

At Trinity United Church, Nov. 3

Humanitarian worker recounts first-hand experience of Darfur crisis

Atton's Trinity United Church has invited a humanitarian worker to update the community on his work in the war-stricken region of Darfur in Sudan, Africa.

Gary Kenny, Area Secretary for Southern Africa and Secretary for Emergency Response, Justice, Globe and Ecumenical Relations Unit of the United Church of Canada will speak on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Church, 70 Mill St., E.

Darfur is the site of what the United Nations is calling the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Some 1.5 million farmers have been forcibly displaced from their land. Between 30,000 and 50,000 Darfuri have died. International food aid has been used as a weapon of war. Human rights groups are alleging crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and even genocide.

Canadian churches are attempting to respond to the upheaval and suffering in Darfur in many ways including providing humanitarian aid and political and human rights advocacy. One such organization is the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a coalition of 13 faith-based agencies. In July the CFGB sent a delegation, including Kenny, to assess the humanitarian needs and to prepare a suitable Canadian response.

Some of the issues to be raised for discussion on Nov. 3 will include:

- Is food aid always a good thing?
- When is food aid more of a problem than a solution?
- Does the responsibility of food aid agencies end with the donating of the food?

• Should food aid agencies like the CFGB be investigating the cause of people's hunger and addressing those causes? How might they do this?

Kenny is a member of the CFGB board of directors. Prior to joining the United Church of Canada he worked as a human rights research and advocate with KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives and before that, was director of the Inter-Church Coalition on Africa. For a partial record of the CFGB experience in Darfur, see Kenny's article, *Sudan: 'hell on earth'* published in the Sept. 2004 edition of *The United Church Observer*. The article can be read at www.ucobserver.org/archives/sep04_worl d.htm

There is no admission charge for Kenny's talk.

Urgent: Volunteers needed

Volunteer tutors are needed urgently for an adult literacy program. Give the gift of literacy to adults in your community. Registration is being held between Oct. 25 to Nov. 10. Training dates are Nov. 22 and Nov. 27. Call Literacy North Halton for information and an application, 905-873-2200.

Can you give someone a lift? Red Cross drivers are urgently needed to help those in need get to medical appointments, adult day programs and other activities. Details: 905-875-1459.

Child Abuse Breaks Hearts



Child abuse is a far-reaching problem that affects children of all ages, socioeconomic levels and ethnicities. It is every adult's responsibility to help stop child abuse by reporting suspected abuse or neglect. If you believe a child has been harmed, or is in danger of being harmed, call your local department of children and family services or your local police department. If you are a parent, do your best to provide a nurturing, loving home environment for your child. If you need help doing this, there are resources to help you - look online or in the phone book, or ask for assistance through your church or your child's school. If we all do our part to prevent child abuse, we'll get to the heart of the matter.

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