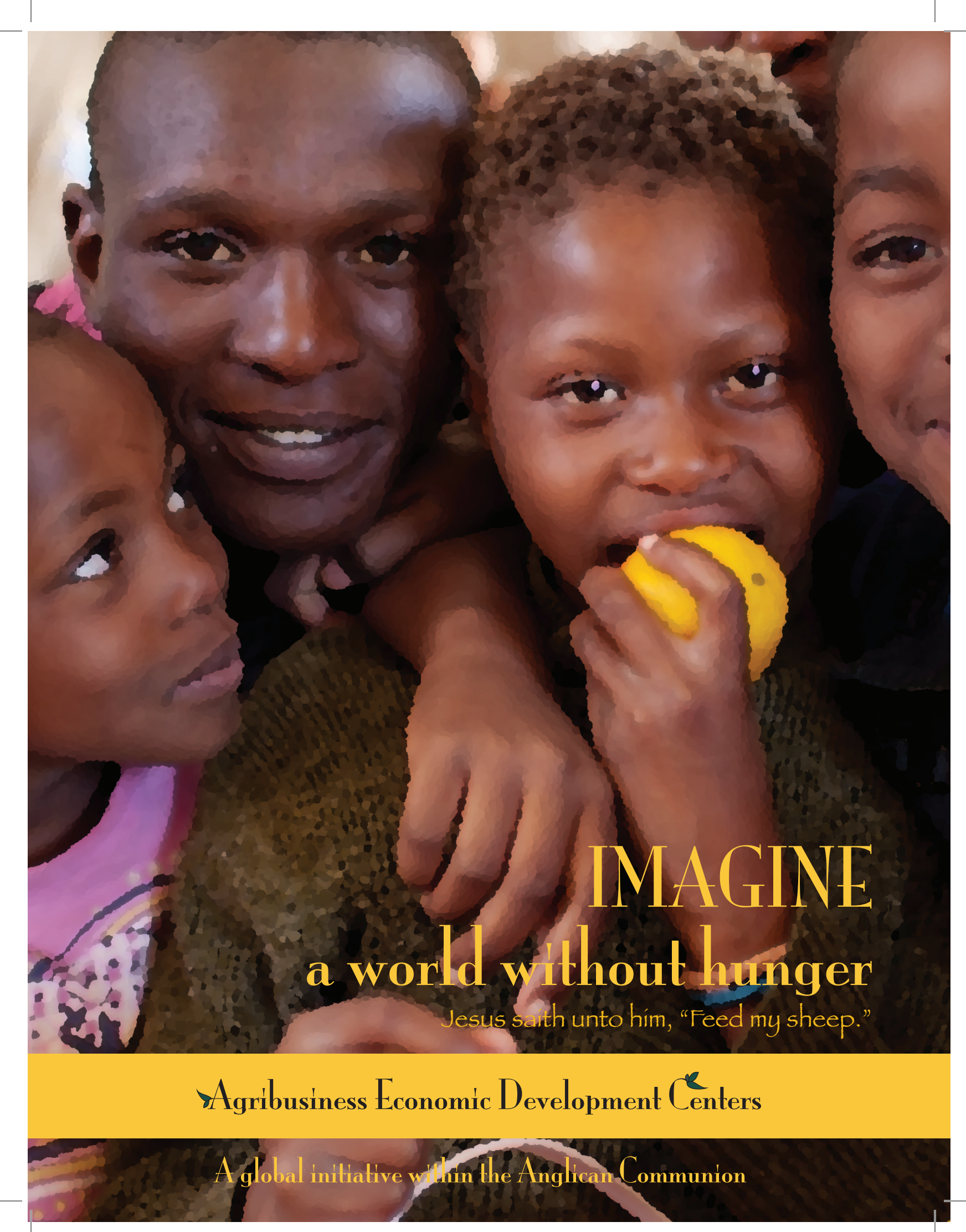




IMAGINE a world without hunger

Jesus saith unto him, "Feed my sheep."

Agribusiness Economic Development Centers

A global initiative within the Anglican Communion

The VISION:

IMAGINE

if you were poor and without hope. Then imagine receiving the opportunity to raise yourself up from poverty through an extraordinary Anglican global initiative.

IMAGINE

owning your own aquaponics farm and operating a successful, sustainable business.

IMAGINE

providing economic opportunity to local citizens and businesses that work on or with your farm.

