

Spring 2005, Annual Report 2004

# NEXUS

## 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### 1975—2005

Rainbow of Hope  
for Children  
NEXUS



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Yes, it's been 30 years since Hank Zyp, a young teacher at St. Joseph's High School in Edmonton, along with his wife, Tillie, and his colleagues Jim Salyzyn, John Macdonald and friends who believed they could make a difference, planted the seed that blossomed into a rainbow of hope for thousands of impoverished families in the world. It was the about time that the great grassroots scholar Paulo Freire brought his childhood suffering in Brazil to the world of academia in the majority world through his writings that made the connection between poverty at home and the good life abroad. Inspired with the belief that love, caring for others and sharing with others is the common thread critical to the survival of our world community, the fledgling beginnings of St. Joseph Save the Children Club took root in 1975, growing to its broader support base and renamed Rainbow of Hope for Children at the turn of



**WE'RE HAVING  
A PARTY!  
Tickets \$12.00  
Order from  
Joan Rajotte  
780-842-2278**

You are invited to our anniversary supper at Blessed Sacrament School, Wainwright, April 23, 5:30 pm. Meet our founders, Hank and Tillie, our treasurer, Leo Page, long term director, Al Gerwing, recipient of the Order of Canada, and others - all who have dedicated their lives to social justice. Also meet our international guests, Maria José Da Silva (Zezé), founder of the CEAPA Women's Organization Program and the Rural Women's Worker's Program (MMTR-AL), and Sister Claire Novecosky

of the Ursulines from Humboldt, who has served the poor in Brazil all these 30 years. We are so pleased that Canadian professional singer and supporter, Henri Loiselle, will sing in Portuguese: *Ave Maria; Magnificat; and Segura Na Mao De Deus e Vai* (Put Your Hand in the hand of God). His rich voice will tingle your backbone. It will be an evening to remember, deserving of the guests we will be honoring for their years of dedicated service to social justice.

## MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS HAVE MET; JUSTICE AND PEACE HAVE EMBRACED.

- by Al Gerwing

Her real name is Maria José Da Silva, but everyone knows her as Zezé. Where we would create her nickname from syllable one (i.e. Joe-Joe), the Brazilians like syllable two. Zezé is one more product of that "holy time", their phrase about a generation ago when Liberation Theology had captured the imagination of many leaders of the Latin American Church and the promise of galvanizing their society into action was in the air—action toward a society such as Psalm 85 invisions:

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace shall prevail.



Zezé (Centre) was the founder of the CEAPA women's Organization projects in Brazil. She now has aspired to broaden the scope of her work to the state of Alagoas in founding the Rural Women's Workers Organization that networks women from many groups.

Though the hopes of that holy time remain unrealized Zezé remains fully dedicated to that vision. The poem written by Harry Chapin, 1976, sums up her mission: the winning of full citizenship of all impoverished women and children of Brazil's northeast, particularly Alagoas. It is indeed a great honor for Rainbow of Hope for Children to host this heroic lady in our country on our prairies, April 23 - May 4, 2005.

