

# Right Sharing OF WORLD RESOURCES

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CONNIE ARCHBALD (CLERK)  
NORTHERN YEARLY MEETING  
CLYDE BAKER (TREASURER)  
ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING  
CHRIS MOORE-BACKMAN  
PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING  
SYLVIA GRAVES  
WESTERN YEARLY MEETING  
TED HAWKINS  
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(RECORDING CLERK)  
NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING  
GEORGE KEGODE  
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BLAKE LIPSETT  
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EBBY LUVAGA  
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GEETA MCGAHEY  
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MEETING AND ASSOCIATION  
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SERITA SPADONI  
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BOB VETTER  
INDIANA YEARLY MEETING  
JENNIFER WALKER  
SOUTHERN APPALACIAN YEARLY  
MEETING AND ASSOCIATION

*Yearly Meetings listed for  
identification purposes only*

GOD CALLS US  
TO THE RIGHT SHARING OF  
WORLD RESOURCES,  
FROM THE BURDENS OF  
MATERIALISM AND POVERTY INTO  
THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S LOVE,  
TO WORK FOR EQUITY THROUGH  
PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR SISTERS  
AND BROTHERS THROUGHOUT THE  
WORLD.

## LISTENING TO PROJECT PARTNERS, CONTINUING THE WORK

It is a great blessing when RSWR's project partners provide us with commentary about the work that we do. Recently we have received two such commentaries, one from Kenya and one from Tamil Nadu, India. The first is presented by Mary Eagleson in her reflection of John Muhanji's meeting with the RSWR Board. In addition to John's background that Mary notes, John is currently Friends United Meeting's Africa Ministries Representative in Kenya. The second, as reflected in the excerpted letter below, is from Mr. N. Purushotham. Mr. Purushotham is the director of the Society for People's Research, Environmental Affairs and Development Service (SPREADS), a past RSWR partner (2000-2004) in Andhra Pradesh. When Cindi and I traveled in Tamil Nadu among recently funded projects this past February, Mr. Purushotham joined us for a week, to learn what other RSWR-supported groups were doing.

How else could we "respond" to these comments than to carry on with the work that we have been doing?! This is exactly what the RSWR Board of Trustees did at its April meeting in Richmond. Two new members were welcomed. Ebby Luvaga is from Ames, Iowa (originally from East Africa Yearly Meeting -North), where she is a professor of agricultural economics at Iowa State University. Blake Lipsett grew up in Baltimore Yearly Meeting and now lives in Philadelphia where she is coordinator of the Young Adult Leadership Development Program at Pendle Hill. The

Board's sessions began with a mini-retreat, led by Field Staff, Jackie Speicher. The retreat was a short experience of her work on "Simplicity as a Spiritual Discipline", which is the focus of her outreach among Friends. Much of the Board's time was spent refining the strategic plan. One of the previously approved strategies was refined, and specific goals were identified within each strategy.

### *Strategy One:*

#### *Continue Our Best Practices*

- Goal 1 Expand fund-raising efforts
- Goal 2 Increase collaboration with Friends United Meeting, particularly in Kenya
- Goal 3 Increase the number of women making site visits

### *Strategy Two:*

#### *Increase Presence Among North American Quakers With Special Attention to Young Friends*

- Goal 1 Increase engagement opportunities for young people through partnering with existing programs
- Goal 2 Broaden representation (age, race, theology, culture) of Friends on the Board
- Goal 3 Make RSWR curriculum, speakers, retreats, study groups and written resources more available

### *Strategy Three (revised):*

#### *Move Toward Empowering Project Partners*

- Goal 1 Facilitate Training for Partners
- Goal 2 Organize conferences among part-

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ners, especially encouraging women's participation

Goal 3 Provide ongoing visitation to projects

*Strategy Four - Explore a Paradigm Shift from Wealth-based Development to Sustainability, with a New Understanding of Resources*

Goal Examine and flesh out what is meant by the sharing of resources, rightly ordered, from "us sharing with them" to "mutual sharing and stewardship".

#### REFLECTION ON THE DAY BEFORE PALM SUNDAY

"You people don't know what you have been doing," he said. How often that is the preface to an accusation! The speaker was John Muhanji, one of the founders of Africa Quaker Vision (Aquavis), a Kenyan volunteer organization. He was accusing us of affecting the lives of several thousand people for the better. He was expressing deep gratitude from himself and from those several thousand people.

