

Press Release

29th April 2009

Five Talents meets Slum Dog Millionaire

One opportunity. That's all Slum Dog's Jamal needed to escape poverty.

One loan from micro-finance charity Five Talents provides the opportunity for an entrepreneur in the developing world to take a significant step towards building a better future.

The world of Slum Dog is not so far from the experiences of some of Five Talents' 20,000 loan clients, as sixty guests discovered at a private view of *Slum Dog Millionaire* at Sony HQ in London on 28 April 2009. The showing of the main film was preceded by a short film about Five Talents' work in Chennai, narrated by Martha Kearney. In communities still suffering the effects of the 2004 tsunami, small capital loans and business education provide an opportunity for people to overcome poverty. People like Thangan, who used her loan to buy a sewing machine and is able to send her children to school as result of money earned by her tailoring business.

'I feel very strongly that Five Talents' connection with Slum Dog was perfect,' commented Tom Sanderson, UK Director of Five Talents.

The evening was introduced by Amy le Coz, Five Talents' volunteer of the month, who had arranged the event. John Fletcher, managing director of Pathe, gave an interesting talk about the funding and marketing of Slum Dog and pledged his own support for Five Talents.

Ticket sales from the event raised £2,600, all of which will go to Five Talents' projects in India.

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

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:

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| 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 |

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

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.

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