

Mission Moments

June 2018 - September 2018



Use these Mission Moments to highlight the mission and ministry that we are doing together. Print them in your Sunday bulletin or church newsletter, project them on a screen, integrate them into a presentation or use them on your church's bulletin board. The text, photos and simple PowerPoint slides can be found at: presbyterian.ca/mission-moments.

Your gifts to **Presbyterians Sharing** and **Presbyterian World Service & Development** are making a difference!



PWS&D



Presbyterians Sharing

One Mission, Two Funds Proclaiming Christ in Word and Deed

Presbyterians Sharing supports the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations are encouraged to raise an accepted allocation each year.

Presbyterian World Service & Development is the PCC's development and relief agency. PWS&D raises funds directly from congregations and individuals and through government grants – over and above gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*. International Ministries mission personnel, funded through *Presbyterians Sharing*, often work with PWS&D partners.



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With glad and generous hearts

The theme of this year's General Assembly is With Glad and Generous Hearts. This past year, a design team was established to work with the General Assembly Office to plan the 2018 event. Team member the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls shares that "sitting through an Assembly can be both inspiring and tiring," so the team "imagined ways to help accomplish the business of the Assembly, while creating more spaciousness of timing and a more humane schedule." This includes mini-breaks, table discussion groups, and sessions that include visuals and sound to appeal to different learning modes. A consensus decision-making model will create a more inclusive process of discernment. When Presbyterians gather together with glad and generous hearts, much can be accomplished!



Presbyterians Sharing brings Presbyterians together at General Assembly

**World Environment Day (June 5)**

Presbyterian World Service & Development is committed to environmental stewardship and creation care. Deforestation caused by human activity or climate change affects the lives and livelihoods of millions of people living in poverty. In Haiti, widespread deforestation has eroded crop-producing soil and

led to increased flooding and landslides, sustaining cycles of hunger and poverty. PWS&D is supporting partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank to replant forest areas and improve food security by equipping farmers to plant tree nurseries, protect soil and store seeds. A healthy, vibrant creation is vital for the well-being of families throughout our global village, as they harvest food, earn livelihoods and embrace futures of hope.

PWS&D encourages environmental stewardship



The front lines of mission

When you call the PCC's national office, your first point of contact is the cheerful receptionist, Kim Campbell. Kim capably answers and directs between 40 and 100 calls per day; assists departments with mailings, planning, meeting prep and paperwork; books airfare, catering and hotel rooms; responds to emails; updates the PCC's database – and so much more! Kim shares, "I am fortunate to see the work of the PCC in action. Prior to working here I only knew the PCC from the pews of my small church and it has been a blessing to see first-hand how the work of the church ministers to so many people. From the big ideas to the little day-to-day details, we all play a role by sharing our gifts and ultimately in sharing God's love." Everything Kim does contributes to the mission and ministry of the church.



Presbyterians Sharing supports congregations through the national office

Putting faith into action

Presbyterians across Canada share in the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada through gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*. These gifts put faith into action by embracing local, national and international mission work; providing tools for faithful ministry; engaging in evangelism, outreach and discipleship; supporting biblical and theological reflection and dialogue; living out God's call to justice; engaging in healing and reconciliation; empowering youth – and so much more! When we work together, we can accomplish far more than we ever could individually. Together, we are making a difference. "Mission and ministry are very much alive in the world and our church," says Karen Plater, Associate Secretary for Stewardship & Planned Giving. "All of this is made possible by your generous gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*."



Presbyterians Sharing puts faith into action, in Canada and around the world

A history of Canadian mission in Taiwan

History matters! Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Louise Gamble as she works with our partner church, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, to transcribe and translate reports and correspondence of the Canadian North Formosa Mission. These documents are records of the development of the Christian Church in North Formosa, from the point of view of its



missionaries. It includes over 7,000 documents from 1868 to 1923. Louise works in partnership with her talented and dedicated Taiwanese colleague, Mr. James Chen. They are working on the third and final series (1915–1923), which documents events during WWI as well as issues such as Canadian church union and the growing theological tensions in North America. When finished, this series will likely be over 1500 pages!