We cannot really know what we have done because we are unable to imagine the lives of our partners. Take, for example, the Masaba Widows Group. For the most part, these women are not old, and many of them have dependent children. Many have been widowed by AIDS, and some of them were infected by their husbands. We, who worry about losing weight, can hardly put ourselves in the shoes of someone who is thin because she is too poor to buy enough food for herself and her family. She is an outcast; she does not own the farm property that was her husband's before he died. How can she ever earn enough money to eat, let alone to buy the drugs which will give her a few more years of life in which to raise her children?

So what have we done? Through Right Sharing, and in partnership with Aquavis, we have made available to her women's group the funds to give her a loan. She and her friends have used those loans to start microenterprise businesses, and now they do get enough to eat. Some of those who are not sick have been pooling their resources to buy antiviral drugs for those who are. Above all, they have learned how to escape poverty, and they are working to ease their neighbors' poverty.

This, John said, is the best form of evangelism: to live out the gospel message. In his mind,

Finally, the Board affirmed four multi-year projects, totaling \$19,875 in grants, and 19 new projects, totaling \$90,850. In this first funding cycle of 2006, \$110,725 was approved in grants. The bulk of this newsletter highlights these 23 projects.

The last section, prepared by Jackie Speicher, RSWR's Field Staff, highlights the work that she has been developing in the past six months and is a summary of the retreat which she did with the Board.

the heart of the Christian gospel is that we are to love our neighbors and to enable them to lead lives of dignity. We can see the risen Christ in the face of an African woman who has suffered greatly, but who has discovered her own ability to support herself, her children and her sisters in her women's group. We have not done all of this, or even very much of it, but without our help, it would not have happened."

Mary Eagleson, New York Yearly Meeting

#### REFLECTION ON THE WORK OF RSWR FROM INDIAN EYES

*Partnerships with Grassroots level NGOs (non-governmental organization):*

Almost all of the project partnerships have been with grassroots level NGOs to promote socio-economic conditions of the disadvantaged women by promoting self-help groups, credit and savings, micro-enterprise development, and other income generation activities. It is a great opportunity to all the grassroots level NGO partners of RSWR to promote women developmental activities in rural areas because RSWR primarily considers the projects and requests from grassroots level NGOs. This policy of RSWR is very correct as grassroots NGOs struggle to get funding support for any developmental projects. [Approaching larger funding organizations] requires experience, procedures and formalities to meet the donor's criteria. Ultimately these grassroots level NGOs are not in a position to get support from such agencies. This policy of RSWR is laudable.

After getting support from RSWR it is easy for grassroots groups to get other support because they gain experience and exposure to the procedures and programs necessary to implement de-



*Mr. Purushotham being welcomed by tribal people in the Ghat mountains.*

velopment projects. It opens a window to these NGOs, to strengthen and streamline themselves. No doubt, this credibility goes to RSWR.

***Positive impacts on rural women lives:***

Due to the self-help group (SHG) revolution and globalization, the situation of women is changing slowly towards recognition and respect. Because of the SHG movement and RSWR support in our service area, the women are identified as credit-worthy by banks.

RSWR is also supporting and encouraging active participation of women in decision-making by providing appropriate training. All these initiatives by RSWR help women gain confidence, self-reliance, independence and respect in their families and community. Societal attitudes toward women are also changing. By involving themselves in development activities, women are able to earn

money and support their family to meet at least their livelihood. The violation of human rights and beatings of women have been reduced. Women are getting respect in their family, as well as community, because of their earnings and support of their family.

***Impact on government and financial institutions:***

Women generally were not being encouraged and supported by the government and financial institutions as the women had no collateral security for their economic and social development. The government and financial institutions presume that women are not productive, are unskilled and unorganized, and not aware of their rights. But, RSWR's project beneficiaries are able to tap resources from government as well as financial institutions, because they are well oriented through various trainings, workshops and other exposures. The project beneficiaries have crossed or broken the barriers. It is really a boon to underprivileged women in rural areas. This situation [is] also affecting the private money lenders. Most of the women are able to get a loan with low rate of interest, at an easy repayment schedule. Ultimately, most of the moneylenders close their lending business, while a few others are offering money for lower rates of interest. It indicates the impact of the seed money given by RSWR.

***Leadership qualities among women:***

Due to orientation trainings by RSWR project, women are confident about their strength and ability to negotiate with various institutions as well as government to raise their voice and raise many important issues to solve their problems.

