

April 2009

*Better a little with righteousness
than much gain with injustice.
Prov 16:8*

HIV&AIDS & INCOME GENERATION

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While recently visiting Malawi and Kenya I was reminded again of the complexity of HIV&AIDS and the diversity of approaches required to make an impact at a national, community, family and personal level. Income generating activities are a very necessary part of the continuum of responses needed to manage hardship. This can be as simple as low maintenance home gardens providing much needed nutritional support for people living with HIV&AIDS. Sadly however, many income generating projects are stunted due to management issues and marketing experiences. What is working well in your setting? We welcome your tips.

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SIM HIV&AIDS related ministries and HOPE for AIDS

1. BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS:

ACTS OF BEAUTY, ACTS OF HUMANITY

There were glimmers of beauty
in your tears of shame
that fell like silver
that fell like rain
a jar is broken
pouring out its all
into this story, history
our story, her story,
preparing for death
pleading for life
with a fragrance that makes
hard places grow soft,
by calling for mercy
from those keeping the score
from those counting the cost
from those knowing the law.

But a heart stripped naked
is revealing real truth
that runs deeper and cleaner
than shame or profanity,
it's revealing a beauty,
the divine-broken image
in one woman's humanity.

For Reflection and Discussion:

Read Mark 14:1-11

1. The women with the jar of expensive perfume “did a beautiful thing” (14:6) by “doing what she could” (14:8). This however was not considered appropriate behaviour by some of those present. In what ways do you observe followers of Jesus in your setting “doing what they can” to honour Jesus? To what extent are they criticized? Is this justified? Why or why not?
2. Describe examples when you felt that God's resources were being inappropriately used or wasted (14:4.5). What criteria should be used to judge the right use of resources?
3. What practical suggestions do you have for better using resources according to the values of God's kingdom at:
 - a. An individual and family level
 - b. Within the church
 - c. Within the community
 - d. A global level

The poem, *Acts of Beauty, Acts of Humanity* is contributed by Kristin Jack, susan_kristin@yahoo.com Servants Cambodia and participant in the Micah Network Forum www.micahnetwork.org

2. CHRISTIAN MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT—ETHIOPIA

Tobias Messner tobias.messner@gmx.de SIM Ethiopia, Project Manager Christian Micro-enterprise Development contributes the following:



It is 6 o'clock in the morning in the countryside of southern Ethiopia. The sun is rising and in the background some birds welcome the new day. Tesfaye is looking thankfully into the first sunbeams while he is feeding his two cows. It is nearly two years ago that he attended a business training which his local church conducted in cooperation with a mission organization. After an intensive training week Tesfaye was able to write a business plan according to the economic demands and opportunities in his town. He received a loan from his local church in order to buy two cows. A lot has changed since then. In 14 months he was able to pay back the loan to the supervisor of the Christian Microenterprise Development (CMD) program. There were times when he feared he would be incapable of paying it back in time

but the "loan officer" of the CMD program mentored, encouraged and supported him well and kept him accountable so that his repaid money could be used in a revolving fund for other beneficiaries.

Now he is the proud owner of these animals. Every day Tesfaye is milking his cows before he starts his work as an evangelist. The cows give enough milk to provide a good portion of the healthy drink not only for his wife, his four children, and himself, but also to sell it at the nearby marketplace to generate additional income for the needs of his family.

CMD supports and encourages people like Tesfaye to come out of poverty and transform their lives. Through the provision of business training and "seed money" (microcredit) CMD supports Ethiopian evangelists to establish small enterprises (e.g. barber shop, grocery shop, tailor shop, carpentry etc) so that they can work independently of ongoing support as "tent makers" in rural and unreached areas. Furthermore they will become more easily accepted members of their respective communities. Like Paul, the beneficiaries can be a witness in their spiritual life and their practical lifestyle in order to transform their community.

Note: Could CMD also be a way for your HIV&AIDS ministries? For further information contact: Tobias Messner tobias.messner@gmx.de P.O. Box 127, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

3. THE TRANSFORMATION LENS—OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL

Opportunity International seeks to provide financial products and services for people in chronic poverty that enable whole-life transformation.

