



PROJECT BUILDERS

Project Builders explores Micro-Finance

Over the course of the past several years the Project Builders executive and membership has engaged in the viability of implementing a micro-finance component to our program. Until now we have been an organization providing financial resources, primarily for capital building projects, within EMC's missions program worldwide. Micro-finance and micro-loans have for many years been seen by mission and secular agencies alike as a tremendously effective tool in helping to give opportunity and hope to the poor and disenfranchised people of the world. In its deliberations Project Builders has focused on several key priorities in this area.

1. To work in partnership with a well respected agency with expertise in the field of micro-finance.

2. To work in areas and with people with whom EMC has an historical and ministry connection. We have well over 100 mission workers serving in EMC fields or with one of some 20 Associate missions. This gives us access to a truly global environment and connects us with thousands of people in need of very basic resources for economic self-sufficiency.

3. To have this ministry tied closely to the ultimate goal of drawing people to Christ and to the development of the church universal. In most Asian and Middle Eastern countries this would need to be done in appropriately sensitive and acceptable ways but the intent is that the gospel of Jesus Christ can be evident and available to people.

The executive has had dialogue with several organizations, including MEDA, and through this we have seen different strategies and opportunities open for us in the field of micro-finance. We have also had the opportunity to meet with some of our mission workers in Central Asia, Burkina Faso and Paraguay and have sensed a lot of enthusiasm to work with us in helping to develop a plan for microfinance in these areas. Project Builders is opening this door with caution but also with excitement in seeing the potential this can have in modeling what it means to be compassionate followers of Christ.

Len Barkman

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go to www.projectbuilders.ca

Christ through us to others