Mr. N. Purushotham, SPREADS

## CONTINUING PROJECTS—INDIA (2)

### SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S EDUCATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—\$5,000

“WOMEN EMPOWERMENT VIA INCOME GENERATION”

100 women from 25 self-help groups in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu are participating in this three-year project. This is the third of the three years. Each group has a membership of 14-20, and receives a grant of \$115. The selected women will then receive a total of 12 days training in credit, bookkeeping, business, marketing,

community issues, use of a revolving fund, the income generating activity that they have chosen, and human rights relating to women. They will then start one of five income generating activities; powder-making, basket-making, toy-making, herb sales, vegetable sales. Loans to members will be \$25-\$45. Net monthly income will be \$15-25.

## GRAMIYA INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR RURAL WOMEN DEVELOPMENT— \$5,000

### “SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FOR RURAL WOMEN”



25 women from the Atenakottai cluster of five villages, Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu, participated in the first year and 25 women from the Varapur cluster of five villages will participate in this, the second year of the two-year project.

The women will receive training in inte-

grated farming and manure (fertilizer) production. They will also be involved in planting and maintaining saplings and inter-crops, and construction of water-harvesting structures for their land. A loan of \$190 will be made to each woman to construct a compost pit, purchase seedlings, seeds, install a water harvesting system, and purchase a cow. The women will generate an average monthly income of \$70. 12% from compost sales, 7% from the sale of azolla (nitrogen-fixing plants), 33% from the sale of amirthakaraisal (bio-pesticide), and 48% from the sale of herbs and vegetables.

*Gramiya member selling vermi-compost (and onions).*

## CONTINUING PROJECTS—KENYA (1)

### RAFIKI MWEMA WOMEN GROUP—\$4,875

#### “WOMEN’S TEA FARMING AND SMALL BUSINESSES”

35 women from Chavakali Yearly Meeting began this five-year project, now in its third year. The women began the project by saving \$2 per member per month. A total of \$660 had been saved and 20 women have been helped to start, on a small-scale, a tea business on their land. 15 additional women will be provided with interest-free loans totaling \$650 to start small enterprises.

The women can accommodate 500 plants on their land. Once production starts, each member’s monthly income will be \$8. From this, \$2 will be paid to the group. At the end of the year each member will receive \$155, of which \$25 will be remitted to the group to operate the project. Each member will then earn \$195 per year and the



*Rafiki Mwema Women Group members selling grain.*

group will have \$970 to operate an office and provide some staff.

## CONTINUING PROJECTS—PHILIPPINES (1)

### CHRIST THE ROCK EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH—\$5,000

#### “SEAWEED PRODUCTION”

36 (initially) members of the community cooperative in Pinagsakayan, Quezon (approximately 120 miles from Manila) are participating in this three-year project. The project will be implemented as a collaboration between Christ the Rock Evangelical Friends Church and the Pinagsakayan

Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Early in 2002 a pilot project of growing seaweed was started. It demonstrated the ability to increase family by over 125%. There has also been a community grocery store and a community banking program established in the area.

The project will start with 2 weeks of mobilizing and training. It will take 3 months to implement a crop of seaweed, followed by a week of evaluation. The training will be provided by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Three persons will receive a loan of \$875 to begin production on 1 hectare (about 2.5 acre) of water. With each harvest of seaweed (4 per year) they will repay 25% of the loan. 10% of net income per crop

will be given to the cooperative as share capital.

It is expected that total net production (after seedlings for next crop are taken out) per harvest will be 5,792 Kgs.. This will be dried to 827 Kgs., worth \$.50 per kilogram. Total annual income will be \$1,660. Net income (after the loan of \$875 is paid) will be \$785 per year, \$260 per person per year, \$21 per person per month.

## NEW PROJECTS—INDIA (10)

### NEW EARTH TEAM—\$4,600

#### “PLANTAIN TREE CULTIVATION AND INTER-CROPS”

The project will be initiated in Mudalipatti, Karur District, Tamil Nadu, where irrigation through percolation ponds, community wells and lakes is available. The 25 women will cultivate plantain trees and inter-crops after receiving skills training in restoring traditional seed varieties, and in traditional methods of cultivation. Each woman will receive loan of \$165. The women will all have one acre of land on which they will plant more than 700 plants. In the third month after plantain planting, inter-crops will be sown (cotton plants and vegetables). In the tenth month plantains will start producing. Prior to production of plantains, the women can begin selling leaves (1500 leaves per month for \$50 per month). The women will also sell the outer parts of the tree for rope production (\$35 per year). When plantains are harvested women can earn \$625 from 700 bunches of plantain. Total income from plantains will be approximately \$985 per year. Inter-crops of cotton and vegetables will yield \$215 per year. The women will also sell organic manure (\$15 per month).