### THE SHORTEST STORY

**I am born today  
The sun burns a promise  
in my eye.**

**Momma strikes me and  
I draw a breath and  
cry.**

**Above me a cloud softly  
tumbles through the  
sky.**

**I am glad to be alive.**

**It is my seventh day  
I taste the hunger, and I  
cry.**

**She squeezes her breast,  
but it has nothing to  
provide.**

**Some one weeps  
I fall asleep.**

**It is twenty days, today  
momma does not hold me, any-  
more**

**I open my mouth,  
but I am too weak to  
cry.**

**Above me a bird  
slowly crawls across the  
sky.**

**Why is there nothing  
now to do  
but die?**

**-Harry Chapin**

**I must walk, I must scream  
Woe is me if I don't...  
I must fight, I must risk,  
Woe is me if I don't...  
- Zeze**

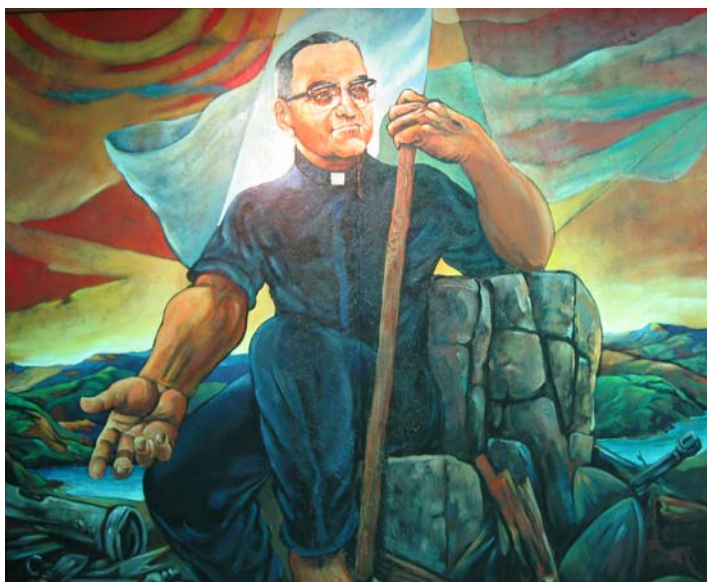
**The great revelation of  
Liberation Theology is the  
preferential option for the  
poor. Poverty is not the  
result of God's will, but is  
caused by human action  
or inaction.**

**- Hank Zyp**

## ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO - KEEPING HIS MEMORY ALIVE - by Brian Rude

No doubt had Monsignor Romero still been alive among us, he would have had the spiritual charisma to draw together saints from around God's creation, but perhaps even more so now, given his martyrdom, and this 25th anniversary commemoration of that tragedy / triumph. As Romero prophesied, "They may kill me, but I will be resurrected in my people". And "Romero's people" have become the people of God from around the world. We in El Salvador have already been commemorating Romero's death and celebrating his life and witness, his proclamation of truth, for a couple weeks, accompanied by innumerable international pilgrims, including personal friends from Leipzig, Germany; Mexico, DF; Managua, Nicaragua; the USA (Minneapolis, MN) and Canada (Toronto, ON and Vancouver, BC), not to mention all the Salvadoran friends who gather to inspire and be inspired and to renew friendships at the many masses, processions, cultural events, fora, vigils, etc. Holy Week in El Salvador is a full week of spirituality and ritual even without it coinciding with Romero Day(s).

The via dolorosa, Golgotha, the empty tomb—all right here in our little land of "The Saviour", where we celebrate a bigger-than-life disciple of that Saviour.



Yet I have the sense that this past intense week has been only a foretaste, only the appetizer. Today we begin anew, at the feet of Gustavo Gutierrez (Peru), Pedro Cassaldáliga (Brazil) and Jon Sobrino (El Salvador). Today, more friends arrive in delegations from Chicago, IL, USA, San Francisco, CA, USA, and Edmonton, AB, Canada, besides the inevitable pleasant surprises. The weekend culmination includes yet another all-night vigil, and a noon-to-midnight "Festival Verdad (Truth)" at the UCA (Jesuit University), at which we'll be entertained and inspired and challenged by so many musical prophets from Central and South America and Spain.

To those who have asked me why I stay on in El Salvador – does this answer your question? I trust that wherever you are, you have been able to join with God's family in celebrating God's good and faithful servant San Romero de América, the same week that we've pondered the death and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

**Brian Rude is a Canadian Lutheran Minister providing counseling services to prisoners in El Salvador. He took ROHFC and the Caravan of Hope to visit the San Vincente Prison in 2002. Half the 500 inmates were awaiting trial with no bail, one craftsman for 15 years. We applaud Brian for his conviction, that love has no boundaries, not even prison. We thank him for his reflection on Romero .**

**Let us rescue Oscar Romero from being buried in a specific time or place. His significance transcends time and geography. His vision of the world and analysis of daily realities in light of the gospel are applicable universally and valid today. Keeping his memory alive, we may be renewed in resolve to follow his footsteps while walking. - Hank Zyp**

## Rainbow of Hope for Children 2004 Annual Report by George Bunz

Poverty - the scope and impact are staggering. Poverty is a persistent and daunting neglect of social responsibility to share the earth's bounty and the means to generate sustenance. This neglect is most devastating to women and girls who suffer most immediately and most profoundly. Although the proportion of people living in poverty is shrinking, the population growth in poor countries means the absolute number of poor people is rising. Globally, 1.5 billion people now live in absolute poverty - on less than \$1.00 US a day and by 2015, the number may reach 1.9 billion. The gap between the rich and the poor has grown. Today the richest fifth of the world's population receives 85 percent of total income, while the poorest fifth receives a mere 1.4 percent of this total. Every day 50,000 people die from poverty related causes; that's one-third of all deaths. (CIDA, Strengthening Aid Effectiveness)

