



our developing world's voices

Winter, 2001 — Vol. 7, No. 1

Mudslides from Hurricane Mitch and El Salvador Earthquake Were Preventable

World Neighbors promoted farming methods that helped families avoid the worst of the damage caused by Hurricane Mitch on thousands of Central American farms in 1998, according to a recent study conducted by World Neighbors.*

Called Central America's worst natural disaster, Hurricane Mitch killed thousands, destroyed half a million homes, and washed entire farms down mountainsides. But not all the losses were natural or unavoidable —the flooding was caused by man-made erosion up in the mountains.

The study, funded by the Ford, Rockefeller and Summit foundations, shows that environmentally destructive land uses in Central America amplified the storm's damage and that alternative farming methods can cut erosion by more than half!

Find and read the complete text of the story:

<http://www.wn.org/newsevents.asp>

*These same farming and anti-erosion techniques were used by our Honduran study groups reconstructing La Granja Loma Linda during June and July. Since the property did not extend further up the mountain side, the land above the property was left untreated, allowing mud slides from above to totally reconfigure the property below. This demolished the water system. We have a tax-deductible fund for a new water system for Loma Linda. With your help, we're on the way: we only need \$2,950. ☺



As part of their reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, the Honduran community of LaGranja Loma Linda used anti-erosion techniques to build this foot path.

JOIN our developing world's NEXT STUDY TOUR!

Cambodia/Laos/Viet Nam 2001
July 21–August 12, 2001 — \$3299
(price excludes transpacific airfare)

Be part of a small group for an exciting experience with adventurers who want to see for themselves. Experience the spirit of the people to learn from the past but get on with the future.

Cambodia

See the Tvol Sleng Museum of Pol Pot, Projects of Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and other NGO's working and training land mine survivors to be economically self-sufficient, demining projects, and the City market.

A boat trip offers views of the countryside on the way to Siem Reap, the home of Angkor Wat, one of the seven wonders of the world. It is an amazing temple complex with elaborate friezes depicting historical and Buddhist stories. We'll also visit projects and a school (if open).

Laos

Experience Phonsavanh (Plain of Jars), a site bombed secretly under the auspices of the CIA. There you'll see huge stone jars whose origins are still not known. We'll also hike out to visit the villages Hmong and Tai.

In Luang Prabang we will explore the city, see Hmong women creating their amazing needle work, go out to villages and water falls (bring a swim suit), visit the historic capitol Vientiane, the market, the Lao culture, meet and talk with Laotians.

*Tour ends August 4 for those opting for two weeks.
\$2799 for the two-week tour.*

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Viet Nam

We will tour lovely Hanoi, meet with people and have some free time. An overnight trip will allow us to spend the night in a rural weaving village in the Hoa Binh province. Those who would prefer to go to Halong Bay may choose that option at your own expense.

In Hue we will see the citadel (the old capitol under the Chinese), enjoy a visit to an English class, take a boat trip to Ming Ma Tomb and the village to observe the diverse work that people do on the river.

Later, we'll take a beautiful scenic mountain drive to Danang that overlooks the spectacular coast line. In Danang, we'll have an opportunity to talk with a variety of people.

In Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) we'll have a City tour, an optional visit to a Street Kids project, free time and a farewell dinner before departing for the SF the next day.

A \$200 deposit reserves your place. Contact us for an application, and for air carriers offering low transpacific airfares. 🌐

Election Fraud: A Perspective from Zimbabwe

Everyone keeps spouting off about how the U.S. must look to Third World, "underdeveloped countries." Take a minute to read the following.

In an article in a journal, a Zimbabwe politician was quoted as saying that children should study the year 2000 U.S. election closely, for it shows that election fraud is not only a third world phenomena.

1. Imagine that we read of an election occurring anywhere in the third world in which the self-declared winner was the son of the former prime minister and that former prime minister was himself the former head of that nation's secret police (CIA).
2. Imagine that the self-declared winner lost the popular vote but won based on some old colonial holdover (electoral college) from the nation's pre-democratic past.
3. Imagine that the self-declared winner's 'victory' turned on disputed votes cast in a province governed by his brother!
4. Imagine that the poorly drafted ballots of one district, a district heavily favoring the self-declared winner's opponent, led thousands of voters to vote for the wrong candidate.
5. Imagine that members of that nation's most despised caste, fearing for their lives/livelihoods, turned out in record numbers to vote in near universal opposition to the self-declared winner's candidacy.

