

## Press Release

20<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### **Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for International Development Visits Five Talents programmes in Kenya and India**

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for International Development, Rev. Rachel Carnegie, has recently visited two of Five Talent's microfinance programme partners.

Rev. Rachel Carnegie visited the Diocese of Thika on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010 to learn about the Thika Community Development Trust, where she met Bishop Gideon Githega and Mr Peterson Karanja – the Programme Coordinator.

Rev. Rachel Carnegie also visited the Diocese of Madras on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 where she met with the Board of Socio-Economic Concerns which is delivering the microfinance programme. She met Mr Satyamurti and Rev. Asok Kumar, the programme consultant and leader respectively, and visited several women's Self-Help Groups on the island of Pulicat, near Chennai.

These programmes combined are serving over 5,700 active poor people with business training, savings groups and small loans.

Rev. Rachel commented: "It was profoundly inspiring to witness the transformation achieved in the lives of these women from the poorest coastal communities, rebuilding their lives after the devastation of the Tsunami. Through Five Talents' business skills training, self-help savings schemes and small group loans, these women were now standing confidently on their own feet, sending their children to school and maintaining their families. No longer living vulnerably from hand-to-mouth, they showed me their joint business initiative - crab fattening ponds - with great pride and hope for the future. This is truly Kingdom-building work."

*END.*



## **Notes for Editors:**

Five Talents UK website - [www.fivetalents.org.uk](http://www.fivetalents.org.uk)

Five Talents aims to fight poverty in the developing world by creating jobs. This is achieved by providing business training, small loans and savings programmes. The loans start as low as £25 - 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 21,353 people (60% of who are women) through microfinance partners in 11 countries in the developing world as follows: Uganda, Kenya, Dominican Republic, Philippines, India, Tanzania, Sudan, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia and Burundi.

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 and to provide training in business skills, including basic book-keeping, planning, appraisal, marketing and stewardship. Loan repayment rates by project are in the range of 85-100%, with businesses established ranging from farming, dressmaking, and retailing to hair-dressing and brick-making. 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, whose International Patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury, 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. 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’ partners provide services to local communities irrespective of religion or tribe, based on need not creed.

For more information please contact:

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