Presbyterians Sharing supports international partners

World Refugee Day (June 20)

Refugees are part of our human family and are entitled to their rights to peace and protection. In Bangladesh, almost 900,000 Rohingya have settled in squalid shelter conditions after escaping terrifying human rights abuses and violence in Myanmar. Refugees continue to arrive, and the nearing monsoon season puts those living in camps at risk of floods and landslides. Join Presbyterian World Service & Development as we respond to the needs of the Rohingya with Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the ACT Alliance by helping deliver life-saving food packages as well as shelter, hygiene kits, water and sanitation services, and psychosocial assistance. As we respond to pain and despair in Bangladesh, let us pray for refugees on their journey to find safety and peace in other parts of the world.



PWS&D responds to refugees

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday July 1

Attending to physical and spiritual needs in Saskatoon

The cost of living in Saskatchewan is rising, making it even more challenging for those on the margins to make ends meet. Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry understands that, when times are tough, people need spiritual as well as physical care. With support from *Presbyterians Sharing*, the ministry offers a clothing and food program, a mid-week worship service, an arts program, and crisis and spiritual counseling. Rooted in First Nations' traditions and gospel teachings, SNCM offers prayer, friendship, and radical hospitality to those who are struggling.



Presbyterians Sharing reaches out to people in need

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday September 9

A learning experience in Cuba

Theological education does not only occur in the classroom. *Presbyterians Sharing* supports mission and intercultural experiences for staff and students of our theological colleges. In 2018 two faculty members and 11 students from Knox College visited the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Matanzas in Cuba. After an afternoon of interacting with young



Cuban kids, one student shared that “no amount of reading could have exposed us to their reality.” Another student observed that “meeting with ministers, church members and youth and hearing the ways they seek to bring the hope of the Gospel into their communities and into the heart of their beloved homeland was a learning experience you cannot obtain through books or lectures”. One way to experience the beauty of God’s unfailing love is through encounters with God’s people in a genuine and meaningful way.

Presbyterians Sharing supports theological students

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday July 8

Achieving Independence Through Agriculture Training



Esther Beza has many responsibilities. The Malawian farmer takes care of her four children and her elderly parents, all while farming two hectares of land. But with changing rain patterns, low soil fertility and

poor access to seeds, Esther’s crops didn’t yield enough food to feed her family. Esther had been skipping meals, but things changed after she participated in an agricultural training project with Presbyterian World Service & Development and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. “I no longer struggle to find seeds, and I have learned to use pig manure for fertilizer,” shares Esther, motivated by the fruitful results of the farming techniques she’s learned. Esther no longer worries about anyone going hungry.

PWS&D invests in agriculture to benefit communities

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday September 16

Winter in War-Torn Syria

With Syria facing its seventh year of conflict, the humanitarian situation in the country continues to deteriorate. Caught in the middle of a war zone in central Syria, Rabeha was living a nightmare. Her brother had been killed and her mother lost her legs when the family’s home was destroyed. Rabeha’s father suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed. Unable to secure a job, Rabeha couldn’t afford food, medicine for her parents or heat for the winter. The family endured cold, hungry nights before they enrolled in a Presbyterian World Service & Development food aid project with Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Now that her family receives food baskets, Rabeha is saving money for other needs and was able to face the harsh winter with greater peace of mind.



PWS&D responds to families displaced by conflict



Planting new seeds of ministry

As a symbol of the Kingdom of God, Jesus shares the image of a small mustard seed that, when planted by a sower, turns into a large and life-giving tree. After helping to grow a successful new ministry at Heritage Green Family Church in Stoney Creek, ON, the Rev. David Moody has responded to God's call to help other churches sow new ministry seeds. With the support of *Presbyterians Sharing* through Canadian Ministries, The Presbytery of Hamilton has called the Rev. Moody to serve as a replanting minister, guiding and journeying with congregations as they discern and implement new visions for their ministries.



Presbyterians Sharing supports church growth

Creating new paths of generosity



In April, members of the Stewards by Design planning committee attended the "Pathways to Generosity" conference at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas, Texas. They were inspired by dynamic worship, a diverse group of keynote speakers and workshops on topics ranging from preaching stewardship, narrative budgets,

stewardship and social media, legacy giving and the stewardship of creation. The team also met with Dr. Kennon Callahan, keynote speaker for the next Stewards by Design conference planned for May, 2019. Members returned home ready to create new paths of generosity in the PCC's stewardship ministry.

