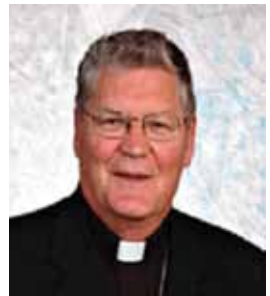


OFFERING HOPE TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH



Archbishop Martin W. Currie
National Spiritual Advisor

“My husband and I have been truly inspired by the good work you are doing. Our donation is on the way, and we will keep all of you – and the children – in our prayers.”

“My hopes and prayers are with you in this struggle for rights and peace.”

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) recently received hundreds of solidarity messages such as these from supporters across Canada addressed to the people of Burundi. The personal messages were forwarded to a centre for youth and a human-rights organization located in the East African country that are partners of CCODP.

National Chairperson of Community Life Mary Nordick visited Burundi and Zambia in September. Along with

The examples above are only two out of the hundreds of short notes, prayers and words of encouragement that were hand-delivered to CJK and the ITEKA League by a representative of CCODP and will be distributed to their members.

These messages are, in a way, a symbol of the work dedicated to promoting solidarity that CCODP has been doing for 43 years.

CCODP is the official international development organization of the Catholic church in Canada. Inspired by gospel values, particularly, the preferential option for



Canadian bishops, she met with groups that are supported by CCODP, like le Centre Jeunes Kamenge (CJK) and the ITEKA League, and saw first-hand how donations are being put to good use.

She returned to Canada with several indelible images of her experience, images of people who walk for days looking for work or for food, images of women – young and old – who toil ceaselessly, who carry fruits and vegetables and even loads of bricks on their heads. She observed how the partners of CCODP work tirelessly every day to help the people of Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world, to defend their rights to land, housing, healthcare and education.

Shortly before Christmas, Mary Nordick and other members of the CCODP delegation wrote to some 45,000 donors to inform them of the work being accomplished by these Burundian partners. In this letter, a small paper candle was inserted, inviting recipients to write a message of encouragement directly to Burundians.

the poor, the goals of CCODP are to support initiatives by people in the Global South to take control of their lives and to educate Canadians about north-south issues. Education, advocacy and fundraising work here in Canada is carried out by CCODP members from coast to coast.

Since 1967, CCODP has provided \$553 million to finance 15,500 projects in 70 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East; \$135 million of this amount has been allocated in emergency aid.

Typical projects involve issues such as peace-building, human rights, agrarian reform, education, community development and economic justice. In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, CCODP financed 291 programs and projects. Of these, 37 involved emergency aid for natural disasters (e.g. floods and earthquakes) or man-made problems (e.g. wars and civil disturbances).

In CCODP's latest fundraising effort, \$13.5 million was raised for Haiti. This amount will be matched by the Government of Canada and will be used to rebuild the country. †