



MISSION NEWS

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The Vision and Mission of CJI

The vision of Canadian Jesuits International is of a world of justice, peace and integrity of creation transformed through our commitment to the poor and our faith in a living God in our midst.

As a response to God's love in the world, the mission of Canadian Jesuits International is to support poor and marginalized people in developing countries through the work of Jesuit and other partners and to carry out educational advocacy.

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Jenny Cafiso
Director



Jenny Cafiso/CJI

Organic cotton is one of the products of small-scale farmers in Zambia, like at the Mulenga family farm (above); 80% of those working on such farms are women.

WOMEN & DEVELOPMENT: Reflections from Zambia

Sr Kayula Lesa RSC, who coordinates the Church's Social Teaching Programme at the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) in Lusaka, Zambia, reflects on women's contributions to development.

What would social and economic development in Zambia be like if women did not contribute to it? And how much more development would take place if women were allowed to contribute further? These are two burning questions when we talk about "women and development" in a country like Zambia, a "developing country" with rich potential.

In Zambia, some 80% of maize, a food staple, is produced by small-scale farmers. And in some parts of the country, some 80% of those working on farms are women. Putting food on the table is a great contribution to development but still more could be done if women had easier access to title deeds for the land they work on. Frequently it is difficult for a woman to get title to the land and this certainly influences output because it affects her sense of ownership, determination and creativity.

Education is a number one priority in securing the future development of a country like Zambia. But often girls from poor families do not have good opportunities to get an education. If resources are scarce in a family to meet school fees and other needs, then boys are usually the first to go to school. Cultural biases negate the girls' chances because it is expected that they will get married and will not need much formal education.

These are just two examples of how women's involvement in development is frequently frustrated through discrimination from legal or traditional structures. Then there are difficulties in enabling women to participate actively in the political processes necessary for development. For instance, in Zambia today, among the 158 Members of Parliament (MPs),

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Last June I watched with amazement as Mrs Joanne Royackers, a farmer from south western Ontario of Dutch origin, mother of five and grandmother to 14 and great grandmother to eight, danced and laughed with mothers and grandmothers in Burundi, many of them clients of AIDS ministry *Service Yezu Mwiza* (SYM). I had travelled to Burundi with Mrs Royackers and her daughter Mary Ann Hendriks to attend the inauguration of the *Clinique Martin Royackers SJ*, a clinic of SYM which was named after her son, Martin Royackers SJ, who was slain in Jamaica in 2001. (see pg. 5 for article)

On the surface, anyone watching them could not have guessed that these women, who came from different continents, realities and backgrounds and who spoke different languages, had anything in common.

Yet the connection between them was palpable. It came from a deep place, a place of shared suffering and hope, which anyone who had eyes to see could see. All had come face to face with death and pain. Joanne Royackers had to face the brutal and senseless death of her son. Many of the other women had faced the senseless death of loved ones due to AIDS. Yet all were at the inauguration, continuing to live with generosity and love for those around them.

The women I watched embodied the same suffering, courage and hope that we find in women across the globe. Women bear a disproportionate burden of the world's poverty. They represent 70% of the world's poor, have less opportunities for education, employment and for participation in society. They are also more vulnerable to disease, such as AIDS, leading some to speak of the "feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic".

Yet women are often the ones who, despite their poverty and lack of opportunity, find a way to ensure the survival of their families. For this reason, many initiatives which aim to support the poor and to build a more just world, such as Hayden Hall to which Fr Burns dedicated his life (see pages 3 & 4), give priority to women. The work of Hayden Hall is based on the knowledge that women can be the source of new regenerative power and that when women have the possibility to develop their full potential, they will have a positive impact on development and poverty reduction generally.

As Joan Chittister wrote, "When we have survived our own cross, risen alive from the grave of its despair, we begin to know that we can survive again and again and again whatever life sends us in the future. It is this hope that carries us from stage to stage in life, singing and dancing around dark corners." As I watched the women sing and dance, I knew they were linked by this deep knowledge and hope. ■



D. Conlin

there are fewer than 25 women. Long-established prejudices against women serving in important public positions influence voting patterns. This can, however, be overcome by specific efforts to get more women in Parliament. In Rwanda, public education, political party facilitation and accepted quota targets have made a difference. Now more than 50% of the MPs there are women.

Another factor that needs to be overcome is a prejudice that sometimes exists among women themselves. Some discourage others from too much public involvement or assertive leadership. This is something that women's groups are struggling to overcome.