Presbyterians Sharing supports leadership development



International Literacy Day (Sept. 8)

"Neither the students nor I were actually enjoying the lessons." Inayatullah, a teacher at Zangue Girls School in Afghanistan, knew his lecture-based teaching style was ineffective. Since attending teacher-training workshops run by Presbyterian World Service &

Development partners, Inayatullah has learned to bring life to his lessons. After implementing more practical teaching methods, Inayatullah's pupils are engaging in group activities, participating in lively discussions and better learning their lessons. With a greater sense of ownership over their education, they are gaining confidence, asking questions and voicing their opinions. By improving the quality of education, PWS&D is helping more children enjoy their studies and become leaders in their communities. "This is a tremendous achievement for both the students and me," says Inayatullah with a smile.

PWS&D builds futures of hope for vulnerable girls

Pancakes and a Play

Last winter, the caring Sunday School class at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Toronto, ON, hosted a pancake lunch in support of Presbyterian World Service & Development. After reading a short play to illustrate PWS&D's mission and vision, the children invited guests to feast on pancakes and syrup, yogurt and fruit as they passed around a donation basket. "St. John's Sunday School pancake lunch raised over \$900 for PWS&D," shares Laurie McGugan, the event organizer. "We were happy that we got so many people out!" Whether saving pennies, launching a campaign or holding a fundraising lunch, generous support from Presbyterians across Canada sustains programs that are building a more sustainable, compassionate and just world.



Faithful to our calling, we respond together

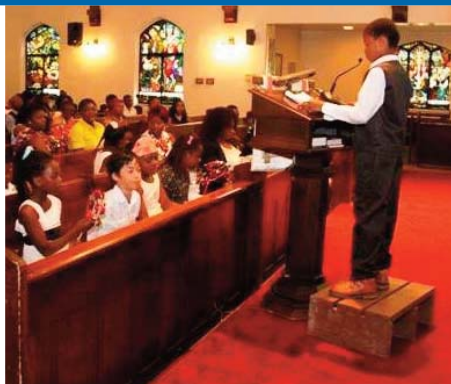


A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday July 29

Diverse people praising God together

In Psalm 86, David praises God saying, “All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.” With support from *Presbyterians Sharing*, the members of Montreal West Presbyterian Church are experiencing this beautiful vision in their own church. God brought a new diversity of people into this once small congregation and the people responded with welcome. The growth of Montreal West over the last several years, and their renewed sense of vitality and joy is a testament to the importance of inter-cultural ministry and the power of the God who created all nations.



Presbyterians Sharing renews faith communities

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday August 12

Fostering discipleship

With the support of a coach, provided through gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*, Église St-Luc’s leadership team in Montreal is learning ways to evangelize and foster discipleship beyond Sunday mornings. They started with one mid-week Bible sharing group, which quickly grew to three, and now a fourth is in the works. Like Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13, members of Église St-Luc are actively sharing the gospel, and the good news of Christ’s saving power is spreading “like wildfire all through the region” (v.49; *The Message*).



Presbyterians Sharing engages in evangelism, outreach and discipleship

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday August 5

Bright Futures for Youth in Guatemala

With Presbyterian World Service & Development support, children living in the rough neighbourhood surrounding Guatemala City’s garbage dump are accessing education at the Francisco Coll School. Students who excel qualify for scholarships to further their education, while other graduates pursue vocational training in order to achieve



employment. A letter from a recent graduate is a testament to the importance of the project that is equipping students to pursue their dreams: “I am in my last year, with just a month to go before I accomplish my dream of being a professional and continuing my studies at university. I give you thanks because with your extraordinary effort, I will have a better future full of opportunities to help my family and grow.”

PWS&D responds with education to build bright futures

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday August 19

World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day is held each year on August 19 to honour those working to provide emergency aid and create a more peaceful and humane world. Emergency situations—either natural disasters or conflict—take a massive toll on communities. In war-torn countries, innocent civilians become caught in the crossfire, forced to flee with nothing. Large-scale environmental disasters create massive food shortages, displacement and disease. Dedicated partners at ecumenical networks such as Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the ACT Alliance enable Presbyterian World Service & Development to respond to suffering caused by emergency situations around the world. On this day and every day, we are thankful for the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the world.



PWS&D responds to bring relief in times of disaster