IMAGINE

benefiting from the continuing support and technical assistance of the Anglican program from which you received training and business development support.

IMAGINE

providing your family with reliable, ongoing economic security.

IMAGINE

the value of the safe, organic food production on your farm - improving your help without adverse impact on the environment.

NOW IMAGINE

even more...

IMAGINE

assisting some of the poorest, most desperate people on the planet through a global network of Agribusiness Economic Development Centers -- all within reach today by the Anglican Communion and other initiative partners.

The imagination of the Anglican Communion has a challenge.

The late David Beetge, Anglican Bishop of the Highveld, once remarked: ***Often, when all is said and done in the Church, more is said than done!*** But, as he well knew, it doesn't have to be that way.

In conversation with FreshMinistries' Chairman, The Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III, Dr. Mark Dybul, former U.S. Global AIDS Ambassador and current Executive Director of the Global Fund, stated: ***"We have the program and funding to attack the tenets of poverty. What we need is an infrastructure through which to deliver it."*** Dr. Lee responded, ***"It already exists."***

The worldwide Anglican Communion witnesses the grace of God's love in 165 countries across the globe. More than 80 million members of that global community are Anglicans. In other words, more than 11 percent of the world's population identify as Anglican. Testifying to and caring for both the spiritual and physical health of 80 million Anglicans is both an incredible responsibility and an incredible opportunity.

Through a worldwide network of dioceses and extensive infrastructure and properties, the Anglican Communion has the unique opportunity to establish a well-coordinated global poverty eradication initiative that blends the Communion's 5 Marks of Mission and the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. Through a coordinated, well-managed initiative that addresses education, economic development, food production, health, and gender equality, the Communion can impact the health and well-being of millions of people in

need, around the world. The Church can, as He has instructed us to do, “tend His sheep” in a way that creates meaningful, sustainable change in the lives of those in greatest need.

Across the globe, generations upon generations have been entrapped in poverty. Every corner of the earth, every continent, has men, women and children suffering from extreme poverty and hunger. However, developing countries such as Nigeria, nations in sub-Saharan Africa, Haiti and Asia suffer the most. The number of people around the world suffering from severe hunger continues to rise.

Almost all the hungry people live in developing countries. The number of hungry men, women and children living on the African continent alone grew from 175 million to 239 million, with nearly 20 million added in the last few years. Nearly one in four are hungry. And in sub-Saharan Africa, the modest progress achieved in recent years up to 2007 has reversed, with hunger rising 2 percent per year since then.

It is our goal to provide those in severe distress with the tools and support they need to become self-sus-

80,000,000
ANGLICANS IS BOTH AN
INCREDIBLE RESPONSIBILITY
—AND, AN INCREDIBLE
OPPORTUNITY.



taining and capable of breaking the cycle of poverty. To do so, we have designed a culturally and socially relevant initiative that is implemented, with global support, at the local level. Enabling local

dioceses to play an integral role in our global initiatives accomplishes two essential goals: 1) It lifts both

**15% OF THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES' POPULATIONS
LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY.**

the churches and the communities they serve out of extreme poverty; and, 2) it awakens and empowers the sleeping giant we call the Anglican Communion.

As instructed by our faith, we have the responsibility to demonstrate God's love and respect for those we serve and do whatever we can to lessen their burdens.

More relevant than ever before, the Anglican Communion is a powerful catalyst to bring cultures and people together

as a real force for peace and change. As the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby stated, “We do not have the luxury of saying something must be done without doing anything ourselves.”

**870 MILLION PEOPLE
SUFFER FROM CHRONIC
UNDERNOURISHMENT**
(2010-2012 UN estimates)

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The VALUES:

“This model addresses every single one of the components necessary for sustainable development in an impoverished area.

It is not just putting a hoe in people’s hands but giving them an equity in the economy.”

Pamela White

Former US Ambassador to Haiti

**It is hard to imagine
a single initiative that can embrace and serve
as many values as can Agribusiness Economic Development Centers.**



- Eradication of poverty and hunger
- Empowerment of women
- Social egalitarianism and opportunity
- Economic justice through business development and job creation
- Reduction of disease and mortality
- Improvement of health and nutrition
- Ensuring environmental sustainability
- Access to safe, healthy food
- Global partnership for development resources
- Conveyance of intellectual and economic resources

The Initiative:

The Agribusiness Economic Development Center model is a comprehensive initiative applying an advanced, but pragmatic, agricultural method to help people from most any circumstance become economically self-sufficient.