In the Church too, canonical and cultural structures inhibit women's effective participation. During the Second African Synod in Rome last October, Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu of Lusaka highlighted the negative discrimination against women in the Church and stated strongly that the Church is simply poorer because women are not allowed to contribute to the full with their gifts and charisms, commitment and hard work. And we in the Church are all poorer because of that.

However, despite the barriers, women contribute significantly to development within the 'set boundaries' at every level. It is women who keep families going. Especially in the era of HIV and AIDS, women are ready to abandon their own aspirations to provide care to sick family members.

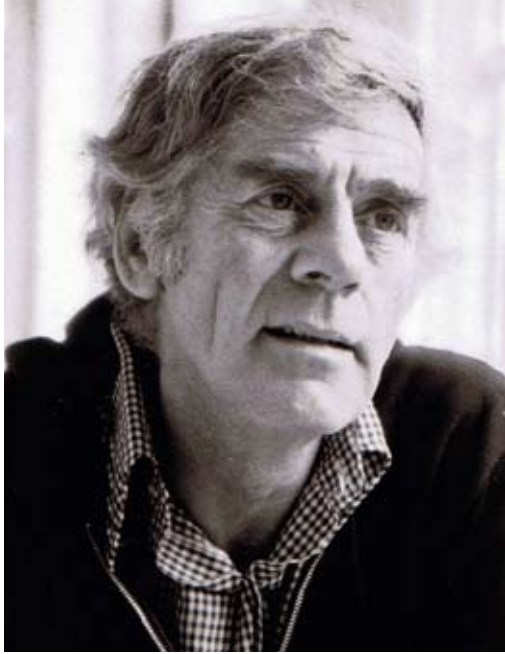
And nowadays we are seeing more and more educated women organising non-governmental organisations and becoming executive directors in companies. Thanks to this visibility in such key arenas, traditionally considered 'no go areas', women are slowly being perceived as figures of authority.

The visibility of women in different spheres, where they are not expected to be, is partly due to affirmative action in government policy, which stipulates that a percentage of certain posts either in politics or education should be occupied by women. Women have been able to demand the rights due them through organisations such as Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Women For Change (WFC), JCTR and Caritas-Zambia, which have been instrumental in public education on gender. It must be said that talk about women taking up roles traditionally associated with men is seen by many as akin to dismantling the whole Zambian culture. So the gender discourse is often met with resentment.

But with many voices coming from all corners of society, women's ability to contribute to development will gradually gain much appreciation. Women's groups, human rights institutions and Church organisations of both women and men must work together to ensure that *women in development* is not just a slogan but a reality for everyone to benefit from. ■

HIS LIFE ~ HIS MESSAGE

FR EDGAR BURNS 1925 - 2010



“With any of our various projects we are not so naïve as to believe that we will drastically change the whole social economic pattern of even a tiny corner of this huge developing land but we do believe that any attempt whatsoever to help even a small number of people to live more fully human lives is never wasted.”

~ Fr Edgar Burns, March 1970

On 17 May 2010, Fr Edgar Burns SJ died in Darjeeling, India, after serving there for nearly 60 years. Giving thanks for his life and work, CJI recalls Fr Burns in the words of those who knew and worked with him.

by Danielle Vella

“The messenger of the Gospel must become the message himself.” Fr Edgar Burns SJ once quoted this saying to explain the nature of his mission. It encapsulates his life which was entirely devoted to the service of the poorest of the poor, especially through the empowerment of women to provide for their families.

Fr Burns died at his home in Darjeeling on 17 May of heart failure at the age of 85. He leaves behind a rich legacy in well-established projects for those most in need, in countless men and women inspired to become *people for others*, and in the lives of so many destitute and sick people that he touched.

“For 59 years Fr Burns has been the MESSAGE in Darjeeling District and beyond,” said Fr Gerard Van Wallegem SJ during the packed funeral Mass in Darjeeling on 19 May. Paying tribute to his former teacher, Basant Kumar Rai, an alumnus of St Joseph’s College, echoed this feeling during a memorial service in Darjeeling on 31 May: “All I can say is that his life was his message.” Noreen Dunne, long time friend and associate of Fr Burns and deputy Director of Hayden Hall, said: “The Gospel par excellence is that of his life.”