6. Imagine that hundreds of members of that most despised caste were intercepted on their way to the polls by state police operating under the authority of the self-declared winner's brother.
7. Imagine that six million people voted in the disputed province and that the self-declared winner's 'lead' was only 327 votes. Fewer, certainly, than the vote counting machines' margin of error.
8. Imagine that the self-declared winner and his political party opposed a more careful behind inspection and recounting of the ballots in the disputed province or in its most hotly disputed district.
9. Imagine that the self-declared winner, himself a governor of a major province, had the worst human rights record of any province in his nation and actually led the nation in executions.
10. Imagine that a major campaign promise of the self-declared winner was to appoint like-minded human rights violators to lifetime positions on the high court of that nation.

None of us would deem such an election to be representative of anything other than the self-declared winner's will-to-power.

All of us, I imagine, would wearily turn the page thinking that it was another sad tale of pitiful pre- or anti-democratic peoples in some strange elsewhere. 🌐

<http://www.scottpennington.com>

odw Annual Raffle

Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 13 for \$10. Winning tickets will be pulled on or near March 8th, International Women's Day. Prizes include: historical T-shirts from Cuba, Nicaragua, South Africa and El Salvador; hand

painted card suitable for framing; Vietnamese raw silk blue scarf; autographed book, *The Future of History* by Howard Zinn; and a traditional bottle of aged Nicaraguan Flor de Caña Rum.

A check with your address and phone number puts you in the raffle, and helps *odw* help others. 🌐



Gwendolyn Brooks

We mourn the loss of Gwendolyn Brooks, the first African American Pulitzer Prize winner, an outstanding poet, teacher, and mentor who recently died.

“When I was 15, I began writing to people like James Weldon Johnson. He sent back my manuscripts with marginal notes, little assistances. He thought I was talented and hoped that I would keep writing. My parents were delighted with all of this attention. But I would have gone on writing.

In writing poetry, you’re interested in condensation, so you don’t try to put all of a particular impression or inspiration on a single page. You distill. Poetry is life distilled.”

Gwendolyn Brooks celebrated the many ordinary people who make the difference.

When I see the President, the Vice President
and the Secretary of State
under sparkling clouds, beside noble columns of white,
Someone got there early and swept and scrubbed.
Someone dusted before the President came.
Someone buffed his shoes,
And the not too stiff white collar was not achieved
by his own agenda.

*Read by a student on Scott Simon’s NPR Saturday
Weekend Edition December 9th in tribute
to Gwendolyn Brooks.*



Other-centered women and men are
whom we need,
whom we need to be.

Gwendolyn Brooks

“It is outrageous that one of the largest corporations (Cisco of Santa Clara County) paid no federal income tax last year. As they (and others) avoided corporate taxes, their tax dollars were not available for low cost housing, schools, transportation, and saving our home Earth.

Instead of helping with these problems, giant corporations pay out stock options to employees that are then used to bid up the cost of housing all around us and make it impossible for teachers, firefighters, garbage collectors, health workers, preschool teachers, and others who are the backbone of our communities to buy a home here. And for the poor, housing becomes impossible.

Instead of corporate greed we need corporate gratitude that is helpful to the people who make our society possible. I dream of a world in which corporate profits will not be as important as having a quality of life so that all children will say, ‘Dad, I’ve had a great life.’”

Larry Purcell of the Catholic Worker House in Redwood City, California



Photo: ©Fred Powledge.

“I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.”

“A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. . . . True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it understands that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.”

“I believe that what self-centered men have torn down men and women other-centered can build up.”

“Injustice anywhere
is a threat to justice
everywhere.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WAYS YOU MAY WISH TO HELP the Earthquake Survivors in El Salvador

These organizations have been working with the people in El Salvador and will use 100% of donations for the people. *odw* knows the work of all the organizations listed.

Checks should be marked “Earthquake Relief Aid.”

