



By the power at work within us
God can accomplish abundantly more than
all we can ask for or imagine. – Ephesians 3:20



October 6, 2017

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

“Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise”

As creation provides a splendid display of colours and we prepare once more to celebrate the harvest bounty that the land and the work of farmers provide, I am deeply grateful. On this Thanksgiving Sunday, I reflect not only on the changing of the seasons and the cycle of planting and harvest here in Canada and around the world, but I am also thankful that God is present with us in these changes. I've seen first-hand the resiliency of communities as they help neighbours and welcome strangers, from other parts of the Canada and from other parts of the world. As we gather in congregations and around dinner tables this Thanksgiving in rural communities, towns, and cities, I rejoice in the many ways we have been blessed.

I write to you, grateful for the hope, energy, time, skills, prayers and care you share with your congregation and in service to others whose lives you touch. I am aware there are both challenging days and joyful days as you serve Jesus Christ.

I write also to thank you for your kind and generous support of *Presbyterians Sharing*. Thanksgiving is a time of sharing the blessings we have received and your gifts are being shared and put into action in Canada and around the world.

As we pool our resources we continue to support innovative mission and ministry programs and congregational renewal; equip leaders in worship, evangelism, stewardship, youth ministries and justice work; promote healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities; support over 40 international partners and so much more!

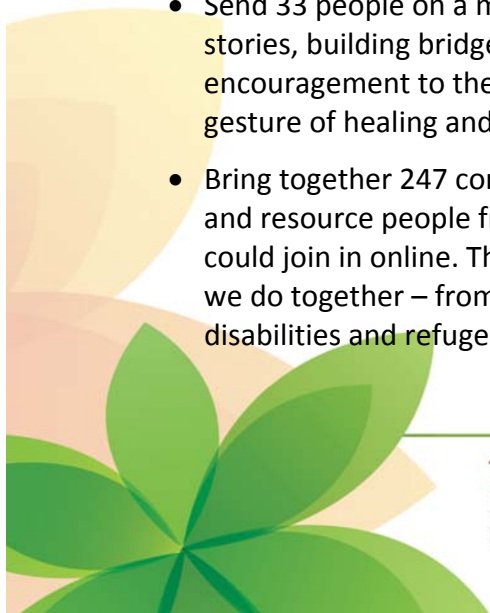
Here are a few specific things your gifts have helped make happen this year:

- Send 33 people on a mission tour to Indigenous communities and ministries; touching lives, sharing stories, building bridges of connection, understanding, humility and grace. This was not only an encouragement to the Indigenous ministries *Presbyterians Sharing* supports, but was an important gesture of healing and reconciliation for all involved.
- Bring together 247 commissioners, young adult and student representatives; and ecumenical guests and resource people from across Canada to the 2017 General Assembly, live streamed so even more could join in online. This was a time for prayerful deliberation and action on the mission and ministry we do together – from passing the budget to speaking on issues of clean water, people with disabilities and refugees, to name a few.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7 • Phone: 1-800-619-7301 or 416-441-1111

Email: sharing@presbyterian.ca • presbyterian.ca/sharing





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- Send Jacqueline Bannerman, a young adult intern, to Hungary to support the Reformed Church in Hungary's refugee ministry; David McIntosh to Japan to support the Korean Christian Church in Japan's work to combat racism; Dr. Nicholaus and Rebecca Bauman to support the United Mission to Nepal's medical work; and the Rev. Blair and Vivian Bertrand to Malawi's Blantyre Synod (Presbyterian) to support youth work and theological education.
- Launch the new Presbyterian Connection newspaper with a distribution of 16,000 and growing;
- Provide seminars, workshops and Sunday messages to encourage and equip congregations across Canadian congregational renewal, stewardship, leadership, justice, worship, governance and history.

As the newly elected Moderator, I had the chance to experience mission and ministry supported by *Presbyterians Sharing* in Taiwan. Accompanied by International Ministries' staff the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean and his wife Mary Beth, my wife and I attended the celebration for the newly completed Ngudradrekai translation of the Bible, an Indigenous language in Taiwan. Throughout our trip, people's faces shone as they read the Bible in the language that spoke to their hearts— be it in Ngudradrekai or Truku or Hakka. As the Rev. Lyim Hong-Tiong, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, commented, "Translation work is about people having the Word of God in their language and it is about recognizing the dignity and value of the languages of Indigenous people." Bible translation is about both social justice and deepening spiritual understanding. With *Presbyterians Sharing* support Paul is involved with five other Bible translation projects bringing dignity and joy to Indigenous people in Taiwan. Thank you for supporting this work and the opportunity to make this trip.

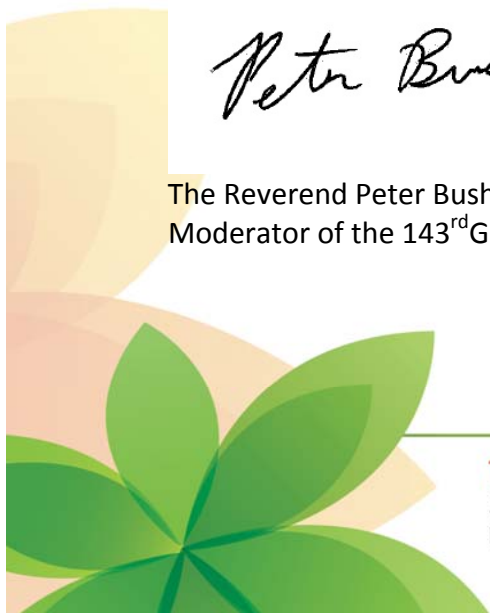
I want you to know that your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ, here at home and around the world.

Let us raise our hymn of grateful praise. May you and your families be blessed as you give praise to God this Thanksgiving.

In Christ's service,



The Reverend Peter Bush
Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly



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