

Partnership

A PUBLICATION OF
Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

SPRING 2008

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A farmer in Tete, Mozambique, works the land. Photo: LWF

UNDERNOURISHED

Rate of undernourishment
in CLWR project countries

%	millions	
23	2.0	Bolivia
12	3.3	Peru
47	5.1	Zambia
45	8.3	Mozambique
20	212.0	India

—Bread for the World Institute

Taking time to share a meal

This is a leap year, which means an extra day is added in February to let our planet physically catch up with our calendar. That's because it actually takes Earth slightly longer than 365 days to go around the sun. It's interesting to think we've adopted a calendar system that daily outpaces our real world and necessitates such an intervention every four years.

There's a lesson in this. Are the aggressive systems we have chosen to adopt, such as agricultural and economic regulations, the right ones? Is global hunger partly a result of these? We live and work in a global system that produces enough food to feed everyone, yet millions go hungry daily. We can end hunger, if we choose to change the processes that deny people their share of food. Unlike our calendar, we shouldn't race ahead without realizing where we're leaving the world standing.

Changing the system is partly the

work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). Through your support, we reduce hunger systematically in several ways. Here at home we spread the message of fair trade and conscientious food consumption (see "The 100-Mile Diet" in *Partnership Online*). In countries like Bolivia and Zambia we introduce sustainable farming techniques, drought resistant crops, and irrigation projects.

Yes, we also respond to famines and natural disasters where people face starvation. But in general, hunger is not a crisis that is solved by a rush shipment of food. For 800 million people in the world chronic hunger is a

gnawing, steady presence in their lives. Hunger comes in the form of skipping a meal each day to make ends meet. It comes in the form of farmers toiling their fields, knowing their crop won't earn enough to feed their family. Or in farming techniques that aren't as productive and sustainable as they could be.

These people are the reason why systemic change, a long-term solution, is being sought. CLWR furthers its work as a member of the ecumenical agency, Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGFB). In this issue of *Partnership* you'll learn more about our Ethiopia program that is run through CFGFB.

World Water Day—March 22

www.worldwaterday.org

Water is vital for more than drinking. Because 2008 is the Year of Sanitation, we're focusing World Water Day on the other uses of water: hygiene, water quality and waste water treatment. Check out *Partnership Online* for activities!

The view from here



Dear Friends:

Hunger is a daily fact of life for many in our world and sadly, even in our own country. The statistics are staggering and seemingly overwhelming for us to comprehend. How can we make sense of this reality, and more importantly, how can we respond in a meaningful way to such a huge issue?

For over six decades now, CLWR has responded to the immediate needs of the hungry. Our focus is primarily hungry people in Africa and, in some cases, parts of Asia. We are also aware of hunger in Latin America which we respond to through the support of local partners.

Our response to hunger is expressed in a multitude of ways, often through emergency appeals channeled through Action by Churches Together (ACT) International. However, one of our primary vehicles is that of Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB).

CFGB provides the opportunity for Canadians to make contributions of grain and/or cash, together with support from the Government of Canada, and then allocate support to specific CLWR partners which are engaged in food distribution in the most affected areas of the world. CFGB is a highly reputable organization, one which CLWR is a founding member of and one which we support in a variety of ways.

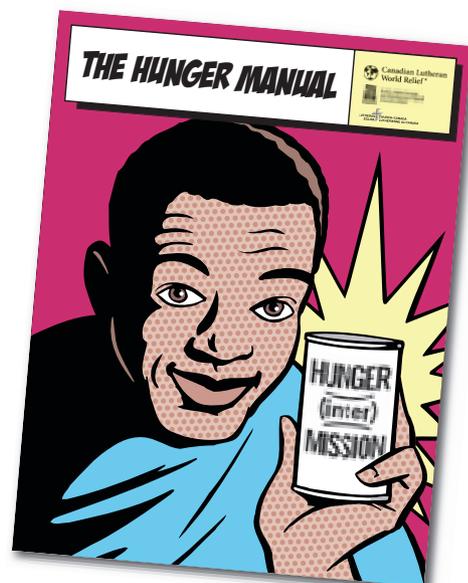
Emergency response is an important first response to global poverty and injustice. Often the provision of food aid is followed by rehabilitation and development programming which is implemented by local CLWR partners. It is critical that timely assistance is available to enable other components of the development continuum to be activated.