Fr Burns was well known and loved throughout Darjeeling, as witnessed by the thousands of people who thronged to his funeral. This started

with a short prayer service in Hayden Hall followed by a procession through the town. Fr John Susai Kennedy SJ, who has succeeded Fr Burns as Director of Hayden Hall, said: “The entire town came to a standstill, shops were closed, roads were cleared, traffic was held up, and the people lined up on either side of the road. It was so wonderful to see, a witness to the life Fr Burns lived and the Life he would embrace.”

Hailing from Montreal, Fr Burns began his mission in Darjeeling in 1951 as an English professor at St Joseph’s College, North Point. Constantly moved by a spirit of service, he endeavoured to “raise awareness... that life is about creating an attitude of sharing and caring”, motivating his students “to be agents of social change, living our life for and with others”, recalled Chandra Bir Rai, a past pupil who would become the first lay Principal of St Joseph’s and a close associate of Fr Burn’s at Hayden Hall.

Responding to the needs of survivors of landslides and fires in the Darjeeling area in 1969, Fr Burns along with several of his students provided humanitarian aid to the communities affected. This led to the creation of a basic shelter housing programme, which eventually gave rise to Hayden Hall Social Centre, directed by Fr Burns until 2009. Ms Dunne said: “Hayden Hall was the concrete realisation of Fr Burn’s dreams to have a centre in town where students and alumni of St Joseph’s College could have hands-on experience of working with and for their poorer brothers and sisters.”

For over four decades, Hayden Hall has served some of the poorest people in Darjeeling with initiatives including a Small Scheme Savings and Loans programme, health programmes like long-term rehabilitation, pre and post-natal care and paramedic training for village health workers. It also offers income-generation, skills training, and education including scholarships for girls and the most vulnerable students. All the programmes, says Ms Dunne, “enshrine Fr Burn’s beliefs: a love for the poor, a belief in local lay people working for the development of their own people, and a desire to witness to God’s love for humanity.” Hayden Hall focuses especially on empowering women. The philosophy is simple but effective: by helping women help themselves economically, there will be a positive effect on their children and families.



Jenny Catfiso/CJL

It was when Fr Burns was Regional Superior of the Darjeeling Jesuits, continues Ms Dunne, that “other works of mercy and compassion” started, including Jesu Ashram, which was established under Br Bob Mittleholtz SJ in 1971. Jesu Ashram, a hospice for people with leprosy, HIV/AIDS and TB now treats hundreds of people annually.

The work of Fr Burns was supported over many years by hundreds of friends in Canada and all over the world, through visits, letters, phone calls and financial support. He sent his benefactors three letters a year. Once, he wrote to those who supported him: “I think I have shared every thought I ever had...my consolation is that together we have built thousands of lives.” It is up to us to keep his legacy alive. In the words of Basant Kumar Rai: “The homage paid to Fr Burns will bear meaning only if his works of service are kept alive and increasing.” ■

(Top) Weaving the textile products that Hayden Hall is famous for.

(Bottom left) Children at Hayden Hall.

(Bottom right) Fr John Susai Kennedy SJ (left), current Director of Hayden Hall, flanked by Fr Wilfred Lobo SJ, treasurer of the Darjeeling Province.

Fr Gerald Leclaire SJ (July 21, 1928 - May 23, 2010)

“A great man, an educator, a guiding light and a caregiver” – this is how the Ambassador of Bhutan to Canada, Lhatu Wangchuk, described Fr Gerald Leclaire SJ, who died in Canada aged 82 after serving in Darjeeling and Bhutan for 40 years. Fr Leclaire died on 23 May 2010 at René Goupil House in Pickering, Ontario. Ambassador Wangchuk wrote in a letter of condolence: “The Kingdom of Bhutan lost yet another great humanitarian and selfless Canadian who touched thousands of Bhutanese lives.”

Born in Montreal, Fr Leclaire began his mission to Darjeeling in 1957, serving as co-pastor in Gayaganga and at St Joseph’s College in Darjeeling. In 1978, Fr Leclaire became Principal of Sherubtse School in eastern Bhutan, returning to St Joseph’s College after 11 years. In 1999, he suffered a massive stroke while on a visit to Canada. Despite the debilitating stroke, Fr Leclaire always enjoyed visitors at René Goupil House and he bore his cross with equanimity and courage. ■

Fr Richard Macdonald SJ (June 9, 1928 - August 6, 2010)

Kindness, hospitality and human sensitivity – these are the three “gifts” that Fr Richard Macdonald SJ shared during his years of ministry, many of which were spent in India and among the First Nations people in Canada. Fr Robert Foliot SJ underlined these “gifts” during the homily of the funeral Mass for Fr Macdonald, who died on 6 August 2010 in Ontario, aged 83.

