

Island life under threat:

CWS helps Solomon Island women meet their basic needs and protect their forests

- Spotlight on Sanitation
- Young people building peace – a new CWS project
- Do you want more than just a gift? See page 7



Front page: Traditional island livelihoods are under threat in Choiseul in the Solomon Islands. Environmental degradation, foreign logging and rising costs are making life difficult in an isolated region with few opportunities. CWS's partner is helping women cope and find new opportunities to support their families. See page 4

Credit: The Nature Conservancy/ Jeanine Almany



Spotlight on Sanitation: Nowhere to go!

Stop Press:

At the time of print, crises in Kenya and Gaza continue. CWS supports calls for peaceful resolutions and the humanitarian relief efforts of our local partners, including an appeal for the Church of Uganda's emergency support for refugees who have fled from Kenya. See www.cws.org.nz for updates from our partners.

@world: addressing violence

2008 has opened with violence as a sad and common theme. We have witnessed violent crime in New Zealand, the ending of the peace agreement in Sri Lanka, the siege of Gaza and communal violence in Kenya, to name but a few.

Solutions to violence require addressing the underlying causes – injustice, poverty and the lack of hope. They require equipping people with techniques to solve problems and address conflicts and differences in constructive ways.

CWS is a member of the Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munitions Coalition, and this year is make or break time for getting an international agreement to ban cluster bombs. New Zealand is one of six countries leading the process. Success would end the spread of a particularly nasty and insidious weapon that does harm to civilian communities long after the formal conflict is over.

CWS's Global Youth Exchange later this year is a bold and imaginative project that will bring young people from all over New Zealand to meet with young people from our partners around the globe. They will discuss and reflect on their experiences of violence and together learn techniques for peace building and reconciliation.

While, unlike violence, they may not make the headlines, these are two examples of the many actions supported by people who believe a less violent world is possible and are committed to action to make it happen. Please give your support.

Jonathan Fletcher

Jonathan Fletcher

CWS profiled sanitation at the Parachute Christian Music festival in January. A toilet sitting in the middle of a tent shocked festival goers almost as much as the world's sanitation problems. "I didn't realise something we just take for granted is such a serious issue," said one. Another Parachutee laughed saying, "I thought you were really

talking about you know...oh, you are." The toilet humour and awkward giggles didn't last long though as people grasped the real weight of the issue. More than 600 young people added their faces to a photo petition, posing on a toilet, to be sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs asking that the New Zealand government do more to improve global sanitation.

Did you know?

- 2.6 billion people – 41% of the world's population - lack access to latrines or basic sanitation facilities, making them vulnerable to preventable deadly illnesses
- every 20 seconds a child dies as a result of poor sanitation - 1.5 million preventable deaths each year
- at any given time, nearly half the people in developing countries suffer health problems from lack of safe water and sanitation
- 443 million school days are lost each year due to water related diseases
- every dollar spent on improving

sanitation generates an average economic benefit of \$7

- over 200 million tonnes of human waste worldwide go uncollected and untreated each year
- 2008 is the UN's International Year of Sanitation. Urgent global action is needed to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the proportion of people without basic sanitation by 2015
- The \$10 billion needed annually to meet the sanitation MDG is less than 1% of world military spending, 1/3 of global spending on bottled water, and is the amount Europeans spend on ice cream each year



"Filthy water cannot be washed"

The 2006 Human Development Report says almost everyone in the developed world has access to a private, flush toilet with taps in close proximity. Heath wise this is optimal. Waste is channelled away, drinking water is separate and taps enable people to maintain personal hygiene. But in the developing world

millions of people are forced to use bags, buckets, fields or roadside ditches. Taking the developed country model as the benchmark, about 4 billion people lack adequate sanitation. "The gap in sanitation between developed and developing countries is a striking example of inequality in human development."