You can make a difference in responding to hunger through contributions to CLWR or through the ELCIC's Global Hunger and Development Appeal. It is also possible to direct support through CLWR to CFGB. This support enables CLWR the opportunity to ensure that more and more hungry people receive the help they so desperately require, support which is life-saving and often makes the difference for many thousands of people each year.

No donation is too small. All contributions have a lasting impact. YOU can make a difference!

Let us not despair when we see evidence of hunger. CLWR can help, with your support. ♡

Robert Granke
Executive Director



HUNGER (inter) MISSION

Do you really want to discover hunger for yourself? We make it easy for you to invite hunger into your church building, if only for a weekend. All you need to do is check out our very own hunger awareness program just for youth, called HUNGER (inter)MISSION.

Here's what you need: a leader and youth. Pretty simple, huh? If you're the one lucky enough to wear the tag that says "leader," then go and download the Hunger Manual off our website (www.clwr.org). You'll find stories, activities and a planning guide to help you set up your own intermission.

For adults wishing to study global hunger, there is another study guide available, called Hunger in a World of Abundance. This printed guide can be ordered by calling our office at 1.800.661.2597.



In southern Africa, tens of thousands of people have seen the floodwaters of the Zambezi River wipe out crops and homes repeatedly over the last two years. Photo: REUTERS/Grant Lee Neuenburg

A storm of hunger

“We ran like we have never run before until we reached the boat. We were 22 persons on board clinging to each other in the raging storm. We were surrounded by huge waves. Personal belongings and dead animals were floating around the boat. I’m still haunted by the sight of an old lady being drawn down by the violent current. Her eyes were full of fear.”

—Abdul Hossein, 1998 Bangladesh flood survivor

Millions of people face dramatic situations like Hossein’s every year as natural disasters strike their parts of the world. In the last year alone CLWR directly supported the emergency response efforts following cyclones, monsoon floods and earthquakes in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

But emergency response is just the beginning. After the blankets, shelters and food rations are handed out and the immediate crisis passes, other more long-term challenges come into view. As flood waters recede, farmers see their crops ravaged. As the ground stops shaking, villages find their roads destroyed and their ability to move food lost. Homes are washed

away or reduced to rubble and with them the foodstuffs for entire families. So it happens that when natural disaster strikes, hunger can loom in the near future.

While we can’t prevent the natural disaster, we can mitigate the destruction it causes. A key component of CLWR’s community development is to make communities resilient in preparation for the next natural disaster.

In flood-prone areas along the Zambezi River, for instance, people are in the habit of planting crops along the shoreline. While hugging the waterline makes for easy irrigation, it also invites total crop loss when the water rises. More advanced irrigation systems draw water to safer land, where crops are not so vulnerable.

In coastal communities, warning systems are put into place to warn people of pending storms. This gives people precious time to secure their homes and belongings, including food. And construction of sturdier homes and storage buildings provides further security against high winds and strong rains.

2007 Disasters: Food supply impact

BANGLADESH, NOVEMBER CYCLONE: destruction of homes, boats and shoreline in fishing communities; water supplies and 1.6 million acres of crops destroyed; hundreds of thousands of livestock killed.

UGANDA, OCTOBER FLOODING: loss of harvest-ready crops; lost growing season.

SOUTH ASIA, JULY MONSOONS: widespread crop destruction in affected areas of Bangladesh, India and Nepal; loss of employment makes food out of reach.

MOZAMBIQUE, FEBRUARY FLOODING: loss of a bumper crop among subsistence farmers, including plots along the banks of the Zambezi River.

Emergency food aid snapshot

In parts of flood-stricken India last year, food aid for 17,500 families included:

- Rice
- Lentils
- Edible oil
- Salt
- Chili and turmeric powder
- Water purification tablets



Families in Punam, Peru, learn how to increase the production of their small livestock (a vital source of protein) by cultivating nutritious sprouts as feed. Photo: Elaine Peters

END HUNGER FAST

Hunger knows no boundaries, nor does the desire to end hunger. That's why for decades Canadians of different Christian backgrounds have come together to end hunger through Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) is a founding member of Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Today our involvement in CFGB is focused in Ethiopia, where frequent drought has impacted the lives of historically nomadic people. You can read more about this program on the next page.

But CLWR and CFGB want you to think about solving hunger as consisting of more than food shipments to drought stricken and food stressed regions. Hunger is the result of a web of global actions and reactions, such as population-stressed land, introduction of costly hybrid seed and fertilizers, controls on food commodity prices, climate change and more. As a result, there is no one big solution to hunger. But there are a whole host of small acts we can do right here in Canada to help stem hunger.

