

Press Release

10th November 2010

Sandi Toksvig supports Five Talents' fundraiser for Tanzanian Microfinance

Sandi Toksvig visited Tanzania in March 2010 to make the BBC Lifeline Appeal for Five Talents, which was broadcast in May on BBC1 and BBC2. Tonight she spoke about her trip and was delighted to be reunited with the Microfinance Programme Coordinator – Immaculate Mwaungulu. The fundraising event took place in London at the Courthouse hotel, near Oxford Circus, together with 75 guests and supporters.

Remarking on the Five Talents microfinance programme in Tanzania – the Mama Bahati Foundation – Sandi said:

“Here you can see the money working. You can see it happening. It is the most exciting project I think. I’m passionate about microfinance. I think it’s absolutely the way forward to give these women nobility and a chance, and anybody who feels moved to get involved I think would be doing a wonderful, wonderful thing.”



In the short film Sandi had described some of the microfinance clients she met as “*the Alan Sugar’s of Tanzania*” – women entrepreneurs trying their best to sustain and improve their family livelihoods. One client she met was Amina – a basket weaver - and Immaculate reported on her progress 6 months after the filming, saying:

“Amina is taking care of three orphans. When Sandi met her she was in her first loan cycle. She has now taken her second loan cycle. I would say she’s still struggling. She’s vulnerable. She had malaria two months ago. She is like many other women of her type. We are trying our best as Mama Bahati to improve their business skills through training, so that they can manage to reach their markets for the businesses they are doing.”

It is sobering to realise the challenges faced by the 1 billion people who survive on less than \$1 a day. Rachel Millward, Development Director for Five Talents, said afterwards, “*I feel delighted that Sandi and the BBC partnered with us for this project. It is a great privilege to go and see for oneself the difference that Five Talents is making. We are also thrilled to have Immaculate here in London to represent the work on the ground, bringing help and hope to thousands of people.*”



L-R: Tom Sanderson & Rachel Millward (FT)
Sandi Toksvig, Immaculate Mwaungulu

END.

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

Notes for Editors:

A transcript of Sandi's speech is available from the Five Talents office.

We gratefully acknowledge all photography at the event by www.PR-Photographer.com

Five Talents fights 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 over 21,000 people through microfinance partners in 12 countries in the developing world as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Uganda | 7. Sudan |
| 2. Kenya | 8. Indonesia |
| 3. Dominican Republic | 9. Peru |
| 4. Philippines | 10. Bolivia |
| 5. India | 11. Burundi |
| 6. Tanzania | 12. Myanmar |

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. Established businesses include farming, dress-making, retailing, hair-dressing and brick-making.

Women form 60% of loan group members. Repayment rates by project are in the range of 90-100%. 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:

Katie Frank

Five Talents, Park House (4th Floor), 22 Park Street, Croydon, CR0 1YE, UK

T: 0203 326 0426 E: info@fivetalents.org.uk