Since my involvement with Rainbow of Hope for Children 6 years ago, I have witnessed the impact of our NGO on the lives of the poor in Brazil, Central America, and Philippines. While I cannot calculate the impact in the statistics that deal in millions above, ROHFC and you, our supporters, do make a difference in the lives of thousands - land for homes and crops, clean drinking water, solar energy, improved environment, safe homes and schools for street children, assistance for abused children, bio-intensive farming infrastructure and training, early childhood, adolescent and adult education programs, high nutrient food supplement for malnourished children, health, dental, and counseling services, women's capacitation - and the list goes on. On behalf of our international friends with whom ROHFC has shared your generosity, I bring you their love, thanks, warmth, and yes, their tears that we witness when we visit. These are their gifts, and we thank them.

With the dwindling of CIDA funding to NGOs, ROHFC took on the challenge to fund several significant projects on its own or in partnerships. We thank the Wild Rose Foundation for continuing to support NGOs, and pray that our Canadian government will reintroduce new project funding soon.

In 2004, ROHFC supported 10 major projects:

- The CEAPA Women's Organization in Alagoas, Brazil, supported by CIDA
- Continued support for malnourished children and their mothers at the Pastoral da Criança in Marechal Deodoro, Alagoas
- School lunch program at Tumu, Kenya, Africa
- Early Childhood/Adult Education Centre at Ouricuri, Pernambuco, Brazil supported by the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta. The centre will also serve as a Pastoral da Criança for high nutrient food and outreach to poor families.
- Dignified home for impoverished indigent-aged at Conhotinho, Pernambuco, Brazil (in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul Society)
- Vitalizing Grota da Alegria, a community of 12,000 with the barest of social and economic infrastructure near Maceio, capital of Alagoas, Brazil (in partnership with the Call of the Poor)
  - improving school attendance & adult literacy
  - life skills education and income generation
  - youth cultural revival activities
  - responsible citizenship training
  - drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation
  - improving gender equity and reducing violence
- Movement of Rural Women Workers in Alagoas (MMTR-AL), with the support of the WRF, to improve the social and economic conditions of women and families.
- Bio-intensive mini-farm research and demonstration project at Izalco, El Salvador to improve crop varieties, yields, training, food supply and agri-business. This fascinating project is spearheaded by soil scientist, Dr. Don Sheeran and other scientists from Alberta and Central America. With no sign of CIDA funding in the near future, it sure can use financial help.
- Completion of The Community Environment Project in Brazil and El Salvador - 100 organic/medicinal gardens, two native tree nurseries, and training in Brazil and a well and solar pump at El Coaba in Lalibertad Region, El Salvador.
- Community garden in Arcoiris-Espana, El Salvador and peace-solidarity-work experience visit of Canadian youth in spring 2004.



In addition, ROHFC continued to help Fundanor, boys' and girls' homes for children abandoned on the streets of Palmeira dos Indios in Brazil's Northeast. Fundanor has been going through some difficult times with a lack of support from the local municipality and community. Since Maria José Viana is no longer Secretary of Education, Fundanor's support from the state government has dwindled to nil, and the municipality is renegeing on its commitment for operation and maintenance. There are different theories for this indifference from leadership to being over reliant on ROHFC.

Rainbow of Hope has provided over \$30,000 funding each of the past two years for day-to-day operating costs of Fundanor. We believe such dependency is not in Fundanor's best long term interests and have met with Fundanor board and government officials to help them work out their problems and rebuild community, municipal and government support for its staff and sustenance of the children. Since many of the children are placed at Fundanor by court order, it is only right that the local governments provide support. As a result of ROHFC's intervention, thank goodness Fundanor is again receiving \$1400 Reals (\$650 Can.) a month from Brazil's Federal government, albeit hardly enough to purchase beans to feed 150 children.

We have discovered that when it is advantageous to be associated with Fundanor, politicians are right there with the media. Their indifference in actually supporting Fundanor with funding is a reminder of what the hundreds of millions of people experience daily throughout the world through lack of caring for one another.



Federal funding is a breath of life to Fundanor, but \$5.00 a month per child is hardly enough for beans.

