ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Life Lines

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

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Long-Term Recovery

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Fair Trade Coffee Statistics

In 2006:

- The volume of Fair Trade Certified™ organic coffee produced grew by 94% (compared to 2005)
- 78% of coffee certified by TransFair USA was organic

Each coffee sack weighs 100 pounds.

Additional facts

- Since 1998, Fair Trade coffee purchases in the United States have provided an additional $91.6 million in income to coffee farmers
- 20% of coffee drinkers in the United States are aware of Fair Trade coffee; more than half choose to purchase it

Source: ***www.transfairusa.org***

Fair Trade farmers weather the storm

In Nicaragua, farmers who have made the transition to Fair Trade production over the past decade have been much more prepared to withstand severe weather. In fact, none of the Nicaraguan coffee cooperatives supported by Lutheran World Relief reported serious problems during recent heavy rains. LWR works with these communities to develop rapid-response plans for disasters like floods or forest fires and to address another important part of disaster prevention—sustainable agriculture.

When I visited Nicaragua, I saw some farms not involved in Fair Trade that were clearly at risk for disaster during heavy rain. Families living on marginal lands had planted crops on nearly vertical slopes, which usually leads to erosion. Often their homes lay directly below the crops on a bit of flat land that is often in the likely path of a mudslide. Most farmers are aware of the risk, but without a better price for their coffee they have few options. Economic pressures force them to clear native vegetation and plant coffee on land not suitable for growing crops.

On the Fair Trade farms I visited, things were different. Large fruit trees shaded smaller coffee plants and, along with deep-rooted companion crops, helped keep soil in place and prevent mudslides. Terracing, composting, and wind breaks helped protect and improve the soil. Farmers were making improvements to their homes and in the quality of their coffee. Their children were staying in school and, for the first time, had the opportunity to take courses in art, music, English, and ecology. By working the land together in cooperatives, families can preserve access to land even through times of challenge or misfortune.

Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal help Lutheran World Relief empower more farmers to join the Fair Trade movement, and the Fair Trade coffee you buy helps keep farmers' lives and livelihoods more secure. Thanks—and keep up the good work!

— Jennifer Barger is coordinator for donor relationships in the World Hunger Appeal

Nicaragua photos by Jennifer Barger (http://imageevent.com/elcahunger)

RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

NEW! World Hunger blog

The ELCA World Hunger staff is pleased to announce our new blog! We invite you to journey with us as we consider hunger in the world, our work, the work of others, and anything else that strikes us as interesting, timely, or helpful. We welcome your voice in the conversation and look forward to reading your comments!

http://blogs.elca.org/hungerrumblings

Are you a Hunger Contact?

If you do not already receive *LifeLines* and the World Hunger Resource Packet regularly, go to ***www.elca.org/hunger/contact*** to sign up. The summer packet mails in late May, and the summer issue of *LifeLines* mails in early June, so sign up today!

Save the date!

God's Work. Our Hands.
2008 ELCA Global Mission Event
July 17–20, 2008
University of Wisconsin—La Crosse

For program details, visit ***www.elca.org/gme***

Share World Hunger stories

Have you read the most current World Hunger stories? Go to ***www.elca.org/hunger/stories*** to download, copy, and paste into your bulletin or newsletter examples of how your gifts are making a difference in people's lives throughout the world.

The Gulf Coast "Sweet 16"

More than two years after Hurricane Katrina, thousands of people along the Mississippi Gulf Coast remain homeless. Late last year Charles *(pictured below)*, a construction supervisor with Lutheran-Episcopal Services, and Clinton, a Mennonite volunteer from Canada, sat down for lunch to discuss an idea—the "Sweet 16." They wanted to build 16 new homes by the end of March 2008, just four months away. After conversations with other local partner organizations, they figured out a plan. Lutherans would provide construction materials and project supervision, and Mennonites would supply volunteer labor while other local agencies would contribute toward the cost of building each house.