1) South Bay Sanctuary Covenant (SBSC) is collecting funds for emergency relief and reconstruction, primarily in the Department (state) of Usulután, the hardest hit department in El Salvador. Tax deductible checks should be made out to University Lutheran Church/SBSC and marked earthquake relief. Mail checks to South Bay Sanctuary Covenant, 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306. For updated reports see the webpages of First Presbyterian

Church/South Bay Sanctuary Covenant at www.fprensa.org/earthquake.htm, or call Arlene Schaup at (650) 494-8340.

- 2) Voices on the Border Emergency Fund, 1600 Webster St. NE, Washington D.C. 20017. These funds will be used in priority areas, most likely in Usulután. More information will be posted on their website at www.votb.org. SBSC and Voices on the Border often work together.
- 3) Project Salvador P.O. Box 300105, Denver, CO 80203, Attention: Earthquake Relief. Please direct any questions to Patricia Lawless, Project Coordinator at plawless@juno.com, (303) 298-8969, or (303) 292-4838.

We will be transferring funds to the Grupo Maiz and the Jesuits through the Central American University (UCA). We have a direct contact there, Dean Brackley. He is a North American Jesuit who moved



to El Salvador in 1990 after the 1989 massacre at the UCA. He works in the community of Jayaque in Sonsonate, which was one of the three regions heaviest hit by the earthquake. The Jesuits also work in Santa Tecla (which was the big news story. The Jesuits have a long history of organizing relief and development efforts in El Salvador.

We may also be channeling funds to other groups, including the parishes of Tierra Blanca and Berlin in Usulután, which apparently was the hardest hit by the quake. We have direct church contacts in both places. At their request, we are also going to be directing some earmarked funds to the Women for Dignity and Life who are organizing support work in Usulután.

The greatest need is financial contributions. There are also great needs for antibiotics and for canvas or tents to construct temporary housing. Please call the number above before collecting antibiotics or housing materials.

- 4) The CRISPAZ team (Christians for Peace in El Salvador) CRISPAZ 1555 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Our initial response will be to support CEBES, the Christian Base communities of El Salvador, in their efforts to provide both immediate and long-term response to affected communities, especially in the department (state) of La Libertad. 🌐

Global Economics 101 from the Wall Street Journal

About the study issued by the World Bank (WB), Staff Reporter Michael Phillips writes: “concluding that its antipoverty programs (the reason for WB being founded) won’t help much unless they secure more political power for the poor themselves, WB, owned by the U.S. . . . and 180 other nations, found that economic growth alone won’t alleviate global poverty. . . because political and economic systems favor the rich over the poor, and the powerful over the powerless. Facilitating ‘the empowerment of poor people —by making state and social institutions more responsive to them— is the key to reducing poverty.”

Nora Lustig, the WB study’s director said: “What we’re seeing is that growth may not be enough —that in order to increase poor people’s share of this growth, we’re going to have to address inequalities.” The report continues, “the distribution of these gains is extraordinarily unequal.”

“Researchers found that the poor are often excluded from the benefits of government health or education programs meant to help them, and are unable to fight back against public corruption. They are also the most vulnerable towards disease, economic crises and natural disaster.”

Any wonder that people from all over the world were on the streets of Seattle, Washington D.C., Prague and wherever the World Bank, IMF, and WTO meet. The insti-

tutions need studies. The people have known this forever. They live the poverty.

The right hand doesn’t seem to know what the left hand is saying. According to the *FOOD FIRST* newsletter, although fair access to land has been in the forefront of struggles in Chiapas, Thailand, Brazil, the Philippines, Columbia, South Africa, Indonesia, and Central America for years, the World Bank now claims that land reform is its top priority. BUT, they don’t mean giving land to the landless so they can feed themselves. WB is pushing for privatization of communal land (as was done in Mexico) for land markets. 🌐

This article adapted from September 13th, 2001 Wall Street Journal article by staff reporter, Michael M. Phillips.

More Poor

Number of people living on less than \$1 a day, by region, in millions.

Region	1987	1998*
East Asia, Pacific	417.5	278.3
Europe, Central Asia	1.1	24.0
Latin America, Caribbean	8.7	78.2
Middle East, North Africa	9.3	5.5
South Asia	474.4	522.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	217.2	290.9

*Estimate

Source: World Bank



At first I could still function.

