

## Story Starters

Partners International Canada would like to make the jobs of editors and writers easier. We are continually discovering compelling stories of interest to Canadians through our global partners. Partners can help interested journalists with the sources, photographs and facts that contribute to well-researched and balanced articles that add a global dimension to Canadian print and broadcast media.

Here are just a few story-starters for you. Photos are available upon request to support the following stories.

### **The idea and the angle: Canadians love Cuba**

Travel experts say that Canadians make up the largest group of tourists from any one country to visit Cuba. *We associate it with sandy beaches, warm water and escape from a Canadian February — not with a thriving local church that is changing the lives of Cubans struggling with poverty and other challenges.*

Partners International Canada is partnering in Cuba to mobilize and empower local churches that are bursting at the seams.

Contact us for stories, sources and photos about how Canada's favourite vacation spot is also home to a thriving church, empowered by the generosity of Canadians to reach out to a new generation of Cuban believers.

### **The idea and the angle: Follow that goat!**

Every Christmas, Canadians embrace Partner's *Harvest of Hope* catalogue. A recent survey indicated that 84% of Canadians actually prefer a charitable gift made in their honour, instead of the usual socks and slippers we find under our Christmas trees every year. Partners International Canada provides the opportunity for Canadians to give things like goats, blankets, school supplies and other items to some of the poorest people in the world. *How do these gifts actually change people's lives? Follow a goat, a cow, or whatever gift that interests you the most, from the pages of our catalogue, to the lives of the poor.*

Contact us for stories, sources and photos to find out how the generous gift choices of ordinary Canadians actually do help transform the lives of their brothers and sisters around the world.

### **The idea and the angle: Actions really do speak louder than words**

In one far corner of Southeast Nigeria there are 152 poor rural villages, home to the Ibo-Edda people, a group traditionally resistant to the Good News of Jesus — to the point of killing early

missionaries. For many years, evangelists working with The Evangelizer's Team Ministries International (TETMI) tried to reach these people through the traditional method of establishing "preaching points." After a decade of hard work just one church had been planted.

In 2001, they decided to do something a little bit different. TETMI decided to start ministering as Jesus did—serving both the physical and spiritual needs of the people. Realizing the need of the villages for clean water and accessible schools, TETMI got to work, with the partnership of Canadians through Partners International. To date they have established three schools that now provide education to over 600 children and have drilled or repaired 10 borehole wells to provide clean, fresh water.

The community has taken notice. "They want to know why we're helping them," says leader David Umune. "We tell them it's because we love them with Jesus' love." TETMI has planted 10 churches in the vicinity, including the largest one – which meets in the school building. "The reason the church is here is because of the school," says David. "The people are responding to our clear expression of love for them."

Contact us for stories, sources and photos about how one partnership has changed countless lives in Southeast Nigeria.