Born in Québec, Fr Macdonald went to Darjeeling in the fifties, first to St Mary’s College and later serving in parishes, at St Joseph’s College and Hayden Hall. He also set up a travel agency to employ graduates of North Point who were often unable to find jobs. In 1979 Fr Macdonald returned to Canada and in 1981 began his ministry with First Nations people. From 1997 to 2010, he was chaplain at St Joseph’s Motherhouse, Willowdale, Ontario. Until the end of his life, the people he met on his many apostolic placements visited Fr Macdonald regularly at St Joseph’s. ■



Jenny Cafiso/CJI

BURUNDI: AIDS CLINIC NAMED AFTER CANADIAN JESUIT

by Jenny Cafiso, CJI Director

On 11 June 2010, an AIDS clinic named after a slain Canadian Jesuit was inaugurated in Bujumbura. The clinic for inpatient care expands the services offered by the *Service Yezu Mwiza* (SYM), a holistic AIDS ministry run by the Jesuit Region of Rwanda-Burundi, whose beneficiaries are mostly women and orphans. It is named after Fr Martin Royackers SJ, a Canadian Jesuit who was gunned down in 2001 at the door of his parish of St Theresa's in Annotto Bay, Jamaica – his murder was never solved.

The inauguration of the *Clinique Fr Martin Royackers SJ* was a joyful ceremony, nearly all in Kirundi: a Eucharistic celebration, the cutting of the ribbon, a visit to the clinic, then speeches followed by lunch. Hundreds of beneficiaries of SYM celebrated alongside Mrs Joanne Royackers, the mother of Fr Martin, her daughter Mary-Ann Hendriks and me. Mrs Royackers said: "It was such a privilege to be there, to see the work being done, the dedication of the workers, the joyfulness of the people and the continuation of Martin's name in a country he would have loved as much as his own – Jamaica."

Other guests included the Regional Superior of Rwanda-Burundi, Fr Augustin Karekezi SJ, and Fr Paterne Mombé SJ, Director of the African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN). The outgoing Director, Fr Michael

Czerny SJ, unable to attend as he was recovering from a heart attack in Canada, sent a message.

The clinic expands the services offered by SYM to 900 people with HIV and more than 1,000 orphans. SYM reaches inaccessible parishes in the rural hills around the capital of Burundi and offers comprehensive care: medical; psychosocial; nutritional; educational; micro-credit for income-generating activities. In April 2009, SYM qualified to be a centre for the provision of antiretroviral treatment, which necessitated the building of the clinic.

Like other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, poverty-stricken Burundi has been hard hit by AIDS. An estimated 110,000 people are living with HIV, a 2% prevalence rate, and there are 120,000 orphans due to AIDS. ■



Jenny Cafiso/CJI

(Above) Celebrating the opening of the *Clinique Fr Martin Royackers SJ*.

(Right) Foreground, L-R: Fr Guillaume Ndayishimiye Bonja SJ, Mrs Joanne Royackers and Fr Augustin Karekezi SJ at the opening ceremony.

INDIA: JESU ASHRAM GETS NEW HIV WING

Fr Julius Kujur SJ, Director of Jesu Ashram in Darjeeling

As the number of patients with HIV and AIDS at Jesu Ashram grows steadily, the hospice has undertaken the construction of a wing dedicated to people affected by the disease. Set to be completed in September, the foundation was inaugurated on 20 March 2010 by representatives of SOS India, a non-governmental organisation which is funding the construction. Also present at the simple ceremony were Mgr Thomas D'Souza, Bishop of Bagdogra Diocese, and Fr Peter Pappu SJ, Provincial of the Darjeeling Jesuits, who blessed the ward.

Named Gonzaga Sarai (*sarai* means "inn") after St Aloysius Gonzaga, the new wing will accommodate 50 patients on the ground floor and a further 20 children on the first floor as well as an office. The need for a separate wing became clear as the number of patients coming to Jesu Ashram exceeded the beds available. From six in 2001, when the hospice started to care for HIV-positive patients on a regular

basis, the number climbed to 564 inpatients and 637 outpatients in 2009.