Opportunity International's White Paper, *The Transformation Lens: Providing opportunities for economic betterment and life abundant* (Oct 2008) discusses the biblical basis of Opportunity's holistic vision, introduces an instrument called the "Transformation Lens", and examines through case studies what is required to translate its vision of transformation into actual changes in the lives of their clients. While microfinance loans, savings, insurance, and training start from the intention to address the financial needs of clients, Opportunity has developed an instrument to assist member organizations to evaluate and plan how financial services can actually contribute to whole-life transformation. The paper identifies biblical dimensions of foundational need: dignity; authority; security; adequate provision; purpose, hope, and meaning; freedom and adequate boundaries; and authentic relationships love. It is available at: www.opportunity.net/files/Transformation%20White%20Paper%2010-08.pdf

4. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

Appropriate technology aims to create sustainable, culturally relevant solutions that take into account the environmental, social and economic aspects of the community. It typically requires fewer resources, is easier to maintain, has a lower overall cost and less of an impact on the environment compared to industrialized practices.

1. *Practical Action* provides useful information and introductory fact sheets on a broad range of appropriate technologies. www.practicalaction.org/practicalanswers

2. The *Institute for Appropriate Technology* is a useful source of ideas and designs for various tools including solar devices, mechanical devices, animal husbandry, water systems, building, agriculture and agro-forestry. www.i4at.org/library.html

5. MAKING IT KNOWN – ADVOCACY AROUND TREATMENT ISSUES

In response to AIDSLink 79 *Care and Treatment*, note the following resources:

1. *Advocacy for access to pediatric medications for HIV*

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) has given a high priority to issues around pediatric treatment. In 2008 it developed a children's letter writing campaign on pediatric treatment and diagnostics to coincide the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 2009. See *Prescription for Life* for teachers with links to detailed information on the web. It is available in English, French and Spanish.

The guide can be downloaded or viewed at: http://www.e-alliance.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/Temp/Childrens_Letter_Writing/Childrens_Letter_Writing_EN_-A4.pdf

2. Caritas International's *HAART for Children: HIV/TB Pediatric Campaign*. In November, we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Caritas is launching a campaign urging governments and pharmaceutical companies to live up to the Convention by developing medicine to treat HIV and TB in children and save lives. For further information see:

www.caritas.org/upload/ped/pedaids_e6.pdf

6. TIP of the MONTH – M&E: STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Programs and projects are always best designed, planned and implemented using a participatory approach where stakeholders are involved throughout the program and project life cycle. It is particularly important that people affected by HIV&AIDS have an active and influential say in the decisions that impact on their lives. Expected results must also be mutually defined and agreed upon through a consensus building process involving all major stakeholders.

Stakeholder participation:

- enhances stakeholders' sense of ownership and subsequent commitment
- expands the information base needed for designing and planning the program
- helps establish clear roles and responsibilities
- aids in creating a work environment where individuals accept that their accountability that includes delivering on results

For further reference see the Canadian International Development Agency, *Results-based Management in CIDA: An Introductory Guide to the Concepts and Principles* at: www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/EMA-218132656-PPK

For Reflection: Identify the stakeholders involved in the program you are most familiar? How, and to what extent are they actively engaged? How could their participation be strengthened? What role could you play in this?

Gatekeepers and stakeholders?

Gatekeepers are people who control access to certain individuals, groups of people, places or information. For example, schoolteachers and parents are gatekeepers to children; brothel owners are gatekeepers to sex workers.

Stakeholders are people who have an interest (or stake) in the outcome of community mobilisation.

A primary stakeholder is a person or organization that a community mobilisation process aims primarily to benefit e.g. a young person in a youth HIV prevention process.

A secondary stakeholder is someone who may not benefit directly but who will be affected or involved in some way e.g. a teacher in a youth prevention process.

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www.aidsalliance.org/custom_asp/publications/view.asp?publication_id=228



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