Participants of the program will be trained and certified in the entrepreneurial operation of an aquaponics farm. Program completers will graduate with detailed, comprehensive business and execution plans for the development of their own sustainable aquaponics business. They will receive the requisite support and technical assistance to successfully establish and operate their farms. Their initial operations will occur in a highly supported agribusiness incubator on church land provided under favorable terms. Upon graduating from incubation, these start-up businesses will continue to receive support and technical assistance from the Center as needed and will benefit from a grower network and cooperative created and maintained by the Center. The Center will also train others in high-potential agribusiness support occupations needed by the aquaponics farms.

Important outcomes of the Agribusiness Economic Development Center include:

- Accelerated generation of sustainable entrepreneurial businesses
- Rapid job creation through a targeted economic catalyst
- Rapid increase in middle-class families
- Workforce development from entry level to technical to executive

- Development of a sustainable agribusiness sector
- Gender empowerment with significant business opportunities for women
- Positive training and employment opportunities for out of school youth
- Moderate investment requirements and minimized financing barriers
- Increased entry-level employment opportunities for undereducated workforce
- Reduced risk of business losses and failures
- Enhanced production of safe, affordable organic foods

FreshMinistries will provide for on-site management of Centers, as well as the employment and supervision of trainers and business counselors. The services and resources of the incubator will be available to support all new aquaponics businesses on both the incubation and graduate farms. In addition, FreshMinistries will coordinate transportation service to assist incubator companies and graduates in getting their seafood and produce to market.

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The Innovation: AQUAPONICS

FreshMinistries has worked with university researchers and agribusiness industry professionals to craft an economic development program centered on the rapidly emerging field of aquaponics farming. Aquaponics offers an ideal opportunity for the rapid and inexpensive development of small businesses job creation.

Aquaponics blends aquaculture (fish) and hydroponic (produce) organic farming techniques into an environmentally responsible climate-resistant closed-loop growth system powered by renewable energy technology. This soil-less, commercial-scale growth system may be built on less than a quarter acre of land each. It uses 90 - 98 percent less water and yields greater harvests per square foot than soil-based farming. The scientifically managed, nutrient-rich growth medium is completely organic – no hormones, pesticides or herbicides are used. Growth rates for seafood and produce are extraordinary. For example, a two-pound tilapia can be grown in 180 days and a full head of lettuce in six weeks. The systems are entirely scalable and can be easily expanded as an entrepreneurial business grows. In addition to the creation of small businesses and jobs, these facilities will also produce safe, healthy organic foods for local citizens and surrounding markets.

FreshMinistries has combined the innovation of aquaponics with its long-standing expertise in small business incubation, workforce development and



economic development to package a compelling, high-value model: the Agribusiness Economic Development Center. Designed for easy replication, these Centers can be established quickly and with minimal expense in most any location, including arid lands, parking lots, rooftops and other properties deemed

unsuitable for traditional farming.

Immediate benefits include accelerated business generation, job creation and the enhanced production of food. Many significant social benefits follow.

The Agribusiness Economic Development

Center model can be adapted and expanded to meet the requirements of any location. Location-specific training and technical assistance programs can be created pursuant to the needs of any area's agribusiness sector, including agribusinesses incubation services beyond aquaponics farming.

The Program:

The core aquaponics farming program is sequenced as follows:

PHASE ONE: TRAINING

An eight-week applied classroom and laboratory instruction in the construction, development, operation and maintenance of an economically successful and sustainable aquaponics farm, including:

- Construction and maintenance of aquaponics farming systems
- Modern farm operations
- The science of aquaponics
- The business of aquaponics
- Methods of aquaponics farming-- hydroponic and aquaculture organic farming
- Aquaponics operations and management
- Aquaponics problem solving and sustainability
- Operational logistics: harvesting, processing, storage, transportation, etc.
- Environmental controls, requirements and stewardship
- Green energy systems: solar, wind, etc.
- Food safety and processing
- Management and supervision
- Logistics

- Agribusiness economics and sales strategies
- Agribusiness entrepreneurship
- Requirements and strategies for start-up and continuing businesses
- Business processes and best practices: human resources, finance, distribution, etc.
- Marketing and sales
- Regulations, laws and other compliance requirements

