

23 December

Light in the darkness

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days."

Micah 5:2

In the wake of her HIV diagnosis, Etelvina found herself stigmatized, marginalized and discriminated against by her neighbours in her community in Nampula province, Mozambique. The garden she grew to provide a healthy diet was destroyed. No one would employ her.

Then Etelvina became involved in a PWRDF partner-led HIV-AIDS education program; a program that supported and accompanied her, provided her with skills training, and an

exposure trip to Zimbabwe to learn how other people living with HIV were coping. The program empowered Etelvina to live not as a victim but as an activist, educator and leader.

"God you come among us in ways we least expect, facing us in all your broken wholeness, challenging us to imagine anew who you are as servant ruler, wounded healer, light in the midst of our darkness."

Suzanne Rumsey is the Public Engagement Program Coordinator for The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), the Canadian Anglican response for emergency relief, refugees, development and justice.