People might not even know I am hungry all the time.

My stomach would growl.

I would feel impatient and grouchy.

All I would think about is FOOD.

I would start to lose weight.

Friends would be bigger and more active than me.

I would feel embarrassed because I can't keep up.

I would run out of energy easily.

I would be tired all the time.

My grades would suffer.

I would have difficulty concentrating and staying awake in class

It would be hard doing simple things such as walking up a flight
if stairs, carrying books, opening heavy doors.

I would feel very frightened.

My body would be using protein for energy instead of to
repair damaged tissues, muscles and organs.

My eyesight would deteriorate.

I would feel ashamed at my appearance
and at having to beg for food.

I would stop going to school.

I would feel powerless.

There is no future for me.

If I caught a cold or the flu

I might not be able to fight it.

People would say I died of
an illness, but I would

really have

died

of

malnutrition



unkown teenager



our developing world as we move into the year 2001

— we value —

- telling the stories of the voiceless
- sharing their crafts
- helping teachers
- the people we take and meet on our study tours
- giving opportunities to volunteers
- our volunteers!!!

— our essence —

- thinking in others' perspectives
- absorbing the indigenous view that everything is connected
- breaking myths and stereotypes
- helping people: their struggle & success are vital to us all
- we care

— our impact —

- sending \$21,000+ to Nicaragua & Honduras for schools, housing and infrastructure during the 1990's
- sending medical & other supplies after Hurricane Mitch
- work/study tours in 2000

— odw needs —

volunteers for outreach to teachers to encourage them to use our free resource library
volunteers to reach community
marketing volunteer for Building a Better Community
office volunteers
more dollars for Central America for water systems, children's school subsidy
participants for our study tour to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam
donations for brochures and print material for promotion

OUR WARMEST THANKS to all of you who have sent contributions for the various material aid campaigns, subscriptions to *voices* and general gifts to keep us going. We appreciate it more than we can convey. It means more than what the money funds . . . It's your validation of *odw* and its purpose and that does keep us going.

OUR VOLUNTEERS who have made everything possible:

Two high school students: **Jonathan** who helped us even with packing donations for Honduras, and **Erika**, from Sweden, who would do everything and anything that needed to be done with a happiness that was contagious.

Our wonderful web master team from West Valley Design Group: **the two Steves and Heather**.

Steve Contreras who has continued to help us with the web and making the Ballad for Americans Paul Robeson video.

Meredy and Bruce who scouted round for duffle bags and repacked our donations upon learning that Honduras wouldn't accept boxes!

All those who helped with the Handcraft Sale: **Meribel, Sonja, Roberta, Renee and the boys, Shubra, Jenny and Claire**.

Everyone who helped us with mailing voices.



Photo ©/1982 Richard Frank

odw pays tribute to David Brower, a latter day John Muir and environmentalist who helped bring about a joining of environmentalists and trade unionists, realizing that they were inextricably linked in the struggle for a better life and world.

“There is but one ocean though its coves
 have many names; a single sea of atmosphere
 with no coves at all; the miracle of soil,
 alive and giving life, lying thin on the only earth,
 for which there is no spare.”

David R. Brower
 1912–2000

Help the Indian Earthquake Survivors!

Aid to India may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Mark your check “Indian Earthquake Relief.” Or you may make secure on-line contributions at:
<http://www.afsc.org/emap/help/india.htm>

odw Calendar — DO JOIN US!

FEBRUARY 21

Program for Senior Day Care, Sunnyvale.

MARCH 2

San Jose Unified Multi-Cultural Conference, Santa Clara Marriott.

MARCH 2–4

California Teachers Association Human Rights Conference, Santa Clara Marriott.

MARCH 9–11

California Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Oakland.

Moving? Don't miss an issue of voices!
Please notify us of your new address.

We are now asking \$10 per year from our readers to support the publishing and broader circulation of this newsletter. This issue is volume seven. Have you sent your donation for this new year to the address below?

Thanks

our developing world

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Address Correction Requested

a non-profit educational project teaching about developing countries and diverse cultures through:

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