Notwithstanding our concerns at Fundanor, we are overwhelmed at the community support of the Pastoral da Criança in Marechal Deodoro. The arrival of our team January 2004 witnessed a beehive of volunteers producing and distributing Multimisturi, a high nutrient food supplement made from the waste products of commercially prepared food, and providing health and counseling services to pregnant women and mothers and ECS to children. We are thinking of doing a full feature of this program to familiarize our supporters with what it does for malnourished children and impoverished families. The energy there is contagious, literally. When government officials came to inspect the Centre, they were so impressed that they convinced the Lulu government to replace the massive tent city at the rear of the Centre with new permanent homes, electricity, boulevard and all—What a blessing!



## ANNUAL MEETING ROHFC

Saturday  
June 11, 2004  
1:00 PM  
at  
Newman  
Theological  
College  
15611  
St. Albert Trail  
Edmonton, AB



Rainbow of Hope acknowledges and thanks the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta and CIDA for their support of several projects.

### RAINBOW OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN SOCIETY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004

	2004				2003
	Un-restricted	Equip-ment	Restricted for Projects	Total	Total
<b>REVENUES</b>					
CIDA Grants	9,190		32,066	41,256	59,935
Wild Rose Fdn	-		50,000	50,000	-
Donations	3,098	748	248,532	252,378	104,924
Interest Income	3,035		-	3,035	3,381
	<b>15,323</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>330,598</b>	<b>346,669</b>	<b>168,240</b>
<b>PROGRAM EXP.</b>					
Alberta	-		255	255	100
Africa	-	-	6,570	6,570	-
Brazil	-		205,271	205,271	101,989
Canada	-		265	265	10,000
El Salvador	-		79,737	79,737	22,122
Guatemala	-		9,675	9,675	2,513
Project Monitoring			21,752*	21,752	2,860
Public Participation			7,071	7,071	6,574
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
Admin costs	13,627		-	13,627	16,013
Amortization	-	1,842	-	1,842	2,858
GST expense	823		-	823	1,691
Professional fees	3,600		-	3,600	3,400
	<b>18,050</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>330,596</b>	<b>350,488</b>	<b>170,120</b>
Excess (Deficiency) Of Revenues over expenses	(2,727)**	(1094)	2	(3,819)	(1,880)

\* Project Monitoring includes all self-supporting donations for travel costs of guests with ROHFC monitor(s), with no funds coming from project donations. It is a tradition of ROHFC to bring along 6 to 8 self-supporting guests to build awareness of poverty and social injustice issues in the countries we visit and have input into the evaluation of projects and proposed projects.

\*\* Represents the low cost of administration that was not covered by grants, interest income or expenses donated back to the NGO.



The synergy of the Pastoral da Criança has reached Ouricuri where the ECS/Adult Education Centre, funded by ROHFC and the WRF, includes a Pastoral program. Their volunteers raised funds for this blind boy to receive an operation, and with glasses he experienced the joy of sight for the first time in his life. What a smile he gave as he moved his eyes to and fro and the community sang and cheered.



**Volunteerism**— That's what Rainbow of Hope is about and the reason it was able to keep administration costs in 2004 to 5% including CIDA administration with a mere 1% required from supporter donations. Left to right, Fred and Shirley Witholt, Joan Rajotte, Louise Bunz, Moe and Jo Rajotte are regulars in getting the NEXUS to you. Thanks go to students of Blessed Sacrament School in Wainwright who always are willing to help. Also thank you to our directors. To think that Al Gerwing and treasurer, Leo Page, are still going strong at over 80 years of age and Hank Zyp still attends and contributes at board meetings after his illness is mission incredible. Nothing could be achieved without our supporters; you are the people who make things happen. Thank you for continuing to help make life better for the less fortunate.



## HANK AND TILLIE ZYP RECEIVE WRF 2004 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



**Congratulations Hank and Tillie**

When Hank and Tillie Zyp founded ROHFC, then St. Joseph's Save the Children Club, and the Change for Children, in the mid '70s, they did so only to affirm humanity and proclaim by example, "Justice for all." They were humbled to receive the Wild Rose Foundation 2004 Volunteer of the Year Award. We know no more deserving duet, and we are dancing with joy for them. Thanks to Cecily Mills of Change for Children and ROHFC's George Bunz for the joint application and thanks WRF for selecting them.

## Blessed Sacrament School students feed 150 inner city residents by Erica Foley, Star Chronicle

Helping the poor starts at home. We thank ROHFC's Education Coordinator, Shirley Witholt and Secretary, Joan Rajotte, who take youth to share with the hungry and homeless in Edmonton's inner city. The students also share their time listening to their stories and giving support.

Under leadership of Shirley Witholt, seven Grade 12 students, two parents and other residents traveled to the Bissell Centre, Edmonton, and helped feed 150 inner city people.

