



Lending a Helping Hand

Bruce Taylor spent his holiday constructing the Amazing Grace orphanage in southern Sudan.

Taylor was one of a team of eight Canadian volunteers who raised funds for the project and traveled to Sudan in January under Bruised Reed Ministries - a subsidiary of International Teams. The group hired local contractors to construct straw and mud brick buildings. The team from Canada assisted with the construction.

"Following 20 years of war," Taylor comments "the Sudanese are looking to establish an equitable 'new Sudan' and now is the time for western countries and individuals to get involved."

The Sudanese civil war has orphaned many. Taylor saw indications both in Sudan and neighboring Uganda of civilians who have been internally displaced or killed.

"In the region that we visited people had planted mango trees by their huts," recalls Taylor. "People abandoned their homes due to bombings during the war but you could still see the trees they've planted."

Covering the costs and time off work that mission trips involve represents a hurdle for most applicants.

Taylor decided to start his own company called Enviro-Stewards in part, so that he could participate more frequently in relief and community development projects in other countries.

Enviro-Stewards is based in Kitchener, Ontario and specializes in drinking water treatment and

environmentally friendly business practices. His company gives more than 10 per cent of its profits to fund overseas development projects as well as local ministry activities. Bruce is helped to maintain his servant objectives—the majority of his board of directors possessing a mission background. The remainder being Christian business people.

"There are few standards for water treatment and disposal in some developing countries," says Taylor. "Dumping untreated materials into rivers is widespread so sustainable business practices are needed."

The company donated a water treatment unit to the orphanage.

Taylor has also visited El Salvador twice to help with the Las Lajas agricultural cooperative that provides job opportunities to 3,000.

Following the earthquake in El Salvador in 2001, Taylor took two trips to construct 28 homes. On his second trip people from the first village he visited joined him to serve other villagers in need.

As part of a normal work week at home, Bruce volunteers at Oasis, a drop-in centre for Kitchener's homeless.

"I've structured my business so that I, and my employees, can serve at home and overseas as a normal part of work," says Taylor. "I see myself in full-time service, working in the field of engineering."

Taylor believes that now is the time for Western countries to help Sudanese families.



◀ Bruce Taylor aligns business and beliefs.