In the new program, End Hunger Fast, we challenge you to fast for hunger—that is, give

up something in your daily life in order to reflect and make a difference. Below are some hunger-related fasts to consider. There are more ideas at www.endhungerfast.ca.

FAST FROM UNJUST IMPORTED FOODS

Imported coffee, tea and fruit originate from farms and plantations that embrace poor working conditions, child labour and unfair wages. Big-name brands are not immune. Give up questionable sources for certified fair trade foods.

FAST FROM EASY ACCESS

Look at food from a new perspective. Try to cook more meals yourself, and notice the different ingredients you use. Where did they come from? Who grew them? What was involved in growing, transporting and selling them? Consider food as a precious resource, rather than a chore to stock up on from the grocery store every week. It's easy to fill a cart with food; it's harder to fill a cart with care.

FAST FROM TRENDY SOLUTIONS

There is a glut of proclaimed eco-friendly, organic, ethical food products on the shelves these days. Don't overlook the cheaper, simpler solutions: buy local food whenever possible, and buy food in season.

FOOD FOR MACHINES, NOT PEOPLE?

There is growing debate about whether biofuel is harming global food producers and the poor. Biofuel (or agrofuel) is fuel generated mainly from plants like corn, canola, soybean and sugar cane. You may already be using a biofuel—ethanol—in your car.

As biofuel increases demand for certain crops, it may raise commodity prices, resulting in higher food prices. Dedicating land for energy crops may also be displacing important food crops and contributing to loss of environmentally important areas like bogs. Biodiesel made from palm oil is leading to destruction of Indonesian forests, for example.

In light of this the European Union is rethinking its policy of requiring ten percent of its road fuels to be biofuel. Meanwhile the United States has just passed a new energy bill to increase corn-based fuel.



Steve Bell met with farmers and leaders in Afar, Ethiopia. He now shares their stories with his audiences. Photo: CFGB

Changing weather, changing lifestyles

In the Afar region of Ethiopia, camels play an important role in society. Among the communities that depend heavily on raising livestock for all their needs, the camel is the most prized animal. It is resilient to drought and has a high market value. Cattle are the next most important animal.

So when drought withered grazing land for cattle and disease decimated the camels, it amounted to a loss of food and savings all at once. It's the kind of situation that Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) tries to prevent by working through Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) to build resilience into threatened communities.

The people of Afar are now moving away from a reliance on food aid through the introduction of irrigation agriculture. Agriculture is an almost entirely new way of living for the

people of the Afar, but is essential in the face of increasing drought that does not sustain a traditional pastoral lifestyle.

Canadian singer/songwriter Steve Bell made the journey to Ethiopia a year ago to learn about this work and bring what he saw and learned back home.

"We visited a place where a whole village has been transformed by a water diversion project," says Bell. "Access to

water means that they now have enough food to eat, but the impact goes much beyond that. Their children are now attending school. There are new businesses appearing in the village. Their young people are learning new trades—building dams, digging ditches, and planting and harvesting gardens."

You can see a video of Steve Bell's journey and download a special music video at www.endhungerfast.ca. A DVD and pamphlet are also available free from CLWR.

SUPPORT CFGB

by visiting

www.foodgrainsbank.ca.

Their donation system

allows you to designate

your contribution to

"CLWR" so that it goes to

CLWR-CFGB programs.

News Briefs

KEEP ON GIVING GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Over the Christmas season about a thousand Gifts from the Heart were given to family and friends. Gifts from the Heart are donations made to CLWR in the form of a gift to someone.

As you embark on a new year, remember that Gifts from the Heart are not just for Christmas, but for gift giving throughout the year. Consider giving these unique items for birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions. Call for your free Gifts from the Heart catalogue.

Gifts can be bought online, with an e-card option to make gift delivery as simple as a click. Alternately, you can call to buy a gift and request a paper card that will be sent to you for personalization and presentation. ♡

KITS AND QUILTS TO HELP THE DISPOSSESSED IN TANZANIA

Canadian Lutheran World Relief shipped over 15,000 kg (about 35,000 lb) of kits and quilts to Tanzania in its final shipment for 2007. Historically, relief material from CLWR has mainly benefited refugees in camps located in western Tanzania who have arrived from neighbouring countries. This shipment, however, has a different purpose.

