

The Christmas Bowl at Work in the World

In 2004 Christmas Bowl programs will include:

- water projects in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- agriculture projects in East Timor and Ethiopia
- peace and reconciliation projects in Australia and Kenya
- development and rehabilitation projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Mozambique, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Sudan
- education projects in Australia, Fiji, Indonesia, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Zimbabwe and with the Christian Conference of Asia and the World Student Christian Movement:
- health projects in China, Sudan and Zambia and
- refugee work in Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and with the Burma Border Consortium and the Middle East Council of Churches.

The Treasurer of the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR) in India, S C Chandrasekaran, wrote recently :

"We in OfERR take this opportunity to thank Christian World Service for the continuing concern and support for Eelam refugees and look forward to the valued partnership during the next three years.

The General Secretary of the Amity Foundation in China, Qui Zhonghui, also wrote:

"There will be many new challenges for Amity in the years ahead. We need your continued friendship and encouragement. Without the contribution of organisations like CWS/NCCA, Amity could not have accomplished as much as it has.

Your support of the Christmas Bowl program enables our partners in many places to give HOPE to many people. Thank you.

LONG ROAD: CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

number of "hidden" unregistered refugees in some of those camps.

The Christmas Bowl program and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) have supported the BBC program for the last five years. In 2003 A\$1,031,744 was given (the AusAID component forwarded through CWS was A\$1,000,000).

CWS appreciates the close working relationship with AusAID for this and other programs in which joint involvement facilitates work in critical areas of the world.

Karen, a 16-year old girl sums up life as a young resident in the camp. "Some days I feel ok looking after my other siblings, reading a few books from the camp library, or even singing and playing. On other days I want to be

elsewhere away from the camp under better conditions and where I can dream of a better future for my family".

Prasit is 15 years old and wants to be an engineer some day, but the closest possibility is to go to Maesot, another province five hours away, and enroll in some vocational training in radio mechanics.

Le Htoo is 30 years old and has been active in the pro-democracy movement since 1988. He is always looking to the never-ending needs of families relocating from one camp to another without advance notice. Current responsibilities take him beyond the usual call of duty and often he gets confused and disheartened.

Karen, Prasit and Lei Htoo all dream of going back to their villages in the Karen State in Burma someday.



An Amity doctor treating a patient

TIMOR SEA: CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

exploit – including most if not all of the lucrative Greater Sunrise field – would fall within East Timor's exclusive economic zone under UNCLOS. While Australia continues to give millions of dollars in bilateral aid to this struggling nation it also continues to receive tens of millions in revenue from these oil fields. On May 20 2002 East Timor celebrated its independence debt free. For it to remain debt free it must have control over its valuable oil resources and the income they generate.

The next round of negotiations will take place in April this year and we urge the Australian government to negotiate based on international law.

For more information on the Timor Sea Oil negotiations and to find out what you can do to ensure a fair process please look at www.timorseaoffice.gov.tp/enindex.htm or download the forceten Timor Gap fact sheet at www.forceten.org.au/Sharing2004/pdfs/Timor_Gap_oil.pdf

Photo: Charlie Ocampo