Stop Cluster Bombs

Cluster munitions and mines continue to cause harm and disrupt agriculture long after the conflict ceases

Thousands of civilians are killed and maimed by cluster munitions. The weapons encase hundreds of unguided bomblets in a canister fired from air- or land-based artillery. They spread over a large area and are unable to distinguish between military targets and civilians. Many bomblets fail to detonate on impact, becoming de facto antipersonnel mines that contaminate land and kill and injure people long after the conflict has ended. Refugees are unable to return home and agricultural cultivation becomes too dangerous. CWS has joined the Aotearoa/ New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition, part of a global movement calling for a total ban on these weapons.

Since the 1997 banning of antipersonnel mines, cluster munitions have caused more civilian casualties in wars like Iraq (2003 -) and Kosovo (1999) than any other weapon system. Israel's extensive use of cluster bombs in Lebanon in August 2006 resulted in more than 200 civilian casualties and

served as the catalyst for governments to take action. New Zealand is one of six countries leading the Oslo Process to secure a legally binding international instrument by the end of 2008 to:

- 1) Prohibit cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians;
- 2) Establish a framework to assist cluster munition survivors and their communities and clear contaminated areas.

The A/NZ Cluster Munition Coalition supported the Wellington Declaration as the next step to a strong agreement to ban cluster munitions. It facilitated NGO forums, public actions and sponsored public meetings with key participants including Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams at the international disarmament conference in Wellington during February.

For more information see: <http://www.cws.org.nz/Campaigns/Stop-Cluster-Bombs.asp>



The fifth annual Fair Trade Fortnight will be held 3-18 May. Local committees are organising events in various cities to highlight the importance of fair trade for ensuring a better income for small producers. Parishes, workplaces and schools are all encouraged to have *A Fair Cuppa* and become a Fair Trade Church. Support this year's campaign to put more fair trade goods on supermarket shelves. Fair Trade Fortnight worship materials, background information and public events will be posted on the CWS website in early April.

- A total of 34 states are known to have produced over 210 different types of cluster munitions.
- 75 countries have stockpiles of billions of cluster munitions and bomblets.
- At least 14 countries have used cluster munitions: Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Israel, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, UK, US, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Uganda and Yugoslavia. A small number of non-state armed groups have used the weapon (such as Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006).
- At least 24 countries have been affected by the use of cluster munitions including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and Uganda.

Global Encounter for Young People: Making peace a reality

Many CWS partners work within societies devastated by past or ongoing conflicts. War, civil unrest, terrorism, police brutality, military coups, and disregard for human rights are an everyday reality for many young people. They have grown up with violence, which fosters continued poverty. In New Zealand, too, we face conflict. Almost daily there are news stories of violence in our society – murder, racial and sexual attack, unprovoked street violence, and child abuse. As part of the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence, CWS is bringing young people together to discuss their experiences of conflict and examine ways to build peace both here and overseas.

Youth representatives from Sri Lanka, Timor

Leste, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and New Zealand will attend 3 hui where they will share the effects of living with violence in their own country, ideas on how to prevent violence and ways to build a peaceful community. Together they will explore how Christian and other faith traditions offer a vision of a more just world. The aim is for the young people to build solidarity and become agents for peace.

The live-in youth conferences will be held at Te Maungarongo Marae, Ohope (18-20 July), Camp Wainui, Wellington (25-27 July) and Cracroft Guide Centre, Christchurch (1-3 August). Young people aged 15-25 years are invited to attend but places are limited. Contact youth@cws.org.nz / phone 0800 74 73 72 ext 108 for further information.



Women's Development Foundation

In Sri Lanka, children and young people are part of peace building efforts in the long running civil war.

CWS will report back on this exciting initiative later in the year with the Spring 2008 @world profiling the event and outcomes.



Island Pride:

Solomon Island women work to protect their land, culture and

“We don’t need millions,” says Ruth Liloqula. “We just need to improve our standard of living.”