### WOMEN’S INTEGRATED NETWORK—\$5,000

#### “WOMEN EMPOWERMENT”

Fifty women from 12 self-help groups in 12 villages in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu, are participating in this one-year project.

The women have been organized into self-help groups have been saving \$.65 per month. The women will engage in one of five trades; tree nursery, vermi-compost, pappadam and pickle making, masala powder preparation, and thatch weav-

ing. Each women will be lent \$65, to be repaid in 15 monthly installments. Net monthly income will be \$30-\$40, depending on the income-generating project.

### VILLAGE COMMUNITY WELFARE SOCIETY—\$4,500

#### “FOOD SOVEREIGNTY”

30 women from five village self-help groups in Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu, are participating in this three-year project.

The women will raise jetropa, inter-crops of grain, Turkish birds. Jetropa has been used for many years as natural fencing. It is used today in bio-fuel/diesel production. It is also very suitable for waste and in drought conditions. The women will each have five Turkish birds (four female and one male), and will receive a three-day training in land preparation, jetropa sapling planting, inter-crop seeding, watering, harvesting, and Turkish bird-raising. Average monthly income from sales will be \$115, providing a net monthly income to each woman of \$75.

### ANNAM MARY FOUNDATION—\$5,000

#### “EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN VIA INTEGRATED FARMING AND ORGANIC FOOD PROCESSING”

50 tribal women in 10 village self-help groups, Madurai District, Tamil Nadu, are participating in this one-year project.

120 women receive training in record keeping and the 50 women who will start the income-generating portion of the project will receive a three-day skill training. The women will engage in various income-generating activities including vegetable and fruit sales, vermi-compost making, calf-rearing, herbal processing, and organic pest

management. \$225 will be given to each self-help group to begin making loans to members. Income from sale will be an average of \$35-\$65 per month, resulting in a net monthly income of \$30-\$50.

### PULIYUR PANCHAYAT MEMBATTU SANGAM—\$4,850

#### “WATER AUGMENTATION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND PROMOTION”

30 women, six from each of five village self-help groups in Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu, are participating in this one-year project.

The women will receive a two-day training in water management, watering in dry cultivation, integrated cultivation, seed selection, and pest control. Abandoned lands will be used. Water harvesting structures will be built and fodder will be planted along the field borders. Different kinds of grains will be inter-cropped. Annual income from sales will be \$910, providing a net annual income of \$670.

From Dr. R. Kannan’s March 2006 site visit report, “Puliyur Panchayat Membattu Sangam is one of the pioneering grass-root organizations demonstrating how small land holders can do best by using organic methods of agriculture. PPMS started as a family of three adventuring their life in organic and integrated agriculture on 1 acre of hand and motivating and training the neighboring farmers in organic methods. We can make use [of their efforts] by sending our partners interested in doing organic/integrated farming for exposure to this organization.”

### SOCIETY FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT—\$4,900

#### “REVOLVING FUND”

30 women from 10 self-help groups in the slums of Madurai, Tamil Nadu will participate in this one-year project.

Members of all 10 self-help groups will receive training in skills and marketing. 30 of the women will receive a loan of \$110, which will be repaid at \$11 per month. They will engage in a cooperative pappadam (flat bread) business.



*Society for Tribal Development self-help group meeting in an alley.*

### WOMEN’S ORGANISATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT—\$5,000

#### “ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF MUSLIM WOMEN THROUGH RURAL WOMEN’S MILK SOCIETY”

20 Muslim women, two from each of 10 self-help groups in Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu will participate in this three-year project.

Training would be provided in animal husbandry. The milk society would appoint a part-time veterinary doctor for preventive maintenance of the animals. The women who possess land will be trained to grow fodder trees and to produce by-products from milk. The women will receive loans of \$225, which will be repaid at 12% interest. Monthly income from sales will be \$70. With expenses of \$15 per month, a net monthly income of \$55 will be realized.

WORD was a RSWR partner in 2002. From Dr. R. Kannan’s March 2006 site visit report, “Women’s Organisation and Rural Development is a well organized and qualified organisation. The members of the Muslim women group are comfortable and feel competent about their group activity and the guiding organisation. They are well informed and have a clear idea about the proposed project.”

### COUNCIL FOR RURAL ENLIGHTENMENT—\$5,000

#### “TRIBAL WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT”

40 Yanadi and Sugali tribal women from six village self-help groups in Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, will participate in this one-year project.

The women will be trained in income-generating skills (dairy, vegetable cultivation, bamboo basket making or forest produce collection and sales). \$225 will be provided to each self-help group, which will then lend to its members. Loans will be repaid at 18% interest, to be collected in 12 payments. Each self-

help group member will save \$.65 per month. Monthly income from sales will be \$65-\$260. Net monthly income will be \$50-\$130.

## SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT—\$2,800

### "HERBAL AND KITCHEN GARDENING"

25 women, five from each of five village self-help groups, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu, will participate in this one-year project.

The women will receive five-day training. Each woman will then receive a loan of \$110 to grow pesticide-free herbs and kitchen gardening at her home. Loans will be repaid, beginning the 4th month, with ten installments of \$11 each. Beginning the 4th month, sales of herbs will be \$220 per month. Annual expenses will be \$465, leaving a net annual income of \$1,075. Total annual income from the kitchen gardens will be \$865. Expenses will be \$220, leaving a net annual income of \$645. Total net annual income from both activities will be \$1,720.

## NEW PROJECTS—KENYA (5)

### VUTSILLI FRIENDS WOMEN GROUP—\$4,800

#### "RURAL COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION"

VFWG is a group of 32 Quaker women who are members of Thim-Jope Village Meeting. The group will establish a revolving loan fund to enable members and non-members to receive loans for small-scale businesses and vegetable farming. Micro-businesses that the women will engage in are dairy, poultry, and sales of maize [corn], beans, fish. Net monthly income per member will be \$30-\$70.

### MASABA "A" WIDOWS WOMEN GROUP—\$4,400

#### "WIDOWS EMPOWERMENT THROUGH AWARENESS AND MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT"

23 women, members of Masaba Quarterly Meeting, Elgon East Yearly Meeting, will participate in this one-year project. It follows an earlier (2004) RSWR-supported project. The women will engage in nine businesses; dairy, brick-making, grain sales, tailoring, farming, small shops, street vending, poultry-raising, and used clothes sales.

## DISABLED HUMANITARIAN ASSOCIATION—\$5,000

### "INCOME-GENERATING PROJECTS FOR DISABLED PERSONS"

18 disabled persons from Nilakottai, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu are participating in this one-year project.

The participants will be trained in business management and the seed money (loans of \$110-\$220) will be disbursed. After a grace period of three months, the loan payments will start. Monthly income will be \$20-\$175, providing a net monthly income of \$10-\$155, depending on the activity.

Dr. R. Kannan's March 2006 site visit report, "Disabled Humanitarian Association is run by a group of disabled men and women. DHA is active in helping the fellow disabled people in and around Nilakkottai. DHA is organized and experienced in utilizing all the possible available welfare programs for the disabled."

Loans will be \$190-\$945, which will generate net annual incomes of \$150-\$500.

### GIMARAKWA USFW GROUP—\$5,000

#### "INTEGRATED INCOME-GENERATING PROJECT"

18 women from Gimarakwa Monthly Meeting, Vihiga Yearly Meeting, will participate in this one-year project.

The women are already participating in a revolving system [in Kenya, called a merry-go-round] and have purchased a cow whose off-spring have provided 8 members with a cow. The project includes seven different income-generating activities, one group per activity; cloth-making, fish sales, firewood sales, grain sales, poultry-raising, small shops. Loans will be repaid in 18 months, starting the third month, at 1% monthly interest. Loans of \$425-\$825 will generate a net monthly income of \$60-\$100.

### FIRST CHANCE WOMEN GROUP— \$5,000

#### "TOMATO AND EGG PROJECT"

20 women, members of Mudete Friends Church, Vihiga District, are participating in this

one-year project.

Members will undergo a five-day training by two facilitators from the Ministry of Livestock development. Government extension officers in the area will provide technical guidance to members.

**EGG PRODUCTION:** One-day old chicks will be purchased for \$.90. 10 members will receive 100 chicks and 20 kgs of chick mash. When grown, each hen is expected to lay one egg per day for 18 months. Eggs are sold for \$.08 each, yielding a gross monthly income of \$250.

**TOMATO PRODUCTION:** To ensure that members get the highest quality seedlings, the group will centralize the production of seedlings on two of the members' farms. The two farms chosen will be those nearest to the Ezava river to exploit irrigation potential. Each member is expected to harvest 250 kg of tomatoes per week for twelve weeks, providing a gross weekly income of \$170. Expenses will be \$60, leaving a net weekly income of \$110.

## MUKHONJE USFW SELF-HELP GROUP—\$5,000

“AGRICULTURE AND SMALL-SCALE INCOME-GENERATING PROJECT”

18 women, members of Mukhonje Monthly Meeting, Malava Yearly Meeting, are participating in this one-year project.