PHASE TWO: APPLIED INTERNSHIP

A comprehensive 12-week internship and aquaponics business development experience for the graduates of Phase One, designed to prepare them to establish and operate a successful aquaponics farm immediately upon program completion. This includes:

- Extensive and in-depth hands-on work-based learning in a real world aquaponics farm operated for training and business development purposes by FreshMinistries
- Support for development of detailed, comprehensive business and execution plans for the participant's own future aquaponics farm
- Support for identification and acquisition

- of land for aquaponics farming
- Supported acquisition of start-up capital
- Guided access to support services for small businesses and entrepreneurs

- Life skills training for successful entrepreneurship, leadership, business and interpersonal relations and personal life management

The training and internship programs will be free of charge to all participants.

PHASE THREE: BUSINESS INCUBATION

Program completers will be encouraged to take advantage of the business incubation services and resources on an aquaponics incubator farm operated for business development purposes in support of the establishment and first year of start-up operation. In addition to access to full-function facilities, essential services and resources will be provided, including help with:

- Business plan execution
- Financial plan execution
- Strategies for profit optimization and sustainability
- Market research methods and opportunity identification
- Business requirements -- marketing, sales, distribution, business management, etc.
- Capitalization of start up and early phase operations -- loan application assistance, working with SBA, SBDC, banks and private investors, etc.
- Business process support -- sales, quality control, marketing, networking, etc.
- Risk mitigation and management

- Legal, regulatory and tax compliance
- Harvesting, packaging and processing fish and produce for market
- Technical assistance with agribusiness issues and challenges
- Connection to a vast array of resources in the US and other FreshMinistries incubators

POST-INCUBATION

Upon completion of the incubation period, the aquaponics farmers will continue to receive support and technical assistance from the Center as needed. Accordingly, the Center will assist the farmers in securing land, shelter units and aquaponics equipment for continuing operations as independent businesses. In some locations, church land may be available for lease to aquaponics farmers on a graduate farm.

The Center will guide the development and ongoing operation of a Farmers Network, a growers' cooperative, to support the entrepreneurs and identify and share best practices. The Center will also connect entrepreneurs with graduates of agribusiness support programs in fields such as renewable energy systems, facility maintenance, product processing, logistics, etc.

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FACILITIES:

Facilities for instruction and business incubation will be established by the Center on church land in each location of operation. While a consistent, proven design will always be utilized, the extent of the facilities can be scaled according to the need and program in each location. Wherever possible, the modest classrooms and offices of the Center will be located in existing facilities.

Aquaponics systems are covered in a greenhouse shelter to protect the equipment, fish and produce inside. They are of an environmentally friendly design with minimal impact on the site. Two sizes of systems are erected – large systems for instruction and medium systems for business incubation.

Equipment in aquaponics facilities is powered primarily with renewable energy systems such as so-

lar and wind generation. Energy storage batteries and a back-up generator are also provided to prevent product loss during power interruptions.

The workforce training facility and applied internship components are delivered in at least one 6,000-square-foot fully functional instruc-

tional farm. These state-of-the-art aquaponics facilities are located adjacent to the Center's classrooms and are, in all respects, a real aquaponics farm that produces fish and produce on an on-going basis per high commercial standards. Participants are involved in the construction and maintenance of these facilities as an essential part of their training.

The incubation phase of the program will be delivered in 3,000-square-foot fully functional incubation farm units. These units will be available on a favorable basis to graduates of the training program to support them



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in the establishment of their aquaponics farms. The Center will provide ongoing support and assistance.

It is the intent of FreshMinistries to establish sustainable public and private partnerships to

support the development and successful operation of numerous Agribusiness Economic Development Centers in high need areas around the world.

Facilities typically required for a Center include:

- Office space for the Center and incubation start-up businesses
- Training space
- Flat, firm land for aquaponics shelters near classrooms and offices (approximately 1/7th of an acre per instructional unit and 1/4 of an acre for incubator units)
- A small processing facility for preparing food products for transportation and sale
- Water and electricity to shelter sites (minimal capacity due to eco-efficiencies)
- Site security



VIABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY:

Businesses created from the Agribusiness Economic Development Center can achieve immediate viability and are extraordinarily well positioned for long-term sustainability. These advantages are the result of the reliable nature of aquaponics farming combined with the ongoing business support and technical assistance provided by the Center. Each aquaponics unit will immediately be ready to grow fish and produce with minimal initial investment. With adherence to the fairly straightforward methods of aquaponics farming taught in

**Revenue from the sale
of food products will be
shared with the Church
and reinvested
in the Center.**

the Center, start-up businesses face minimal risk of failure and become both profitable and sustainable very quickly.

