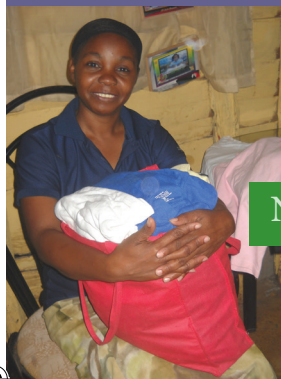


Seeds of Central America, in brief



Name: Armando Villafranca

Country: Honduras

Item Purchased: Oven to make bread for sale

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ ... Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ... he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:5-8 (NKJV)

Name: Dignorah Helena

Country: Honduras

Items Purchased: Clothing for sale

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Since our start, Sowers Fund has been very busy. As of July 2012, we are:

- Operating in 11 countries (which include Congo, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Malawi).
- Have funded over 70 small businesses
- Recognized by the IRS as a 501c(3) organization (which means your donation may be gift-matched by your employer!)

The fund is set up to accept donations of any amount. A careful review of the applicants' situations ensures that recipients have previously demonstrated income generating skills or talents but lack the equipment or costly licenses to permanently change their dire financial situations. After funding has been approved by the Sowers Fund Board, a "Financial Responsibility" curriculum is taught to the applicant by the local field minister. This curriculum, which combines biblical finance principles and business best-practices, was drafted by the Sowers Fund and approved by senior pastors of the church. The donor is then paired up with an recipient and is given a photo of the person with details about the business they are pursuing. If necessary, multiple contributions will be combined to support more expensive items.

As demonstrated in the Parable of the Sower, sowing the "seed" represents sowing the Word of God. By giving our time, talents, resources and financial support, we are fulfilling Christ's commandment to help those less fortunate than ourselves. The Sowers Fund seeks to sow the seeds of enterprise in industrious, hardworking people. We pray that it may produce much fruit and blessings later for both the recipient and donor. Proverbs 11:25 says, "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered".



Request for Prayer

- **Giving grace and wisdom to the mission field ministers to choose the correct recipients for the program.**
- **Efficient communication channels between ministers and Sowers Fund administration.**
- **Helping the recipients to be good stewards of the funds that are given to them.**
- **Blessing the donors for their generosity.**

For more information, please email us at:
info@sowersfund.org

HARVEST *together*

*"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
 - 1 Peter 4:10*

Seeds of Love

When we live in a land of plenty and of general economic stability, it can be hard to comprehend that fellow believers are going without basic necessities such as food, clean water and clothing. As members of the church community, our primary aim is to bring precious souls to Christ. However, Christ also addressed the need for our actions to express our Christianity. In Matthew 25:45, He states, "...inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The program seeks to purchase specific income generating goods to help some of our brethren earn a daily wage.

In an effort to fulfill this mission, the Sowers Fund, was established in January 2011 to help such individuals in need. The program seeks to purchase specific income generating goods to help some of our brethren earn a daily wage. Examples of such items include sewing machines, tools, cooking utensils, and vocational training. These items are used to aid them in specific small businesses which bring a daily wage. This program is more than just financial assistance; it is also about establishing key Christian principles, such as stewardship, tithing, and support of the local community, which go a long way in establishing true long-term sustainable economic development and stability.

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Africa Insights: Kenya & Uganda

In October of 2011 one of the Sowers Fund board members had the unique opportunity to visit some of the Sowers Fund recipients in Kenya and Uganda. The objective of this trip was to provide program training to and receive feedback from field representatives, to solicit client stories and suggestions, and to seek potential opportunities for growth and expansion.

I started my journey in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. It is a bustling metropolis not unlike Mumbai or New York. There I met and spoke with several Sowers Fund recipients who told me their stories of the struggle to survive in a large city that is bulging at the seams with locals and refugees from Ethiopia, the Sudan, and the D.R. Congo. A young Sowers Fund recipient, Alice, told me the story of how her mother starved to death during the regime of dictator Idi Amin. Alice is an excellent cook and is opening a restaurant to support herself. Another program recipient, Sandra, is a refugee from the D.R. Congo; she used her funds to set up shop as a seamstress. In both situations, self-employment is the best option to earn a steady income. By providing funds through the Sowers Fund, individuals like Alice, Sandra, and the 5 other Ugandan program participants can create livelihood opportunities for themselves.

The second church is in Budadiri near Mbale, Uganda, about 6 hours east of Kampala. Budadiri is a village in the foothills of Mt. Elgon, near the Uganda-Kenya border. As a primarily agrarian society, subsistence farming is the norm. However, this also means that these farmers often cannot pay for their children's education or experience a life beyond the basics of survival. Ketty is a strong woman who shoulders the responsibility to provide for her family. Her husband is sickly which limits his ability to farm. This means that Ketty does all of the physically intensive farming. In order to supplement their farming income, Ketty received funds from the Sowers Fund to open a small shop where her husband sells various goods. Their business has been thriving under the leadership of her husband.



In neighboring Kenya, the city of Nairobi is home to disparate income levels. The wealthy of the city live sequestered in gated enclaves while the poor inhabit labyrinthine slums. Ruth lives with her 3 children in one room made of tin sheets, sharing walls with her neighbors. As a Sowers Fund recipient, Ruth has expanded her tomato vending business in the local market. She is able to provide a greater variety of produce to her clients, allowing her business to expand.

