



Shipment to West Africa aids tornado victims

A 20-foot cargo container packed with We Care kits and quilts gathered from congregations in BC's lower mainland and shipped to Mauritania this past spring has played a significant role in aiding victims of a tornado. In Nbeika, a community of 1500 persons along the "the road of hope" linking the west of the country with the east and Mali, the storm was responsible for two deaths, the destruction of over 100 dwellings and the loss of livestock. In recent years, such storms have become more frequent and violent it seems because of climate change.

Through the efforts of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) partner, the Lutheran World Federation – Mauritania, 16 bales of blankets, 2 cartons of soap, 4 cartons of children's vests and 9 cartons of hygiene kits were distributed in Nbeika on August 4.

A total of 84 men, 44 women, and 266 children representing 130 families received assistance.



Residents of Nbeika welcomed relief supplies from CLWR (Photo: LWF-Mauritania)

According to LWF officials, the community was extremely pleased with the assistance and with the transparent manner in which the distribution was carried out. They had not received much assistance from other sources.

CLWR's commodities program is in the process of preparing its next shipment destined for Malawi in late September. For more information on how you can help by preparing a We Care Kit or by making a financial donation, **please call 1.800.661.2507** or visit www.clwr.org.

-- with files from LWF-Mauritania

Ascension youth connect with Colombian church partners

A group of 10 youth and five adults from Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton, have been spreading the word about their companion synod following the completion of a 12-day journey to Colombia. The journey, which took place at the end of March, was designed to build relationships with the students and staff at Hogar Llanero Brisas del Canada (translation: home for children from the plains, with breezes from Canada) in the town of Paz de Ariporo. The students are at the "home" to complete their education. They come from ranches in the eastern plains of Colombia where they attend school up to Grade 5 in nearby villages. After Grade 5 they need to attend school in more distant, larger towns. Some were walking four hours to get to school in the morning and four hours home each day. The majority of children were simply unable to

finish school past Grade 5. The school now houses 74 students. These children are being given an opportunity to finish school and live out their dreams for the future.

During their stay, the Ascension contingent participated in a multicultural program hosted by students from Hogar, worshipped with the congregation at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and attended their youth group meetings. They also found time to build a “Kiosco,” a gazebo which will serve as a multipurpose gathering place at the boys’ dorm.

The journey included a visit to Sogamoso where Colegio Evangelico Luterana de Colombia operates a school that was founded by the first missionaries from Alberta. The Synod of Alberta and the Territories is a supporter of this school.

The group was struck by several contrasts as they traveled the Colombian countryside. They witnessed extreme poverty and exceptional wealth, great hope and also despair, stronger faith in Jesus Christ, a stronger sense of community, and greater graciousness in hospitality to the stranger.



Ascension Lutheran youth and adults gather under the gazebo they constructed while visiting Colombia. (Photo: Joyce Hendrickson)

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) was pleased to provide financial support for the trip through its Leadership Development Program.

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