Loans of up to \$750 will be made, and repaid at 12-18% annual interest. Five income-generating activities are planned. \$20 will be invested in vegetable vending, with an expected net income of \$40. \$1,550 will be invested in maize (corn) growing, with an expected net annual income of \$220. \$710 will be invested in bean growing, with an expected net annual profit of \$90. \$580 will be invested in knitting sweaters and making table cloths, with a net annual income of \$135. \$650 will be invested in sugar cane growing, with a net annual income of \$360, beginning two years after planting.

## NEW PROJECTS—SIERRA LEONE (2)

### TONGOWA DISADVANTAGED WOMEN IN POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT—\$5,000

“MICRO FINANCING FOR STABILITY”

80 women, widows and war orphans, in the rural area outside of Bo are participating in this one-year project.

Each of the women will receive \$55 to undertake any of the following income-generating activities; fish sales, grain sales, palm oil sales, fruit sales, and vegetable sales. Each woman is expected to see a total income of \$13 per month, \$3 per month will be needed for expenses, leaving a net profit of \$10 per month.

From Harold Johnson's March 2006 site visit report, “This site is 18 miles from the city of Bo. It is an area destroyed badly by rebels during the war because of tribal issues. The project is well organized and the women are trying their best to bury the hatchet and start a new life.”

### LIFE FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT ORPHANAGE—\$5,000

“INCOME-GENERATING PROGRAM FOR SELF-RELIANCE”

Members of 10 self-help groups, orphans from the civil war, from the town of Mile 91 are participating in this one-year project.

The children will be divided into ten groups with each group headed by a female leader. Each group will be given \$470 to start their income-generating activities. The project will initiate tailoring, soap-making, agriculture and gara tie-dyeing. Groups will choose their income-generating project themselves. Each group have a gross monthly income of \$125, from which \$20 will be taken for the loan payment, \$20 put into savings, \$15 for food, \$20 for medical care, and \$50 as net monthly income per group.

## NEW PROJECTS—RWANDA (2)

### RWANDA YEARLY MEETING-FRIENDS PEACE HOUSE—\$5,000

“EMPOWERING ‘WOMEN IN DIALOGUE’ VIA INCOME-GENERATING”

Women in Dialogue is a group composed of women whose husbands are suspects in the 1994

genocide and women who are widows as a result of the genocide. Each of the four groups has 30

members. The plan for this group is to begin with a workshop on how to manage a loan. Each woman will then prepare a business plan, after which a loan will be disbursed in stages. Once the women demonstrate that they are able to manage the loan and are consistent with repayment, the loan can increase up to the maximum of \$105. A net monthly income of \$35 is expected. The project will start with the Kigali group, move to Byumba in 2007, Ruhengeri in 2008, and Bugesera in 2009.

From Laura Shipler Chico's (Africa Great Lakes Initiative volunteer) report, "Cecile [Nyiramana] brings to this project her experience of working with the RSWR 2002-2004 project. The Women in Dialogue group is very cohesive with a strong sense of responsibility and affiliation to one another. They have been collecting small sums of money from all the members and used this money to give members small loans. Thus, the group is already familiar with the idea of getting a loan, paying it back, and working toward developing group capital."

### **RWANDA YEARLY MEETING-YOUTH DEPARTMENT—\$5,000**

#### **"POVERTY REDUCTION AMONG YOUTH"**

84 youth (70% girls) from each of three quarterly meetings are participating in this three-year project. The project's objectives are to help youth from three quarterly meeting to work together in peace-building, and to strengthen their on-going initiatives in poverty reduction. The project will start with seminars about durable peace-building and move to the poverty reduction phase. In Kigali, where the activity will be cement block production, each person is expected to earn \$6 per month in the first year, \$13 per month in the second year, and \$22 per month in the third year. In Ruhengeri, where the activity will be maize growing, each person is expected to earn \$8 per month in the first year, \$24 per month in the second year, and \$49 per month in the third year. In Cyangugu, where the activity is pig raising, each person is expected to earn \$9 per month in the first year, \$53 per month in the second year, and \$105 per month in the third year.

There will also be other activities for the youth including anti-AIDS clubs in Kigali, environmental protection clubs in Cyangugu, and peace clubs in Ruhengeri.

From Laura Shipler Chico's (Africa Great Lakes Initiative volunteer) report, "Chrisostome [Nshimiyimana] is a very competent staff member of the church. I have personally worked with him as a facilitator in our program (Trauma Healing). He is proactive, responsible, and extremely talented."