Your gifts are still needed to support rebuilding and long-term recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast. To make a gift or for more information, visit ***www.elca.org/disaster***

Photo by Bob Blanton, Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi

Brothers Willie Bowers (left) and Charles Woods (right) with Thias Bradley (middle) in front of Bradley's new "Sweet 16" home. Bowers and Woods are former students of Ms. Bradley's.

Your support of ELCA Domestic Disaster Response after the 2005 hurricane season has made collaborative efforts like this possible. The ELCA is committed to long-term recovery. Following a natural disaster, long-term recovery committees are formed to unite everyone behind common goals, meet unmet needs, and restore the community, so that people like Charles and Clinton can help sustain rebuilding efforts.

The "Sweet 16" are on target for completion by the end of March and have grown to a total of 18 homes. Working shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors, we can do more together than any of us could do alone. Through your gifts to this ministry, your prayers, and your support of local initiatives, you help make a difference in the lives of people who survive disasters.

— Michael Nevergall is program associate for Domestic Disaster Response

In it for the long haul

In the days and weeks following a major domestic or international disaster, we are flooded with pictures and reports from affected communities. Thousands dead. Millions displaced. Images of crying survivors and frantic aid workers fill our TV screens.

But what happens when the TV cameras leave? What if they never show up in the first place? Thankfully, neighbors around the world and in our own backyards have experienced ELCA members' generosity in our response to domestic and global disasters. From flooding in Texas to flooding in Bangladesh, from a tornado in Oklahoma to an earthquake in Peru, **ELCA Disaster Response is in it for the long haul**.

A few years ago, I visited a camp in Uganda for internally displaced people—people who had lost their homes due to civil unrest. They struggled to rebuild their lives in camps operated by the Lutheran World Federation, supported in part through gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response. We asked people what brought them hope. Their answer was simple: "We have hope because you are here. We have hope because you have not forgotten us."

Thank you for your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and ELCA Disaster Response, which support disaster survivors and people struggling to survive chronic hunger and poverty. Your gifts offer help, hope, and the promise that *we will remember*.

— Kathryn Sime is director of the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER

- ○ I want to help neighbors around the world and close to home fight hunger and poverty through a gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Enclosed is a check made out to **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**. To donate with a major credit card, call 800.638.3522, or go to ***www.elca.org/giving***
- ○ I would like to learn more about major gifts and planned giving opportunities.
- ○ My address has changed. (Please make changes on the reverse side of this slip)

Mail this slip to: ELCA World Hunger Appeal, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631

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Are you planning *long-term*?

Do you have a will? If not, have you been putting off creating one? Or maybe it's time for you to update yours? This is the perfect time to think about people who are hungry and how **you can make a lasting difference.**

When you create or update your will, consider naming the ELCA World Hunger Appeal as one of your beneficiaries. Call the Rev. Rodger Prois at 800.638.3522, ext. 2865, e-mail him at *Rodger.Prois@elca.org*, or visit ***www.elca.org/foundation*** to learn more about how easy it can be to remember those who are hungry in your will and estate planning.

From the Program director...

Recovery and relationship

In this issue of *LifeLines*, we see that "it's all about relationships." The relationship between healthy, vibrant communities and their ability to recover from disasters. The relationship between disaster preparedness and long-term recovery. The relationship between you and ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Disaster Response.

Your work through these programs aids communities in becoming strong enough to weather the storms. As donors and volunteers, you are intimately connected with people in need—people who want to help themselves. And through ELCA advocacy efforts, you are deeply engaged in calling for fair and just public policies.

When you buy Fair Trade coffee or support ELCA World Hunger efforts in Nicaragua, you stand in solidarity with farmers who work hard to sustain their families. When you follow the latest disaster—in the U.S. or internationally—and support ELCA Disaster Response, you extend a lifeline to those who are displaced, homeless, or experiencing great loss. **When you act, lives are saved**.

We thank God for giving us new life in these connections with others. And we ask that God inspire and enable us to grow in these relationships, so that God's abundance may be experienced by all people.

— Nancy Arnison is director of the ELCA World Hunger Program

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