In Ruth’s home island of Choiseul, people still enjoy the traditional island lifestyle but it is increasingly under threat from economic demands, logging and lack of opportunities. The challenge is to preserve their culture and land while securing a better future for their children.

For Ruth, the emphasis is on developing only what is needed in the face of commercially driven logging that is threatening the sustainability of island life and sends the profit of the locals’ “birthright” overseas. “We need to pay school fees, we need transportation, we need medicine, and we need basic goods and services. It’s not huge things,” she says. CWS is supporting the women of Choiseul in their efforts to meet these needs while protecting their environment and treasured island life.

Choiseul, known locally as Lauru, is an isolated province in the northwest of the Solomon Islands. Services and opportunities are limited. There are no sealed roads, few health clinics, and little paid employment. Schooling is expensive. Transport is mainly by boat and as fuel costs rise, people are increasingly dependent on paddle power - taking much

longer to reach medical centres, schools and other facilities. CWS partner, the Women’s Programme of the Luru Land Conference (LLC) aims to address some of these concerns by giving women the skills and knowledge they need to find new opportunities.

Ruth coordinates the women’s programme, a task she feels is important for a number of reasons. As someone fortunate to receive higher education outside of Luru, Ruth sees the training programme as “an opportunity to share my experience, my education and my knowledge with the women of Luru.” She hopes this will prepare them to cope with change and give them greater understanding of what’s going on around them. She also believes that anything to do with improving life in the villages has to start with women “because they bring up the children and they do the organising in the community.” She wants them to have a home they can be proud of and pass on to their children. “Everyone has the potential to develop, they just need to be given the opportunity to do so.”

The LLC women’s programme provides skills training to enhance family livelihood and educates women on issues affecting Choiseul and the Solomon Islands in general. The aim is for women to participate more effectively in the debates that impact

on their lives as they develop strategies to meet the challenges facing the island and resolve differences within their families and communities.

At training events, women set their own agenda, share information, and provide support for each other. The morning sessions are devoted to public-awareness and give women the chance to share what’s happening within their local areas. Topics include family law, constitutional law and politics, health, national issues, the environment, and social change. During the afternoons, women are organised in groups to learn traditional and modern crafts such as tie-dyeing, screen-printing with old x-rays, crochet, string bag making, basket making,



At an impromptu fashion show, women proudly display the tie-dyed sarongs they have learnt to make as part of their income generation training.

Left: Choiseul's traditional island life is under threat.

sewing and pottery. "We're also looking at making bangles because these are worth a lot of money," explains Ruth. Women use their new skills to make products to sell in Honiara, earning cash to buy basic needs for the family such as kerosene for lamps (there is no electricity) and soap to wash clothes.

The focus on income generation is helping women deal with what many see as the most pressing problem for the region - logging. Forests in the Solomon Islands have no legal protection. Each tribal group and even individual families decide whether to allow logging on their land. With few other options for cash income there is huge pressure on people to sell logging rights, often creating deep divisions within local communities. Women complain that when the rights are sold, the money, what little there is of it, rarely reaches the family and then the trees have gone. Logging is also occurring illegally. Environmental damage affects both logged land and neighbouring areas where owners are trying to protect their trees. Water supplies are contaminated, soil is eroded and imported



Logging leaves environmental scars and is devastating island life on Choiseul

the local people are being logged at an unsustainable rate. Income generation from handicrafts is helping families resist the pressure to log and the bringing together of women to discuss environmental protection and other issues results in new strategies. Women are now speaking out in tribal councils and in some cases picketing the boundaries of their land to stop the encroachment of loggers.

At the heart of the programme is the love and pride in their land, their communities and way of life. "I love the traditional way of life," says Ruth, "because we've got our peace of mind and we've got a huge place. When you're sad you can go to the forest and you can look at the trees and be happy." She is committed to a model of community development that "engages with the people and informs them so that they can participate in decision-making processes and planning on issues that shape their lives and will affect their lives in future."