### **NEW PROJECT—SPECIAL (RWANDA, BURUNDI, UGANDA, KENYA)**

#### **AFRICA GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE—\$2,500**

#### **"WORK CAMPS IN BURUNDI, RWANDA, KENYA AND UGANDA"**

Five African Quaker youth will attend an AGLI work camp in a foreign country. Two from Kenya will go to Burundi (2 work camps), one Burundian to Kenya, one Rwandan to Uganda and one Ugandan to Rwanda.

Uganda and Kenya are English speaking, with a relatively non-hierarchical culture, and members of Friends United Meeting. On the other hand Rwanda and Burundi are French speaking, with a very hierarchical culture, and members (or former members) of Evangelical Friends International. There has been little communication between these two groups of Quakers in the past and the work camp experience has been as eye-opening for the Africans as it has been for the American work campers.

Comments from David Zaremba [AGLI coordinator], "When I visited Ruyigi, Burundi, in October 2005 I spoke with Nestor who had attended the work camp in Bududa [Uganda]. He was impressed with how wealthy the Ugandans were compared to those in Ruyigi. The American work campers, on the other hand, thought the Ugandans to be in dire poverty.

The work campers in Rwanda stayed at the Friends compound at Kucikiro. When Laura Bush visited Rwanda and the Kucikiro Church, the Rwandan security personnel made the two foreign African work campers leave the premise and spend the night elsewhere. The two Quaker members of the work camp felt that this was unjust and accompanied the Africans in their "exile," while the three non-Quaker work campers chose to stay and listen to Laura Bush."

*“The one that loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; or the one that loves abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”*

Ecclesiastes 5:9

## ADDRESSING THE BURDENS OF AFFLUENCE



Jackie Speicher

Right Sharing of World Resources has a two-fold mission:

1. Addressing the burdens of poverty in the developing world, and
2. Addressing the burdens of affluence in the developed world.

To address the latter, we have recently created a set of sermons, presentations, workshops and retreat formats based on the themes of “Simplicity as a Spiritual Discipline” and “The Healing Power of Simplicity.”

Even though simplicity has been emphasized by Quakerism since its inception, we are not immune to the superfluity that plagues society as a whole. Like water to a fish, it is simply the medium in which we swim, virtually invisible until we have a critical wake-up call or an eye-opening experience that reveals how deeply immersed we are in the prevailing culture. Perhaps this is in part because excess comes in so many different forms. We can achieve success in one arena only to discover overabundance has crept up on us in another.

In the last two months we have led a number of events focusing on the burdens of affluence and the growing appeal of simplicity as an antidote. Participants listed over 70 burdens they see in the world around them, which can be consolidated into the following categories. The first two might be expected, however the rest show the breadth of this problem in our society today.

- A surfeit of possessions drains finances as well as precious time and energy,
- Over-consumption of non-renewable resources and excess trash threaten our earth,
- Excess activities rob time and energy,
- No room for deepness with God, others or self,
- Increasing experience of isolation,
- Personal worth devalued,
- Growing economic disparities,
- Food and health issues rising,
- Intense vocational stressors,

- Spiraling intensity of life due to explosions in technology and communications,
- Increased negativity and despair in the human spirit,
- Prevailing desire to “numb out”,
- Indulgence as a way of life,
- Educational system and students under increasing pressure to “measure up”,
- Diminished spiritual lives.

In addition, participants cited burdens particularly experienced in meetings and religious organizations:

- Overabundance of structures and committees,
- Decreasing practice of charitable giving and tithing,
- Too much competition for member’s and attender’s time,
- Burdensome meeting properties,
- Members and attenders too busy to meet even on important themes,
- Lack of time for volunteering curtails meeting ministry.

Already in 1989 Richard Foster observed in his book *Freedom of Simplicity*:

“Models of simplicity are desperately needed today. Our task is urgent and relevant. Our century thirsts for the authenticity of simplicity, the spirit of prayer, and the life of obedience to the guidance of the Spirit. May we be the embodiment of that kind of authentic living.”

Far from improving, our situation has only worsened in the intervening 16 years. Right Sharing strives to facilitate dialogues that can inform those who desire to address this challenge today in new and meaningful ways. To learn more, please call Jackie Speicher, Field Representative, at (765) 983-1879 or e-mail her at [jspeicher46@earthlink.net](mailto:jspeicher46@earthlink.net).

### FIELD REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE AS MEETING RESOURCE

Jackie Speicher, Field Representative, welcomes opportunities to speak at monthly and quarterly meetings, men’s, women’s and youth groups, and other gatherings about the work of Right

Sharing or to lead studies, workshops, and retreats on the topics of “Simplicity as a Spiritual Discipline” and “The Healing Power of Simplicity.” RSWR has recently received new photographs and abundant, heart-warming stories from our project partners of hope restored, changed lives, and empowering economic successes. Jackie would be delighted to share them with your group. Please contact her soon to get her on your upcoming schedule.

