

Press Release

1st April 2009

Five Talents: Charity Partner for pre-G20 Debate

Five Talents was the official Charity Partner for the pre-G20 Debate held in St Paul's Cathedral on 31st March 2009. The Prime Ministers of UK and Australia were the main speakers and the event was hosted by the Bishop of London, the Rt. Rev. Richard Chartres.

The debate was organised by the St Paul's Institute on the theme "My Word is My Bond? Rebuilding trust - the G20 and beyond." It was the first debate in the series on Money, Integrity and Wellbeing, which will continue in the autumn.



Those in attendance included faith leaders, cabinet members, City institutions, academics, charities and media. Questions from the audience were put to the two Prime Ministers on a wide-range of topics. The main thrust of the presentations was the need for a value-based framework for markets and continued commitments to the Millennium Development Goals, as well as addressing climate change and security.

The Bishop of London and the Dean of the Cathedral were both delighted to choose Five Talents as the official partner for the debate.

Tom Sanderson, UK Director of Five Talents said "It is tremendous news for Five Talents to participate in this event. We want to make people aware that the credit crunch is a constant reality for the poor in developing countries who are unable to borrow or save small amounts of money. Five Talents is providing the means for them to grow small businesses in an ethical and sustainable way. Our partnership with the worldwide church helps us to do this efficiently and effectively: fighting poverty, creating jobs and transforming lives."

The retiring collection raised £2,200 towards the work of Five Talents. For a full transcript of the Prime Minister's speech click [here](#).

-Ends-

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

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 20,773 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.

*For more information contact the office at the address on the front page of this Press Release or call Tom Sanderson, UK Director on mobile **07914 855 613**.*