You can learn more about the LLC Women's programme, its development approach and the challenge of logging in the CWS documentary 'Lauru Our Land: Solomon Islands women face the future' available on DVD or video with accompanying study material. Contact CWS: 0800 74 73 72 or cws@cws.org.nz



Fishing livelihoods have been restored in Sri Lanka.

The Asian Tsunami: 3 years of recovery

Much progress has been made since the 2004 South Asian tsunami. Trauma counselling has helped people cope with the huge losses, houses and community services have been rebuilt and livelihoods restored.

CWS funded nearly \$1 million of relief, supporting partners and contributing to the US\$ 1 billion ACT International Appeal. The grassroots approach was very successful. While some governments and large international organisations were criticised for imposing relief without consultation, forcibly relocating people and providing unusable housing because of inappropriate design, CWS partners allowed for full participation. Women, in one example, were able to modify house designs to get the facilities that best suited their conditions.

With South Asian coastal communities already confronting conflict, poverty, environmental degradation and livelihood challenges, tsunami relief enabled wider issues to be addressed, including the lack of disaster preparedness and the exclusion of women and Dalits from official welfare networks.

CWS supported:

- establishing civil defence units in Kanyakumari
- a report on gender issues in the tsunami to lobby the Indian government so women are not marginalised in the future
- a tsunami environmental impact report to help prevent coral destruction, restore mangroves and stop canal dredging and commercial shrimp farming that threatens the natural Tamil Nadu features providing protection from the sea.
- alternative employment opportunities for Dalit communities, excluded from government assistance as they were not fisherfolk even though they cleaned fish, boats, and equipment. Now they are working for government recognition for welfare and relief.

Thank you for your generosity. Your donations have assisted thousands of people re-establish and improve their lives.

to future

foreign weeds are choking native plants.

Ruth is distressed at the logging. At present foreign companies are taking out the trees to make money for themselves. "It's making other people rich, but it's not making us rich." She believes if Lauru people had control of the logging they would only take what was needed for the basics of family life and would respect "our birthright, which is the forest, the sea and the land". Instead, the forests which have provided food, building materials, medicines and much more for

Thanks for helping

Delka Pakivan, the coordinator of one of the LLC's women's groups, is grateful for the support CWS gives. "The programme is really interesting. We enjoy it. It really helps because in this part of Choiseul it's very hard for money. We really appreciate your help." She says that they are often seen as backward people but now women are working on needlecraft, crochet, lace work and appliqué and sell their handicrafts as well as food and garden produce. With this money they pay school fees for their children, purchase fuel to travel to health services and help support their families so they are not forced to sell logging rights.

You can help the women of Lauru and other CWS partners in their struggle for development that meets the needs of their own communities. Please give generously to the @world appeal and help us build a better future. Return your coupon today.

PM visits CWS partner

While in Uganda last November for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Prime Minister Helen Clark took the opportunity to visit a village where CWS is supporting the Church of Uganda's (CoU) HIV and AIDS programme. Wanting to see New Zealand aid assistance in action, she visited families living with AIDS, a craft shop selling products to support the programme and an orphanage school. Ms Clark commended CWS and the CoU for their work, supported by NZAID funding, for giving hope to those who had lost it and human dignity to those who were in danger of losing it.

CID Director Rae Julian accompanied

Ms Clark, noting the visit "exemplified all of the positive aspects of New Zealand development assistance – working in partnership, home-based care provided by locals, keeping children within their communities and a local income generation scheme to provide some financial assistance." CoU Coordinator Tom Tuma said the visit brought much excitement and joy for staff and the local community. "We feel it was a great honour."

CWS has been funding the CoU since 1993. The HIV and AIDS programme aims to prevent its spread, provide care and support and address the general situation



Church of Uganda

of poverty. Activities include voluntary counselling and testing, training home based care volunteers, health promotion, good nutrition through home gardens, and income generation projects to support AIDS orphans or families living with AIDS.