An important part of the Agribusiness Economic Development Center model is the creation and support of an ongoing Farmers' Network, a growers cooperative, wherein aquaponics farm operators share best practices and take advantage of leveraged group purchases and sales. In support of the Network, the model includes a Business Center where agribusiness entrepreneurs

can receive technical and compliance assistance, as well as access to essential business services, resources, technology and global marketing opportunities on an ongoing basis.



EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT:

The economic and human development benefits of the Agribusiness Economic Development Centers are complemented by significant social benefits. Severe food insecurity and poverty impact all areas of life, including health, education and future economic prosperity. The Centers' primary goal is to strengthen economic development through the agricultural sector, and initiative also fundamentally transforms the lives of local citizens by simultaneously addressing scores of social and economic challenges that are by-products of food insecurity and poverty. World Bank emphasizes the long-range implications of severe food insecurity by pointing out that "Whether or not children are well-nourished during their first years of life can have a profound effect on their health status, as well as their ability to learn, communicate, think analytically, socialize effectively and adapt to new environments and people."



It is the broad intent of the Centers to:

- Improve local agribusiness infrastructure, supply chains, and farmers' productivity
- Develop a workforce prepared to embrace and participate in business ownership and entrepreneurial development
- Educate youth about opportunities in agribusiness
- Elevate farmers in the use of innovative, cutting-edge environmentally sound farming techniques
- Empower citizens from all walks of life to reap the rewards of hard work and escape poverty through food security, business ownership and economic self-sufficiency.

FRESHMINISTRIES' TEAM:

FreshMinistries is a 501(c)3 interfaith organization working to eliminate extreme poverty by empowering communities and individuals to realize their full potential. Each staff member, trustee and volunteer works to create a world in which all children have an equal chance to lead happy, healthy, productive lives.

FreshMinistries and its international arm, Be the Change International, have the same mission and goals, centered on the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals to improve education, promote economic opportunity and gender equality, provide health initiatives and affordable housing in distressed communities throughout the world.

FreshMinistries' staff includes dedicated team members with skills ranging from research and program development to community outreach and program implementation.

Several staff members have received training in aquaponics technology from the University of the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, FreshMinistries has partnered with Stringham Organics, a company with 35 years of experience building aquaponics systems throughout the world, to oversee construction of its Agribusiness Development Centers.

FreshMinistries was founded in 1989 by the Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III, who continues to serve as Director and CEO. Dr. Lee created the concept for FreshMinistries in 1988 while serving as rector of Church of Savior in Jacksonville, Florida. He elevated the organization to his full time vocation in 1994 bringing his ministry out of the church and into the community to serve people of all faiths and races.

Before becoming an ordained priest, Dr. Lee had a successful career in business. He earned his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and continued graduate studies in journalism at the University of Georgia. Upon accepting his calling into the ministry, he earned a master's of divinity from Yale University and a doctorate of theology from New York Theological Seminary. He currently serves as non-stipendiary Canon for Outreach and Ecumenism in the Diocese of Florida. He is a member of the Compass Rose Society, serving the Archbishop of Canterbury within the Anglican Communion, and has been inducted into the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

He is also on the Presidential Advisory Council on Financial Literacy and the Governor's Faith-based Advisory Board for the state of Florida.

Learn more about FreshMinistries
by visiting our website: www.freshministries.org



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ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

AQUAPONICS:

Received \$1.98 million grant from U.S. Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce to launch an agribusiness center to support aquaponics farming and entrepreneurship in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Construction will begin in 2015 on land leased from the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture on the island of St. Croix. FreshMinistries will construct the new center to provide hands-on training and classroom sessions to individuals interested in owning, managing or working within the innovative field of aquaponics.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Beaver Street Enterprise Center—the first core city, minority business incubator in the state of Florida

- Named the number one business incubator in the world in 2010 by National Business Incubator Association
- Created over 100 new businesses
- Established over 2000 new jobs
- Launched three clients onto *Inc. Magazine's* list of 500 fastest growing businesses in the US

FINANCIAL LITERACY:

Programs training the poor to understand concepts of saving, responsible spending, and lending.