Mark Lever, the director for Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS), the local Lutheran World Federation partner, explains: "We are now being challenged more and more to respond to the immediate needs of local Tanzanian victims of poverty, disasters and emergencies of various kinds. Some are severe, affecting several hundred households, but too localized, not attracting the press in any magnitude, [and not causing a] national outcry. Yet people suffer."

The current shipment will benefit Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), people who have been forced from their homes but remain in their country of origin. In this case the IDPs consist of a community located near famous Lake Victoria, in Geita District, Mwanza Region, whose homes were razed to the ground by bulldozers as part of a development scheme.

"As with many other agreements of this kind, it was an agreement between the government and the mining conglomerates. At most, the heads of the households, normally men, might have heard about the deal and might have been given a token compensation and directed to vacate the area," says Lever. "But the other members of the households, the most vulnerable—women and children—were never involved in any way."

CLWR thanks you for your continued support in helping refugees, IDPs and others in need throughout the world. If you would like to support similar work in the near future,

consider making a donation to CLWR earmarked "refugees." You can even help build homes for refugees by making a gift donation through our Gifts from the Heart catalogue (see page 10 of the catalogue). To make a donation or to order a catalogue, visit www.clwr.org or call 1.800.661.2597. Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada can donate at www.elcic.ca/ghda. ♡



Idalina Ferreira (L) with CLWR's Isaac Katoyo.

ANGOLA VOLUNTEER BEGINS WORK

Idalina Ferreira arrived safely in Luena, Angola, on the first of December as part of Canadian Lutheran World Relief's International Volunteer Service (IVS). By coincidence, the date marked World AIDS Day, and Ferreira is in Angola to work on AIDS related projects through the Angola Program of the Lutheran World Federation.

Her first couple of weeks were spent visiting remote villages, an experience she describes as "intense." The travel included participating in workshops with traditional birth attendants, meeting with AIDS community "motivators" and more. Idalina returned to Luena in mid-December to meet with representatives from nine churches to discuss the views and training practices surrounding AIDS.

The need for HIV and AIDS prevention is high, as witnessed by Idalina at a health centre she visited in a Luena slum. Idalina toured a health centre that was equipped for HIV and AIDS testing. There she discovered that half the women who are seen for pregnancy test positive for the disease.

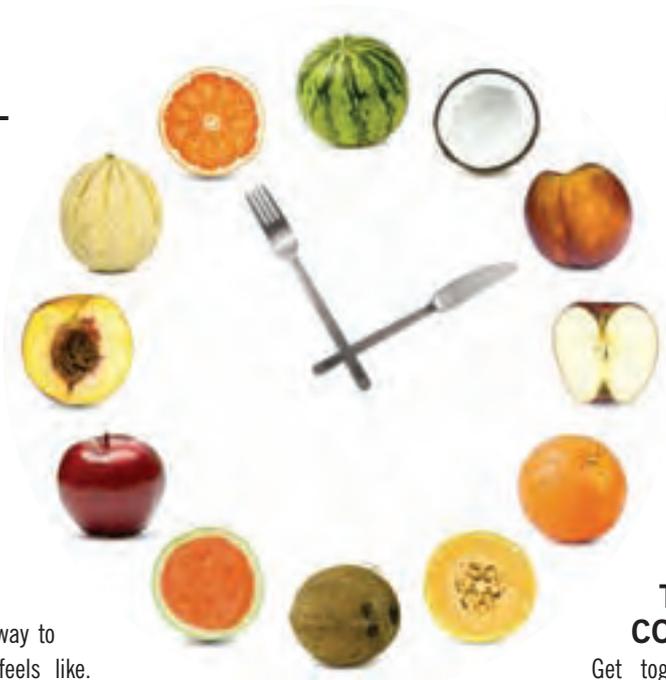
Those interested in volunteer opportunities with CLWR can find more information at www.clwr.org/IVS, or can call CLWR toll-free at 1.800.661.2597. ♡

Tell hunger to take a leap

True hunger is as rare to most of us as a leap year—which 2008 just happens to be. So on Friday, February 29, why not leap into a hunger-related challenge?

LEAP OVER A MEAL

See what it's like to skip a meal or two. For many people in the world, regularly skipping a meal is necessary to make ends meet. If this sounds too easy for you, why not try to...



HOLD A LEAP PARTY

If skipping meals isn't your thing, why not hold a party instead on Friday? Here's the twist: your guests have to bring a food item that "leaps" ("jumping" bean salad, "spring" form cake, or even frog's legs!) Have guests share stories in which they leaped an obstacle in life—physically or metaphorically. Introduce them to CLWR and the obstacles other people in the world must leap.

