



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

# partnership

Your generosity  
in action

Spring 2023



Your generous response enabled our partners on the ground to quickly deliver emergency support to those affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria.

**Thank you** — your support is saving lives!



Dear friends,

Thank you for your partnership.

It's my privilege to write you a few times a year and share updates and stories from our work around the world—because they are stories that you have helped write. As we've witnessed a horrible earthquake, continued food insecurity and conflict around the world, your partnership has meant real help and real hope. You've helped change stories like Euphemie's—forever.

We treasure your generosity and the chance to tell you more about how your gift has been making a difference. And we especially love the chance to give you resources to report back to your congregation about how their gifts have been used! Please get in touch if there's info we can send you, and may God bless you richly.

Deepest blessings,

**Karin Achtelstetter**, Executive Director

We're always ready to tell you more about how your gift is making a difference!

Contact our office any time at 1-800-661-2597

**WE'VE MOVED!**

**OUR NEW ADDRESS:**  
400-185 Carlton St  
Winnipeg  
MB R3C 3J1

**OUR PHONE NUMBERS ARE STILL THE SAME:**  
204-694-5602  
1-800-661-2597

## Syria & Türkiye | Rebuilding after the earthquakes

When massive earthquakes hit Syria and Türkiye in February, millions were affected. Many in the region have already lost so much due to the war in Syria, and the regions hit hardest by the earthquake host millions displaced by the conflict.

Thanks to your quick response, our local partners were able to respond immediately, delivering emergency supplies including medical care, food, mattresses, blankets, heaters, and hygiene kits. They also provided life-saving shelter to those who were displaced from their homes.

Now, your support means ongoing help for families who do not have a home to return to.

With your support, we're working

to rehabilitate homes and other vital infrastructure. You're also providing psychosocial support such as trauma care, and employment support.

Engineering teams are assessing buildings to determine which can be repaired, and education teams are making sure children affected by the earthquake do not miss out on their studies.

**Your compassion is saving lives - thank you!**

Cover Image: Team members from our local partners in Aleppo, Syria - The Middle East Council of Churches' (MECC) - distributing emergency supplies to families affected by the earthquakes. (Photo: MECC)





Ningabire Euphemie, who lives in the Cankuzo province of Burundi with her husband and five children, is a leader in her community. (Photo: CLWR/Arnaud Mugisha)

## Burundi | Ensuring long-term food security

In Burundi, conflict and a changing climate have left thousands of families facing hunger—and single mothers like Euphemie are facing the worst of it.

Thanks to your support, our local partners are providing both immediate food assistance and longer-term livelihood support to vulnerable families like hers. Families are being provided livelihood training, equipment, supplies, livestock, and seeds to grow their own food, improving the family's nutrition and developing new income sources.

For Euphemie, the emergency food rations meant being able to feed her children while she continued working on other people's lands. Then, through our partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, she was able to build a home and start her own farm. Euphemie borrowed funds to invest in avocado farming, and received training on modern farming plus the tools to increase what she can produce.

She has plans for more, and says that with your support, "I can continue on my journey of becoming a great farmer."

**Your generosity is making a sustainable future possible!**

## Nicaragua | Supporting children's education

When families don't have enough to eat, it means children going to school hungry, unable to focus and struggling to learn, or even missing school completely. In Nicaragua, your gifts are keeping kids in school, learning, and growing with full bellies!

Across 23 communities in Nicaragua, children are receiving financial help to stay in school, extra learning supports and hot meals at school.

Our local partners are working with schools throughout the country. Children from the most vulnerable families are being provided scholarships to support their education. The scholarships help provide for school uniforms, shoes, and school supplies. It also covers stipends for tutors and classroom supplies, and children in need of support are receiving tutoring and homework support.

A daily meal program also means a good meal for kids who might be hungry otherwise.

The feeding program is currently being expanded, with new kitchens being built in several congregations.

**Your support is changing the future for these children. Thank you!**

Students of Iglesia Luterana Cristo, Verdad Y Vida receiving their daily meals. (Photo: CLWR/ David Friesen)



## Refugee Resettlement | A rural-urban partnership

“When you open yourself to something new, God will grab it by the tail,” says Pamela McNeil, pastor of the South Grey Bruce Parish in Ontario. The three congregations under her leadership have formed a refugee sponsorship partnership with Resurrection Lutheran Church in Halifax, N.S.

“We know resources are limited in rural communities, so bringing a refugee family here, well, it could be difficult for them to adjust,” says McNeil. “That’s the beauty of the arrangement with Halifax. The family will come to Halifax, and we will provide the funding.”

The three Ontario churches have committed to raising \$27,000–\$30,000 over three years and the Halifax church will welcome the family and help them get settled when they arrive. So far, the South Grey Bruce parish has raised close to \$20,000.

“It’s all come from donations from the congregations,” she says. “We haven’t had any fundraisers with the public yet because of COVID-19.”

The idea for the partnership came from McNeil’s seminary placement at the Halifax church. Resurrection Lutheran Church already had a dedicated ministry to refugees in place when she arrived. They had welcomed families from Ethiopia and Eritrea. Those families met other newcomers and invited them to come to church to practice their English.

“They just started coming,” recalls McNeil. “We had people from all over the world coming. And I witnessed the richness that came to the congregation through them.”

Arriving at her new parish, McNeil learned the congregations had been exploring what it means to be one in the body of Christ. Over the years they had each seen attendance wane as families moved to larger centres for work and education opportunities—a familiar story in rural life. They had their own worship spaces that they were attached to, but knew they needed to collaborate to keep going.

“To be one doesn’t necessarily mean you have to sell your building and meet in one space,” says McNeil. “So, I presented the idea for a refugee sponsorship partnership, and they were on board.”

It was a relatively easy ‘yes’ for the members of the three congregations — many of whom had refugee stories in their own families.

“You’ll find that in many Lutheran churches,” says McNeil. “My mom came to Canada in the 1950s as a refugee from Ukraine. It was the Lutheran church that organized that. Like the congregation in Halifax, and the congregations here, my heart is for refugees because of my mom’s experience.”

Asked what she would say to other congregations who are considering refugee sponsorship, McNeil says go for it.

“Even if you are in an area that is not ideal for a new family to come, find partners. There are congregations in bigger centres. You’ll have a friendship with a new congregation and with the refugee family arriving. When you open to living like Christ, God will surprise in ways you can’t imagine.”



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