- Trained over 400 families in Florida
- Received the Sherman Award from Secretary of the U.S. Treasury for best program in U.S.
- Helped create the U.S. President's Council on Financial Literacy
- Appointment of Dr. Lee to the President's Council on Financial Literacy

EDUCATION:

Education, life skills and job readiness programs for youth and adults.

- LifePoint Career Institute trained over 600 individuals for employment in hospitality and preparation for the Certified Nursing Assistant exam
- Worked with more than 450 disadvantaged youth, including court-involved youth, through job readiness and life skills training as well as exposure to numerous cultural events such as the Symphony, art museums and college campus visits

HEALTH:

Programs teaching youth health and nutrition and to avoid risky behaviors

- Taught more than 900,000 youth in southern Africa anti-stigma messaging and how to avoid HIV/AIDS
- Taught approximately 450 core-city youth health and nutrition and avoidance of risky behaviors

HOUSING:

Built, with community partners, affordable homes in core-city neighborhood.

- Built more than 100 homes in Jacksonville, Florida's core-city
- Provided access to low-interest loans for low-income home buyers

SAFETY:

Programs promoting community involvement and neighborhood safety.

- Conducted numerous anti-crime walks in core-city neighborhoods with community activists and members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- Crime in the community dropped by more than 36 percent

“This initiative can significantly
and permanently improve the quality of life
for economically disadvantaged people
anywhere in the world, even in the most difficult
environmental and economic conditions.”

The Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III



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INTERNATIONAL WORK:

FreshMinistries guiding mission is to proactively address poverty and its impact on communities. The Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III founded FreshMinistries in 1989 to pursue international projects in partnership with the Worldwide Anglican Church and other partners around the world that share its mission of eradicating poverty and building strong communities and families. Using the infrastructure of the Church and lessons learned from FreshMinistries more than 20 years of humanitarian work, the partnership has created innovative and successful programs in its efforts to revitalize poverty-stricken communities.

FreshMinistries staff members assigned to aquaponics incubator projects have extensive experience in international development work. A good example of FreshMinistries capacity building and partnering experience is the design and implementation of Siyafundisa, a PEPFAR-funded project that targeted African youth with a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention program.

FreshMinistries was awarded a \$12 million grant from the United States government to help eradicate HIV/AIDS in Africa. FreshMinistries worked closely as project manager and capacity building partner with the Anglican Church of South Africa and its newly formed Anglican AIDS Healthcare Trust to bring the HIV/AIDS prevention message, delivered by youth peer-to-peer, to 900,000 South African youth. FreshMinistries provided grant and financial oversight

and grant reporting services for the Siyafundisa program while building the capacity of the Church to continue the program once the USAID grant ended. Today the program continues in South Africa under the direction of the Church.



Participants in southern Africa HIV/AIDS prevention program

FreshMinistries has extensive experience in launching, managing and expanding businesses through business incubation and technical assistance programs.

International projects have been inspired by the success of Beaver Street Enterprise Center in Jacksonville, launched in 2003 and named International Incubator of the Year in 2010 by the National Business Incubator Association.

Key partnerships include, but are not limited to:

- Harvard School of Public Health
- US Government:
 - Health & Human Services
 - USAID
 - US Department of Commerce
- Florida State Government
- Anglican Communion
- Diocese of Haiti
- Government of Haiti
- US Embassy in Haiti
- Episcopal University of Haiti
- University of the Virgin Islands
- Government of the US Virgin Island
- Diocese of the USVI
- Anglican Province of Southern Africa
- Trinity Wall Street
- The Episcopal Church (TEC)

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Agribusiness Economic Development Centers are highly accountable through the use of accurate, verifiable and sophisticated metrics.

Accountability and performance measures include:

- The number of student/entrepreneurs enrolled in the program
- Number of new businesses created
- Number of new female owned businesses created
- Number of viable businesses one year post graduation; amount of food produced, both per system and collectively within the Center

- Impact of program on food supply chains and relief of food insecurity in surrounding area.

Social impacts are also evaluated, including:

- Improved nutrition of families living in surrounding areas
- Improved incomes
- Other indicators of sustainable social and economic benefits garnered from public and private investment in the program.