Declared an HIV hospice in 2007, Jesu Ashram later came under the umbrella of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), whereupon it started focusing also on adherence to antiretroviral treatment, distributed free by the government. Jesu Ashram also provides treatment for opportunistic infections.

Many Jesu Ashram patients cannot afford daily nutritious food that must be taken with the antiretroviral drugs. This makes adherence to treatment a big challenge and the life span of some is cut short due to lack of food. Stigma is another problem. Many patients refuse treatment for fear of rejection while others take treatment without their family knowing.

Although it has a comparatively low prevalence rate, India accounts for roughly half of Asia's HIV prevalence of 4.7 million people. ■



Kalpna, a member of the Jesu Ashram community, helping with the construction of the new HIV ward.

Memorial service for Fr Burns

About 100 people turned up for a memorial service for Fr Edgar Burns SJ held by CJI on 21 June at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toronto. The event was organised thanks to the generous involvement of many people including Fr Burns' sister, Norah Burns, others who had worked as volunteers in Darjeeling and people whose lives were touched by him. We were moved by their generosity as they spent hours preparing the components of the service: a booklet, a photographic/slide presentation, refreshments. It was one more testimony of the rich legacy that Fr Burns leaves behind.

To see photos of the memorial service, go to our website: www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca

CJI Director to join JRS Council

The Director of CJI, Jenny Cafiso, has been appointed to the International Administrative Council of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). The JRS International Director, Fr Peter Balleis SJ, and the four Jesuits forming part of the council, asked Ms Cafiso to join in view of her "manifold experience in various agencies such as Development and Peace, JRS International and now as Director of Canadian Jesuits International". Ms Cafiso worked with JRS International as a programme officer from 1995 to 2003. Ms Leslie Anne Knight, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, has also been appointed to the council.

Greeting new board members at CJI...



Shaji John Kangapadan

Fr David Shulist SJ

Two new members have been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Canadian Jesuits International: Fr David G. Shulist SJ and Shaji John Kangapadan.

Fr David was re-elected, having already served three terms between January 2004 and April 2009. He is currently chaplain at Carleton University. He holds a graduate degree in rural development and has worked for short periods in Africa and Jamaica. In Canada, Fr David has worked in the areas of family farming, sustainable agriculture, land stewardship, spirituality and theology. He coordinated Global Connections, an experiential

learning programme for university students to Mexico and Latin America.

Shaji John Kangapadan holds a Masters degree in economics and a certificate in Canadian social work practice. Shaji, who is Indian, brings to the board solid experience in partnership, capacity building and community organisation, as well as knowledge of strategic planning and project evaluations. He has worked extensively in development and humanitarian aid projects in India and Afghanistan. *Photo credits: Jan Schwarz (Shaji John Kangapadan); Moussa Faddoul (Fr David Shulist SJ)*



... and saying goodbye to another

After six years of committed service, Robert (Bob) Gaudet is leaving the board of CJI. An active and involved member, he contributed well with his wisdom and deep base of knowledge. Bob has just retired from many years with the Immigration and

Refugee Board of Canada in Toronto. Earlier Bob had been the Director of CJI. A lively person, Bob has been super committed to his work on the board and a great mentor and supporter. CJI thanks him heartily and wishes him well.

Update on Fr Michael Czerny SJ

Fr Michael Czerny SJ suffered a heart attack on 22 May, while on a flight to Toronto. Fr Michael is making steady progress and has started a programme at Toronto Heart Rehabilitation. He expects to return to his work in Rome by the beginning of October. Fr Michael is personal assistant to Cardinal Peter Turkson, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

CJI visitors

Among the visitors to CJI in summer, there was Fr Bill Robins SJ, who arrived in Canada from Nepal on 20 July to celebrate 50 years as a Jesuit during the Ignatius Day celebrations on 31 July that were held in Guelph, Ontario. Br Paul Desmarais SJ came from Zambia at the end of April, on sabbatical until December 2010. The JRS International Director, Fr Peter Balleis SJ, was in Canada from 1 to 4 August and Uta Sievers, the communications officer of the Social Justice Secretariat in Rome, visited at the same time. Fr Paul Massanet SJ came from India in the first three weeks of July.

Thanks for your help

Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) thanks you for your help as we continue supporting poor and marginalised people in developing countries worldwide. You can be part of the CJI mission by making a one-time or a regular monthly donation. Or you could dedicate a donation in memory of or in honour of someone.

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