"We took chili and buns to feed 150 and could have taken more. It's our 3rd year to help those in poverty," Witholt said. "We also took up socks, underwear, mitts, toques, and coats

and dropped them off at an outlet for 39 agencies."

As well, the Sew & Sew Club donated their afghans and quilts. Students bought socks and underwear with the \$200 made from candy gram sales at Christmas. "It was really valuable, as we had a tour of the inner city, including a women's shelter," Witholt added.

Bev, a Bissell director showed a video of the services. "She talked about poverty and showed a diagram of the complexity, stressing the importance of government decisions and impact," Witholt said. The people normally have sandwiches for lunch, getting only 2-3 hot meals per month.

Over the past ten years, the need for inner city services has increased, and the demand is greater than the supply. They are looking at the greater picture, trying to alleviate the cause of poverty. "We have three more visits planned for grad students this year. Next year, I'd like to see us go up every month," Witholt said.



GROTA GETS BOOST TO TRULY BECOME CITY OF JOY - by Al Gerwing

All inhabitants of Grota da Alegria, a slum in Bendito Bentes (a low-income “suburb” of Maceio) have their roots in the cane land. Expelled from the land, the Grota is one of the places that became “home.”

It wasn't always called Grota of Joy. A small river cuts through the Grota, its gorge becoming ever deeper and wider as the trees that bind the soil are cut down. Into this gorge the police and other hired guns threw the bodies of marginalized people they would kill by night. The gorge was known throughout the region as the Grota das Cadaveris, the Grota of the Cadavers.

A missionary coming into the area found the name offensive and had it changed to the Grota of Joy, perhaps echoing the novel and film of Calcutta's City of Joy. Despite the name change, Grota da Alegria was still the lair of bandits, and therefore fair game for exterminations in the minds of most Alagoans.

Three years ago a team of eight professionals of Maceio banded together with the objective of giving the Grota a boost up the ladder of self-esteem and the acquisition of all rights of citizenship, calling their NGO CEPEC (Acquisition of Citizenship and Education).

One year ago, Rainbow of Hope agreed to fund their efforts. The results are spectacular.

Maceio's Municipal-ity has constructed a cobblestone road through half of the Grota and is undertaking a huge engineering project to stabilize the gorge. To get such municipal attention is a major achievement.



With absolutely no resources for conventional “instruments” the locals have developed a “band” of plastic jugs and tin containers of all shapes and size. And their mallets come from local trees. Readers may think that is a pitiful sort of band, but their concert was thoroughly professional with vocalization interwoven into intricate drumming.

On behalf of all the children and communities in need of transformation, we want to thank you for your continued generous support to enable the poor to help themselves. Your donations are appreciated with a charitable income tax receipt.

One little imp of no more than four kept whisking a mallet on his “five-foot” neighbour, giving him impudent grins. But never through the half hour program did he lose a beat. All Brazilian children are charmers, but this little guy was incomparable.



After the band came a play on the street. It had to move aside every time a truck wanted through. The *povo*, the people, were the protagonists. The oligarchs (in the person of Uncle Sam swathed in make-belief \$100 bills) kept up their barrage of orders to work, no there's no money to pay you this week, no you don't get time off to be sick, you're lazy, you're stupid. In the end they demolished Uncle Sam, not in the sense of US but “capitalism”. And this conclusion is truer than we would have recently believed as the current empire of profits is bypassing even United States whose attempt to establish worldwide hegemony has proved to be short lived.

Next we watched a demonstration of hip-hop. The four dancers spun like tops on their hands, on head, on shoulders, bums, suddenly exploding upward with flying leaps of astounding height, then gliding and stretching like serpents, from hand to head, through body, to their feet, again, to do their eye popping spinning.

If hip-hop and is not yet an Olympic sport, it should be, and one of its practitioners at the Grota da Alegria would be a shoo-in for gold.



A final quote from a CEPEC team member: “The Grota's reputation in Maceio has changed dramatically in just this past year. We perform there every chance we get, and people are no longer saying, ‘Oh, that lair of banditry,’ but rather, ‘Oh, yes, that's where they have that marvelous band of tins and jugs,’ or ‘Yes, we saw a play they did. Very good,’ or, ‘Oh, yes, they do great capoeira and hip-hop.’ This new reputation enables us to get the ear of city hall and get necessary infrastructure work started.”

Viva, Grota da Alegria for becoming a City of Joy.

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