IMAGINE:

How gratifying it will be
to join FreshMinistries in the development
of a global network of Agribusiness Economic Development Centers

Sermon Excerpt: The Reverend Doctor Robert Vernon Lee III
Trinity Wall Street, New York. Ascension Day 2013

..... In recent years, we found ourselves, in the Anglican Communion, “at daggers drawn”, as one African bishop friend of mine remarked. In the wake of fierce theological debate, the doors of the various Provinces of the Anglican Communion were thrown wide open... and we were brought us face to contentious face—with brothers and sisters around the world of whom, theretofore, we had very little knowledge. But something unusual began to happen. Out of the debate came conversation. And out of the conversation, many of us began to know each other. Seeds of appreciation, and respect, began to grow—even to the point where we dreamed of doing ministry together. New ministry!

In 2006, after quite a bit of dreaming, and in response to an invitation by our federal government to help address the problems of HIV/AIDS in Africa, we took the leap. Partnering with the Archbishop of Cape Town and the Anglican Province of Southern Africa, we received from USAID a \$12 million grant to help keep the youth in three African countries, safe from HIV/AIDs and other social illnesses. We were thrilled! But then I received a call from the head of USAID who told me that before we could begin the initiative we had to receive “host country concurrence” from each of the countries: South Africa, Mozambique, and Namibia. Well, I thought: how hard could that be? We are there to help. But, as I was informed by the man in Washington that host country concurrence could take up to a year. It was a political nightmare – one resulting from the inability of our governments to even agree that there was any kind of a problem with HIV and AIDS in those countries. It was crazy. I called Archbishop Ndugane and flew to South Africa. By the time I arrived, the archbishop had met with the deputy president of South Africa and had obtained the promise of host country concurrence with a letter of confirmation to be in our hands by the end of the week. That evening we all flew to Maputo Mozambique, spent the night and met the following morning with their Minister of Health. After explaining what was going on he, too, agreed to host country concurrence and promised that we would have a letter of confirmation in our hands by the end of the week. That afternoon we flew to Windhoek Namibia and again spent the night. The next morning we met with their Minister of health who also agreed, immediately, to host country concurrence and promised that we would have a letter of confirmation in our hands by the end of that week. Well I have to tell you I let out my breath and I explained to the minister what I had been told in my country and then and went on to ask him why on three successive days we had received three approvals for host country concurrence. He looked at me and he said the following words: “Yes, normally there would be difficulties – long and arduous difficulties in obtaining host country concurrence. But the difference here is that you’re Anglicans. In the time of troubles-- the time of apartheid-- you stood up at great personal cost and risk to yourselves and you told the truth. We trust you to do this work” Well I have to tell you that the hair stood up on the back of my arms. I had not been party to what went on within the church in Africa during apartheid. But, I can tell you, I was never so proud to be an Episcopalian – to be an Anglican—to be a Christian. I can also tell you that it was abundantly clear in that meeting, that the Holy Spirit had been, and continued to be, ablaze in the workings of the church.

Standing on the foundation of Christ’s witness to us even unto the cross.... Emboldened by the knowledge of his resurrection..... Hopeful in the promise of his return..... and empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit..... we find the ways, together, to bring light into this world.... to feed all of God’s sheep.

I will tell you that our faith is more relevant today than it has perhaps ever been. Tom Friedman is right: the world IS flat. As we are drawn together – inextricably bound together – by economic opportunity, our cultures begin to clash. People become afraid. At the heart of culture is religion and in this case it can either be the problem or the solution. And the church is poised and ready. As Episcopalians we are found throughout our local communities. As Anglicans our presence is known throughout the world. The question is, what will we do with the gifts of our faith that have been left to us.

Our faith is no longer the reflection of what happened long ago in Jerusalem. Way too much has happened since then. Our Lord no longer hangs nailed to a cross. He is alive. He is ascended and His light fills our Universe.

And now it’s our turn to answer the same question that was put to Peter. As individuals and as the Church itself, how do we answer that question of Jesus. Do you love me more than all of this... do you love me more than this life itself?

Are we ready, at this very moment, to stop whatever we are doing, whatever we think important, to embrace our brothers and sisters. Are we ready to be the people we were created to be. Are we ready to be the Church we were called to be.

Are we ready to say, yes Lord. I do, indeed, love you with all of my heart?

It is an honor to be with you today at this historic church. Since 1697 the people of Trinity Wall Street have been a beacon to God’s people. Through natural disasters, wars, divisions in the Church and more... you have, and you continue, to feed Christ’s sheep. All for the love of God.... All for a world of good.



FRESHMINISTRIES

Building hope. Changing lives.

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www.freshministries.org