

Press Release

20th February 2009

Five Talents wins City of London Award

The Sustainable City Awards



Five Talents was awarded the **Overall Winner** at the City of London Sustainable City Awards at a ceremony in the Mansion House on 19th February 2009. Five Talents also won their category “Sustainable and Responsible Finance”.

Zac Goldsmith handed out ‘green gongs’ at the City of London Corporation’s 8th annual Sustainable City Awards. Five Talents was saluted at the prestigious event alongside an outstanding selection of global and local organisations.

The 10 Judges, including **Samantha Heath CEO of London Sustainability Exchange**, were impressed with the high calibre and volume of entrants, which have been backed for 8 years by the City of London Corporation which looks after the square mile business district, signalling a continued commitment to green ethics in business.

Emma Bara, Sustainability Coordinator, City of London Corporation said: “The nine winning organisations, which include global businesses, local firms and social enterprises were singled out for their sustainable excellence. The awards given out this year prove that all organisations, whether large or small, can make important changes which are beneficial for the environment whilst also making business savings.”

Five Talents was congratulated on its work in 10 developing countries, helping over 20,000 people to escape poverty by providing business training and small loans using the microfinance method. **Tom Sanderson, UK Director of Five Talents** said “I am thrilled that Five Talents’ work has been endorsed in this way, and the true honour goes to our project staff in each country who work directly with the clients to help them to grow their businesses and to climb out of poverty.”

“Master,” he said, “you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.” (Matt. 25:20)

Zac Goldsmith, who presented the awards to the winners at the Mansion House awards ceremony last night, said: “Despite the immensity of the environmental challenge, the truth is, almost everything that needs doing is already being done, somewhere. If ‘best practice’ today became the norm tomorrow, we’d be half way there already. The Sustainable City Awards proves not only that solutions exist, but that where they are adopted, companies invariably flourish as a result.”

-Ends-



Tom Sanderson, Zac Goldsmith, Rachelle Sanderson, Sam Millar

Notes to Editors:

Five Talents

Five Talents aims to fight poverty in the developing world by creating jobs. This is achieved by providing business training and small loans. The loans start as low as £20 - each one helping an entrepreneur to start or build a small business.

Five Talents UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1113969) which currently supports 20,506 people through 13 microfinance partners in 10 countries in the developing world as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Uganda | 6. Tanzania |
| 2. Kenya (2 partners) | 7. Sudan |
| 3. Dominican Republic | 8. Indonesia |
| 4. Philippines | 9. Peru |
| 5. India (3 partners) | 10. Bolivia |

Five Talents is the microfinance initiative of the worldwide Anglican church, working with local microfinance partners. Microfinance is increasingly acknowledged to be a highly effective contribution to the UN Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction. Microfinance develops local economies and encourages independence rather than dependency on grants.

Since 1999 Five Talents has raised over £1.5 million to fund micro-credit programmes currently and to provide training in business skills, including basic book-keeping, planning, appraisal, marketing and stewardship. Established businesses include farming, dress-making, retailing, hair-dressing and brick-making.

Women form 60% of loan group members. Payment rates by project are in the range of 85-100%. Each loan can impact as many as 10 people once family members and employees are taken into account.

Five Talents aims to reach 70,000 entrepreneurs with savings and loan programmes in 14 countries in the developing world by the end of 2012.

Five Talents was founded at the Lambeth Conference of Anglican church leaders in 1998, created as a long term response to help the poor in developing countries based on need not creed. Five Talents works with the local church in communities to gather, train and financially equip entrepreneurs.

Five Talents was established in the USA in 1999 and in the UK in 2005. The name is taken from the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) in which the “good and faithful servant” takes the Master’s five talents and through effort and initiative gains five more.

Five Talents’ International Patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury. Five Talents’ partners provide services to local communities irrespective of religion or tribe, based on need not creed.

For more information and photos contact:

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More information can be found on www.fivetalents.org.uk

City of London Sustainable City Awards

Further information and judging criteria for the Sustainable City Awards can be found at:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/sca

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