

The Tent Maker Project

Micro Economic Development Through the Church

...a way for Christians to be involved in humanitarian work in the name of Christ, in Presbyterian churches in Uganda, East Africa.

"Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely."
(Ps 112:5)

First, we make **Micro-loans** to entrepreneurs in sister churches in Uganda. These loans are not to start businesses, but to boost existing private enterprises. By this method, their volume of business goes up and more profits accrue to the families. They are then better able to feed their families, pay for education, support their churches, etc. The people repay the loans to a revolving fund, which enables us to lend to others.

The average amount of the 290 loans has been nearly \$300. 82% of loan recipients either have repaid their loans or are in the process.

Also we have an in-kind loan initiative to the farmer-families in a few villages 40 miles from Kampala. We provide quality, treated seeds to these people to improve their production. This ministry is through a village

Presbyterian service called *Village Lift-Up* (see separate brochure). The farmers' agricultural yield has increased. Through this effort the leaders look to see who is faithful in "a few things" (Mt 25:14-30) as criteria for in-kind loans later on, such as with pigs and cattle.

Three pig pilot projects are used to train farmers in sound animal care and reproduction, and inter-locking farming practices. Farmers who qualify after training receive in-kind loans from these pilot projects.

Whether our loans are in cash or in kind, they enable people to develop sustainable businesses, meet food and other needs, and support the Kingdom of Christ.

Second, **Five Loaves** is our Food and Gospel service for the hungry. The name is from the Lord's multiplication of the five loaves and two fish. (Mt 14:17)

This ministry reaches the youth in a slum and other groups of people near a city Presbyterian Church.

The current economic crisis of East Africa is partly caused by the troubles in the West. The worst effect is the cost of food which has hurt the poorest of the poor especially. Five Loaves is providing some relief in one slum area and at the same time enabling that nearby church to have an important outreach, calling people to repentance, faith and responsibility.

Third, **Educational Assistance**
Helps orphans navigate through their education needs. From the beginning TMP has sought to be a hand to lift the helpless into productivity and self-sustaining lives through the Church.

Help us Help the needy in our sister churches in Uganda in these 3 ways! Our method is to work through the churches to the glory of God, to train in biblical stewardship and assist believers toward responsible living.

The TentMaker Project *

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* TMP is a mission of Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Carbondale, Illinois, recommended by Illiana Presbytery and governed by a national Board, Wyatt George, Exec Secretary.

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THE TENTMAKER PROJECT STARTED IN 1999 AFTER A UGANDAN CHURCH LEADER STATED THAT GRANTS OF FREE MONEY TO POOR UGANDANS WOULD MAKE THEM WORSE OFF. THUS THIS LOAN PROGRAM. CHURCH DEACONS ASSIST IN OPERATING THE PROGRAM.