Listen, Learn and Live, a video/DVD on the Church of Uganda HIV and AIDS programme is available from CWS.

Free Trade Zones Tragedy

In November CWS partner, the Women's Centre, faced what is unfortunately a common tragedy in Sri Lanka's Free Trade Zones (FTZ). A 22-year-old worker was raped and murdered at a local hospital after seeking treatment for a tumour.

The young female workers of the zones are extremely vulnerable to sexual harassment and assault. Society looks down on them, viewing them as 'play things'. With family far away, the women have little protection. Rape is common and often unreported for fear of income loss and other reprisals. This comes on top of exploitative working conditions, low pay, crowded and squalid housing and lack of labour regulations to protect their health and other rights.

The Women's Centre mounted protests demanding justice for the murder victim and for the suspect, a doctor, to face charges. Their protest was based on the need for social dignity. "We consider social attitudes towards the women workers as the most important issue," they say. They asked women workers to wear white and were amazed at the support. "We couldn't believe our eyes because the response was immense and the whole FTZ could be seen in immaculate white lace. This was the first time such a common action was successful." Amidst what was yet another tragedy they saw some hope that women will no longer accept such treatment and are giving greater support to the Women's Centre campaign to change social attitudes.

Partner Learning Exchange



In September 2007 CWS held its first Partner Learning Exchange. The week long workshop brought together representatives from 4 CWS partners in Asia: Church World Service Cambodia; Devasarana Development Centre, Sri Lanka; the Developers Foundation, Philippines; and the Women's Development Resource Centre, India. Held in the Philippines, the exchange gave partners a chance to share their experiences and gain ideas from each other. It recognised their considerable development expertise, the commonality of poverty and injustice issues, and the diverse strategies applied.

The workshop analysed how to achieve greater impact and participants found it opened their minds to new ideas. The Women's Development Resource Centre,

for example, was inspired by the sustainable livelihoods programme of the Developers Foundation and left with ideas of how to incorporate something similar in their existing work to build women's confidence, strengthen women's organisations and increase their participation in decision-making.

The exchange affirmed CWS's development model with partners in control of the programme. They selected the topics to share ideas on and met as equals to develop their own strategies and solutions. "We learnt a lot," says Teresa Golanco-Naraval from the Developers Foundations. "The knowledge of having other development organisations in other parts of the world working alongside us in fighting poverty really inspires us. Now we know we are not alone."



Richard Read

Just Gifts...

With increasing numbers of supporters asking for alternative gifts, CWS began offering *Just Gifts* in December.

Just Gifts enables people to 'buy' items such as goats, fruit trees, or rainwater tanks to give to family and friends. Recipients receive a certificate that explains how the donation assists people in poor communities through the programmes of CWS partners.

Belynda Jack, who purchased a bicycle for her extended family, says they were "absolutely delighted" with their Christmas gift. While searching online for information about the Otago Rail Trail, which a family group of 16 will cycle in March, she came across *CWS Just Gifts*. "It made me think how very fortunate our family is to be able to bike for a fun holiday when a bicycle to a Sudanese family is a more serious matter - perhaps the difference between life and death," she says. Knowing her donation will give a family some new opportunities, Belynda decided it was the perfect gift. "It ties in with our plans to cycle together, and buying Christmas gifts for family that live in other parts of

the country is a nightmare. As a bonus I saved precious time during the lead-up to Christmas - which I should have used training on my bike!"