LEAP OVER A DAY

...Skip eating for a day as a way to remember what real hunger feels like. (Make sure you stay hydrated and don't skip eating unless you're sure you're medically able.) While you do your Leap Day fast, think about how it's affecting you. Can you concentrate on your normal work? Are you thinking about food more than usual? Do you have your regular level of energy? How would chronic hunger affect you after a few weeks or months?

THE GREAT LEAPING CONTEST

Get together and start leaping—backwards, forwards or straight up, and keep count of your leaps! Now come up with a different food you eat for each leap you've done (you may need paper to keep track). The person who comes up with the most leap-food combinations wins! Parents and teachers can use this to introduce discussion about how many foods are available to us and where they come from (e.g. how far would we have to leap to find an orange tree?)

Special Gifts

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS WITH ALL

Gifts to CLWR in honour of special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations not only warm the heart of the recipient, but also bring smiles to the faces of those people whose lives are transformed by CLWR's project work overseas. In lieu of printing names in our *Partnership* newsletter, CLWR will acknowledge these special occasions with a celebratory card that shares the impact such gifts have on communities throughout the world.

IN MEMORY OF:
CLARA
DAVID ANDERSON
ERNST ANDERSON
ORVILLE ARMSDEN
SUE BALL
FLOYD BANICK
ROSALIE BOLLENBACH
KATHLEEN BRADLEY
KAETHE DOHRN
CHRIS ENDEL
MALFRID ERGA
ELSIE GAERTNER
ERNEST GAERTNER
MICHAEL GEORGI
SELMA GOLDER

HENRY GRUB
GLADYS HALDORSON
PEDER HANSEN
RICHARD HERZER
EVELYN HOGG
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VIVIAN HUEHN
JOHN INGLIS
IDA JACKIE
REV. HERBERT KEIL
ADOLF & FRIEDA KLETKE
GERTRUDE KLINCK
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ANDY SNETHUN
KEN SOLBERG
DOROTHY STEINKE
LEONARD TENNIS
OSWALD ULMER
ARTHUR UTZ
WILFRED WAGNER
WALTER ZIHRUL

Treasures are sometimes hidden in the most unlikely places!



FOUR CORNERS IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE HANDCRAFTS FROM ASHA KIRAN

Asha Kiran employs a number of women from the urban villages which surround Dehradun, India. After an initial training period, during which they practice the art of pasting the flowers in attractive designs (not as easy as it looks!), they are paid on a piece-work basis. With flexible hours, a quiet pleasant work environment and the steady income it provides, a job at Asha Kiran is much sought after.

Our goal is to expand the scope of Asha Kiran's operations—employing more women and gradually creating more of a workers' collective, with health care, educational support and a women's banking system.

Creating opportunities for artisans in the developing world!



Four Corners

An Alternative Trade Organization



To purchase any of these products please call 1.800.661.2597 and ask for Four Corners.

New resources

LENTEN RESOURCES

There's still time left in the Lenten season to use the CLWR Family Lenten Calendar for daily reflection. The calendar is available for free on our website, www.clwr.org. Churches can also find a full series of Lenten bulletin inserts.

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK PACKAGE

Every Lutheran congregation will have received a DVD and pamphlet that introduces Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its work in Ethiopia. The DVD contains a music video with lyrics for use in a worship setting. For extra copies contact us at 1.800.661.2597.

Partnership

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For additional copies, contact:

CLWR CANADIAN OFFICES

Canadian Lutheran World Relief
1080 Kingsbury Avenue, Winnipeg,
MB R2P 1W5

Phone: 204.694.5602 or
1.800.661.2597 (CLWR)

Fax: 204.694.5460

Email: clwr@clwr.mb.ca

Vancouver: Fikre Tsehai,
Refugee Program Director
202-5066 Kingsway Avenue,
Burnaby, BC V5H 2E7

Phone: 604.435.9750 or
1.888.588.6686

Fax: 604.435.9923

Email: clwr@axion.net

Toronto: Jan Drews,
Refugee Coordinator
125-1440 Bathurst Street, Toronto,
ON M5R 3J3

Phone: 416.962.9747 or
1.888.255.0150

Fax: 416.962.3268

Email: clwrto@web.net

Editor: Lorne Kletke
Proofreader: E. Diane Ward
Design: Alen Zukanovich

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