



CWS

Winter Story

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY



By Greg Jackson, CWS media coordinator.

The good news in the bad news

CWS has been part of the good news stories buried behind the bad news stories recently in places like Bangladesh and Syria.

For this year's "winter story" we thought we might visit the core CWS concepts of partnership and commitment, our points of difference.

It is here that you find the good news stories buried far below the bad news headlines about recent news.

At CWS we saw the value and strength of commitment while the world watched the Bangladesh garment factory collapse story in horror and disbelief.

Over 1100 underpaid factory workers died when the multi storey factory collapsed despite the owners having got a clear warning of building failure the day before.

So where was the "good news" in this disaster story for CWS?

It showed when the Bangladesh group supporting the factory workers reached out for help.

When the Bangladesh National Garment Workers Union wanted to get help for the surviving families and the injured workers from the factory collapse they contacted us.

Why? Because CWS has partnered with them in their struggle for better working conditions in Bangladesh for years.

Their leader Mr Amirul Amin wrote to us and said "I know you are very busy but please consider that we have to do a lot of things"

These included supporting the injured survivors, the families of the dead and getting compensation.

CWS was able to put their case to unions here.

New Zealand's FIRST Union who represent retail and clothing workers here are now fundraising for the Bangladesh workers and sending donations via CWS.

In the dreadful civil war tearing Syria apart our commitments also pay off with refugee aid.

For CWS the good news here is with our long term partnership with the Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), working with what are in fact double refugees, first from Palestine in 1948 and now from Syria.

The DSPR is providing practical help to these and other refugees in Lebanon and Jordan giving CWS a trusted and reliable partner on the spot.

In Jordan DSPR is using its health clinic in Madaba to provide health checks and medical care. It is also





A new school, in a new land. Syrian refugee girls wait to start school with donated school gear. Photo: Paul Jeffery ACT Alliance.

» providing food, clothing and household utensils to newly arrived refugees.

In Lebanon DSPR's focus is on the thousands of refugees who have joined family members in long established Palestinian refugee camps.

They provide immediate basic needs and are concerned with integrating young people into existing education and vocational training.

The DSPR connection is one of the oldest for CWS and it is through these enduring ties that we are able to ensure help goes where it is most needed and most effective.

When our global partner's the ACT Alliance's photographer, Paul Jeffery, visited Jordan this year it was to visit Syrian refugees.

He found an inspiring story in the person of Mrs Souad Kasem, a mum of six subsisting in Jordan's capital Amman.

Souad's rent is months behind but rather than evict

them their landlord is helping them out with blankets and food.

He used to live in the United States where a daughter's medical bills bankrupted him.

"Thank God for our humanity," he said. "Most of us are willing to share what we have for others to survive."

CWS have recently codified its approach to partnership in a strategy paper.

Under the section "Values We Hold" the paper laid out the key planks of the CWS approach to partnership. These are:

- » We recognise partners as experts in their own situation.
- » We engage with them at the grassroots.
- » We place an emphasis on the marginalised (including those less likely to be supported by other donors.
- » We support local development, self-determination and the role of women in development.
- » Partnership is grounded in an understanding of incarnational theology.
- » Partnership takes time-good partnership means being patient.
- » We are involved for the long haul in maintaining partnerships and supporting partners in order to be true to our principles.

CWS national director, Pauline McKay said it was good to spell out the CWS partnership philosophy publicly.

"How we partner really is what makes us different and it is these ideas that you are supporting when you support us," she said. ■

Please cut and return coupon below

Yes, I would like to support the work of CWS

Name

Address

City Postcode

Telephone () Email

I enclose: \$35 \$65 \$125 Other \$..... Donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible

Direct deposit to: 06 0817 0318646 00

Particulars: Supporter's Name

Code: Winter 2013

Reference: Your CWS Supporter ID no.

Email your postal details to cws@cws.org.nz if you would like a tax receipt.

Please debit \$ from my

Visa Mastercard Diners Amex

Signature Expiry date /

Card number

Winter 2013

Christian World Service has been doing a world of good since 1945. Established by the New Zealand churches to help in war torn Europe, we now assist groups around the world – helping communities survive disaster, overcome poverty and build dignity and self-reliance. We stand up for the powerless and campaign for social and environmental justice. CWS provides help where it is needed – regardless of race, region or religion.

Christian World Service

National Office

PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140
Ph: 03 366 9274 0800 74 73 72
cws@cws.org.nz www.cws.org.nz

Northern Fieldworker (Upper North Island):

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

CWS is a registered charity: #CC22288



"We believe the provision and enjoyment of the basic necessities of life is the will of God for all humankind."