisis in western Sudan moves into its fifth year and risks turning regional in scope, an umbrella program of the churches is rallying a broad international response.

DERO, the Darfur Emergency Relief Operation of ACT/Caritas that is comprised of 60 member organizations, including Church World Service, finds the needs of displaced Sudanese that were once regarded as of emergency status now becoming chronic. Through a new \$13.6 million appeal, DERO has announced plans to plant 80,000 trees in and around refugee camps, monitor the use of ground water, expand sanitation facilities, and equip communities of displaced persons to assume increased leadership responsibility.

Since 2004 the Emergency Disaster Fund and Global Food Crisis Fund have allocated \$240,000 for Darfur assistance. Both programs have in process proposals for significant new grants for DERO-sponsored initiatives, the funds to be channeled through Church World Service.

A communal well at Hassa Hissa Camp serves persons displaced from Darfur.



Paul Jeffrey, ACT/CWS

Dominican church leader is interning with ECHO

Vildor Archange, a leader in the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic, is interning three months this spring at ECHO, Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization, a demonstration and research center on agricultural technology for developing countries. The center's farm campus is located at North Fort Myers, Fla.



Vildor Archange

Of Haitian descent, Archange serves on the national board of the Dominican church. He was a participant in the 2006 National Youth Conference, where he is pictured speaking at the left. His \$2,265 tuition at ECHO is supported by a grant from the Global Food Crisis Fund.

ECHO will be host to a Church of the Brethren workcamp August 4-10, when up to 25 senior high youth will study food security issues and explore innovative environmental practices. The workcamp will be the fifth held at ECHO.

Conservation farming in Zambia: One woman's testimony

Living in the village of Kalito, Zambia, for 60 years and cultivating the same plot of land all her life, Musalepo Tembo, a widow, is dependent on farming for a livelihood. However, several years ago she saw the yield of her maize declining and a fierce parasite, witchweed, overtaking her field. She stepped up the use of fertilizer only to find that all her profit went to paying off fertilizer loans.

In 2002 she joined the Eastern Zambia program of Foods Resource Bank and learned about conservation farming—"CF". Around small holes where seeds were to go, she applied manure. In time her yields increased to a point where she had maize enough not only to eat but to sell. She invested the earnings in a pig, a goat, and two chickens.

A year or two later, as her livestock multiplied, Musalepo had sufficient income to build a new house. She sings the praises of "CF" and how it has enabled her to reduce spending, increase income, and restore nutrients to the soil. Most of all, Musalepo has put in place a model of farming she enthusiastically commends to others.



"CF" advocate Musalepo Tembo



What's a growing project? Here's what

For congregations wanting to know more about growing projects and the connection of the Church of the Brethren to Foods Resource Bank, "Planting Seeds...Harvesting Hope" is a basic primer. Newly published by the Global Food Crisis Fund, bulk copies of the four-page, bulletin-sized folder are available free for churchwide distribution. To order, contact Global Food Crisis Fund, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

In commemoration of its 25th anniversary this year, the Global Food Crisis Fund is seeking to launch 25 Brethren-led growing projects, up from 17 in 2007. It is encouraging the start of pilot growing projects especially in new states, spreading beyond Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Maryland where Brethren already sponsor growing projects.