## HOW TO SUPPORT RIGHT SHARING

### FINANCIALLY

#### **MAKE AN OUTRIGHT GIFT**

A) Cash; B) Publically traded stocks; C) Publically traded bonds; D) Privately traded securities; E) Tangible personal property<sup>1</sup>; F) Real estate<sup>1</sup>. Contact the RSWR office details regarding transfer of stock, bonds, securities, and property.

<sup>1</sup> Upon acceptance by RSWR

#### **MAKE A GIFT WHICH PROVIDES AN INCOME TO YOU**

A) Charitable Remainder Trusts; B) Charitable Gift Annuities. Done in coordination with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

#### **MAKE A DEFERRED GIFT**

A) Bequests (include RSWR in your will); B) Designate RSWR has a beneficiary of your life insurance; C) Designate RSWR as a beneficiary of your retirement plan (annuity, pension, Keogh, 401-k, 403-b, or IRA).

#### **BECOME A RSWR REGULAR DONOR -**

Your gift (of at least \$10) can be made to RSWR regularly (monthly, quarterly, or other donor-definition) can be made be either a withdrawal from your checking or savings account, or your credit card (Mastercard, Visa, Discover). Contact the RSWR office or the RSWR website for a brochure and authorization form.

#### **MAKE AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN**

Loans can be recalled within 30 or 180 days. Current interest-free loans provide RSWR with income from interest of over \$10,000 per year. Contact the RSWR office for details and a loan form.

#### **VISIT THE RSWR WEBSITE**

(WWW.RSWR.ORG) - Review our work with project partners and among Friends in the United States. See the “How to Donate to RSWR” tab on the home page for details and downloadable information about financially supporting RSWR.

### SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

#### **SAVE STAMPS**

Send them to Quaker Missions Project of Mattapoisett Monthly Meeting. Stamps should be sent to Brad Hathaway, PO Box 795, Mattapoisett, MA 02739-0795. This project has provided over \$46,000 to RSWR and other Quaker organizations.

#### **REMEMBER RSWR AT SPECIAL TIMES**

In lieu of gifts at Christmas, birthdays, marriages, or other special times, ask that a gift be made to RSWR. Make a gift to RSWR in honor of the life of a person who has recently died.

#### **HAVE A SIMPLE MEAL**

Contact the RSWR office or RSWR website for resources to do a Simple Meal. The Simple Meal is a wonderful way to have fun raising money and awareness at the same time.

#### **HAVE A SIMPLIFY LIFE GARAGE SALE**

Contact the RSWR office or website for details about doing a Simplify Life Garage Sale. It’s fun to do, raises money, and helps you, your family and others learn about what is enough.

### PERSONALLY

#### **EVALUATE YOUR LIFESTYLE**

Take steps in your family to use fewer resources and to reuse and recycle more of what you do use. Encourage these practices in your meeting or church and in your community.

#### **PRAY**

for Divine guidance in understanding how our focus on the material clouds our vision of God’s will for us as individuals, our families, and the Religious Society of Friends, that the extremes of poverty and wealth, which are genuine hindrances to right relationship with God and each other, may be reduced and that God can, therefore, be more present to all of us.

# THANK YOU!

Right Sharing of World Resources is a program which is "owned" by many people. The Committee and staff have certain responsibilities but the program would not be successful if it were not for contributors, people who send in ideas and those who are critical or give encouragement. Your suggestions and comments are welcome.

**RIGHT SHARING OF  
WORLD RESOURCES**

*projects are supported by  
individuals, monthly meetings  
and yearly meetings.*

*Contributions are tax-deductible  
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Sharing General Secretary and  
newsletter editor: Roland  
Kreager.*

# TO OUR DONORS

TO OUR DONORS: Approved project support for 2006 totals \$227,500. We currently have 51 project partners, and welcome your gifts to meet the needs of all of these projects. **There are 5 projects for which 100% of a contribution restricted to that project will go directly to the project.** For a complete list of these projects, and a description of their work, go to the RSWR website, [www.rswr.org](http://www.rswr.org). Meetings and churches which would like to be involved in any special way with any of the projects should contact:

**Right Sharing of World Resources**

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*Right Sharing News* is available via e-mail. Contact the RSWR office to request an electronic version (PDF format) of the newsletter.

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES

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