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Photographs (from left to right): Ruth at her market stall; the Kabiria Church; James & Naomi with their soap making equipment; Veronica with baskets she has woven.

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Not far away, in an area called Kabiria, there is a second smaller church. The poverty slaps you in the face here. There's no place to avert your eyes as you sit in the rusted tin church building or walk into the homes of the congregants. At this church when you see the exuberance of the worship, you forget for those moments just how poor the people are because how can people that are poor, be so happy and joyful?

I visited the home of James and Naomi. They received funding from the Sowers Fund to establish their soap-making business. I received a quick lesson on how to make both soap bars and liquid soap to be sold in the marketplace.

I also met Veronica. She's a basket weaver who needed supplemental income to survive. The Sowers Fund supported her in setting up a small business selling used clothing. Veronica took the time to show me some of her basket weaving. Unfortunately, such skills do

not guarantee a consistent income, so the Sowers Fund endeavors to support efforts to diversify income generating activities.

We all know there's no easy solution to poverty. Jesus Himself said that we'd always have the poor with us. It is, however, our responsibility to join with them and support them in prayer and financially when possible. Individuals like Ketty are industrious and willing to work outside of their cultural gender norms to do whatever it takes to survive. Alice and Sandra just needed the starting capital to launch out on their own and secure their financial futures. When they heard that people in the U.S. were supporting their financial endeavors, the response was always incredulity that someone so far away cared about their lives. This simple expression of our Christianity changes lives and reinforces that we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Visit Africa when you get a chance – it will change your life and give you a chance to disprove American stereotypes!

Catering for the Caribbean

Adassa's "Cook Shop"

As a single parent raising four children, times have been very tough over the past few years for Adassa Shaw. Struggling to put food on the table for her family, pay rent, utility bills and school expenses, she desperately needed to earn more income to provide for her family. Her 21-year old son, Roland, tried to help but his small salary is simply not enough.

Sister Adassa has always loved to cook but did not have enough funds to start a restaurant which is good business in Jamaica. With generous help from Sowers Fund donors, she was able to buy food items to help start her restaurant or "cook shop" as she calls it.



Sowing Seeds in Central America

Watch out for Maximo!

Maximo and his family have been faithful members of the church for many years. However being the sole income provider for his family they have faced some tough times. His line of business is sales and he usually sells watches in the city marketplace. In order to increase sales and potentially sell additional things to earn more money, the Sowers Fund was able to provide funds to purchase more inventory for his current business and some additional funds to sell other things.



Sewing Her Way Out of Poverty

While Dajabon boasts of being a trade centre for the hides, timber, bananas, coffee, and honey produced in the region, many of its residents remain mired in poverty. 45-year old Dominga Seuro knows all about this as she struggles to find work and as a single-parent provide for her son, Pedro. Due to her desperate situation, she chose to enroll in a free sewing course where she realized her love of sewing. After the assistance provided by Sowers fund, she was able to purchase her own sewing machine and has begun to use her newly learned skills to earn a daily wage. The happiness on her face is quite noticeable! She has also expressed a desire to learn to read and write and is currently enrolled in a class.



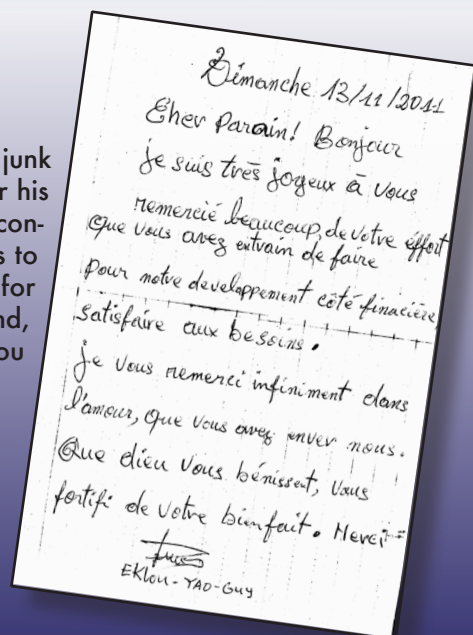
Licensed to Drive

For Patrick Larry driving has always come easy to him, however paying for the costly driving classes and licenses have not been so easy. Sowers Fund not only helps to purchase income-generating goods but also assists in providing funds for vocational training. Through Sowers Fund donors, we were able to help Larry finish his driving course and get his license. Next time you visit, Sierra Leone he may be the one picking you up!

Harvesting Together...

When tailoring no longer became profitable in Togo due to the increase in cheap junk clothing sales, Eklou Yau was forced to go into farming to earn income to provide for his wife and three children. Farming is not an easy trade. Aside from uncertain weather conditions, parasite weeds forever plague the soil and can make it a challenge for plants to make it to harvest. In order to combat these forces of nature, farmers have to pay for expensive machinery and chemicals to treat the ground. With the help from Sowers Fund, Eklou was able to purchase chemicals and seeds to get his farm going. His thank you letter expresses his gratitude.

Translation of letter (right): Dear Sponsor! Good morning. I am very happy to thank you very much for your effort to drive our financial development so that our needs are met. I thank you very much in love, which you have toward us. May God bless you and strengthen you for your good work. Thank you. Eklou-Yau



"Blessed is he that considereth the poor..."
Psalm 41:1