At St John's in the City, Wellington, the St J's Kids groups were challenged to raise funds in support of *CWS Just Gifts*. The 2 to 4 year olds decided to make Christmas paper with paint and stamps. The 5 to 7 year olds (pictured above) made lemonade. Those aged 7 to 9 donated goods for a 'pamper pack' and raffled it off. The 10-12 year olds decided to host a games day. On 'sale day', the Christmas paper sold out in 5 minutes flat, the lemonade couldn't be poured fast enough, raffle sellers made a rapid turnover and people actually paid to play games with the children - and enjoyed it! St J's kids raised \$540, which they chose to give for 7 goats, 12 fruit tree seedlings, 15 mangroves for swamp restoration in the Philippines and a rainwater tank in Zimbabwe. "How's that for changing the world for a few people from our small group of St J's Kids with big imaginations?" asks their leader Bronwyn Wood.

Thanks for your support

CWS gratefully acknowledges the support of our ecumenical partners including:

- the National Committee of Church Women United Aotearoa- New Zealand, who donated \$19,500 from World Day of Prayer 2007 for projects in Tonga, South Sudan and Nicaragua.
- the Association of Presbyterian Women, who donated \$3000 from the Mission Birthday Gift and sale of used stamps for our partner in Cambodia after reading of their work in the Spring/Summer 07 @world.
- The Christchurch Presbytery who donated \$750 from their first U2Christ.



Knowing that other children have nothing compared to children in New Zealand, Gabrielle, Kaitlyn, Jordi, Sebastiaan and Lara from St Andrews United Congregation in Motueka decided to help families in Nicaragua. With their mothers, they baked cookies and slices, selling them after church to raise \$210 for the *CWS Christmas Appeal*. "We are very grateful for the generous support from our church," says one of the mothers, Kathryn van Veen. "They were giving from their hearts."

How *Just Gifts* help:



To Market To Market

With a bicycle, as part of the Sudan Council of Churches women's livelihood programme, this poultry group are able to buy chickens and eggs from outlying areas and on sell them. With no public transport, few vehicles and atrocious roads, bicycles are a key form of transport in South Sudan. Now these women can afford food, medicines, and school fees.



Gregarious Goats:

Freda received a goat through the Church of Uganda's animal husbandry programme. Her family now have a regular milk supply and fertilizer for growing vegetables and bananas. They sell their surplus to buy household necessities and pay school fees.

Just Gifts are available for all special occasions. Download the catalogue from www.cws.org.nz or phone 0800 74 73 72.



Murray Ryburn

In Christchurch, 9 year old Caitlin Ryburn raised over \$500 busking with her recorder. She donated this to CWS's partner in Timor Leste to help give children the opportunity for schooling.

Our sincere thanks for donations made in memory of Marge Wilson, Lower Hutt.



Take Action Against Poverty

Almost three billion people live in poverty so extreme that they can barely survive.

They live without secure livelihoods, adequate food, water and sanitation, affordable health services, schools and education, and decent housing.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS.



Help us build a better world

- Support the @world appeal
- Become a CWS regular supporter
- Give generously to emergency appeals
- Add your voice to our campaigns and help people find their own way out of poverty.

Yes, I would like to support the work of CWS

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postcode _____

Telephone () _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my contribution of: \$25 \$60 \$125 Other \$.....

Donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible.

Please debit my Visa Diners Amex Mastercard

Card number

Amount \$ _____ Expiry date _____ / _____

Signature _____

Please send me more information on including Christian World Service in my will

CWS, the development, justice and aid agency of New Zealand churches, acts to end poverty and injustice throughout the world. We fund groups working for better lives and livelihoods in their local communities, support humanitarian relief in times of disaster, campaign against the causes of global poverty and educate within Aotearoa New Zealand. CWS responds to people's needs regardless of race or religion.

Christian World Service

National Office

PO Box 22652

High Street

Christchurch 8142

Phone: 03 366 9274 0800 74 73 72

cws@cws.org.nz www.cws.org.nz

Northern Fieldworker (Upper North Island):

Phone: 09 571 9150 cwsnorthern@cws.org.nz

Central Fieldworker (Lower North Island):

Ph 04 384 3587 cwscentral@cws.org.nz

Autumn 08



CWS

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY