

# Mission Moments



October 2015 – January 2016



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: [www.presbyterian.ca/Sunday](http://www.presbyterian.ca/Sunday)



**PWS&D**

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



**The replanting of Heritage Green**

It was a leap of faith when members of Heritage Green Presbyterian Church said “yes” to a new and transforming vision: this church that had seen very few children in recent years dreamed of becoming a place where young families were welcomed and parents would be strengthened, encouraged and mentored so that they might feel empowered to raise their children in faith. The congregation was invited to become the good soil that would receive and nourish new families with love, acceptance and faithfulness. And now new life is springing up everywhere! While the church is still in the early stages of this replanting story, everyone is excited to see what God has in store! *Presbyterians Sharing* supports Heritage Green in its transforming ministry.



*Presbyterians Sharing is helping transform churches*

**World Food Day**

October 16 is World Food Day. It is a day to reflect on the prevalence of hunger and malnutrition in our global village and inspire solutions for lasting change. God’s promise of abundant life is for all creation, yet 870 million people do not have enough to eat. Presbyterian World Service & Development collaborates with our partners at Canadian

Foodgrains Bank to provide food in times of emergency and to ensure that people have food for the future. In Guatemala, PWS&D’s local partner helped Maria Victoria Perez learn how to correctly plant trees and diversify her crops to improve her family’s nutrition. Maria’s garden is not the only thing flourishing—she now has the confidence to teach and empower other indigenous women to rise above hunger and create a better quality of life.

*PWS&D supports food security for subsistence farmers*

**Called to be stewards**

With support from *Presbyterians Sharing*, the Stewards by Design conference helps congregations think about their mission and ministry and find the resources needed to do what God is calling them to do. Participants explore the concept of stewardship as not just a financial matter, but also a spiritual matter concerned with all aspects of life. Led by Dr. Kennon



Callahan, the conference helps congregations expand and strengthen their mission and ministry, make generous giving an ongoing, joyful congregational experience, and develop a concrete plan that suits their unique needs. The application deadline for the April 2016 conference is November 2, 2015. Find out more at [presbyterian.ca/stewardsbydesign](http://presbyterian.ca/stewardsbydesign).

*Presbyterians Sharing equips congregations for stewardship*

**Building hope in Nepal**

The catastrophic earthquakes that rocked Nepal on April 25 and May 12 devastated homes, families and entire communities. Many were forced to sleep on the street and did not have access to food, clean water or health facilities. Despite the destruction, the generosity of Presbyterians toward relief efforts has been enormously impactful.

After the fateful tremors flattened their homes, Dharma and his neighbour Krishna found hope and relief thanks to the food, shelter, hygiene kits and emotional support provided to them through donations to Presbyterian World Service & Development. “They were a great help to us,” Dharma shares. This life-saving assistance met the immediate needs of the many thousands of people affected by the quakes and enabled survivors to look toward a brighter future.



*PWS&D responds to humanitarian disasters*

**Interning in Malawi**

*Presbyterians Sharing* supports Amy Zavitz as she serves for nine months as a Young Adult Intern in Malawi with our long-standing partner, The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in the Synod of Livingstonia. Amy, a recent graduate in Environmental and Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo, is excited about her work with the PWS&D-supported Livingstonia Synod AIDS Program, where she is participating in training and monitoring visits to the community, writing case stories, editing reports and working on their website. She will also have the opportunity to be involved in the work of the Synod of Livingstonia Development Program and the Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program. When asked before departing what excited her most about going to Malawi, Amy replied, "I am really looking forward to the learning opportunities and personal growth that this experience will provide!"



*Presbyterians Sharing supports international interns*

**Helping clean water flow in Malawi**

Edna Nampelo and her children would suffer for months whenever the well in their small village in Malawi broke down. Since nobody in her community knew how to repair the well, Edna was forced to collect water from contaminated sources. When a Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported water, sanitation and hygiene project was introduced in her village, Edna was keen to participate. She learned how to maintain new water sources for the long-term. Edna can now repair the well that brings clean water to her village. "This will help us to have safe drinking water all the time," she shares. Enabling communities to take control of their well-being helps ensure lasting hope, health and vitality for families like Edna's.



*PWS&D is creating healthier communities*

**Universal Children's Day**

November 20 is Universal Children's Day. In rural Afghanistan, young Tasal spent each day helping his father Zaman raise livestock and cultivate crops on their parcel of land. Tasal was happy to support his family, but because he was busy helping his father during the day, he didn't get the chance to go to school. Presbyterian World Service & Development's Girls



Education Project team conducted meetings in Tasal's village to teach members of the community about the ways that an education can help girls and boys access opportunities for brighter futures. At the end of the session, Zaman was inspired to enrol his son at the local school. "I now understand that it is not only his right to go to school but it is also my responsibility to encourage him and support him," shares Zaman.

*PWS&D supports a child's right to education*

**Serving God in Ukraine**

Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support David and Anna Pándy-Szekeres as they serve with the Reformed Church of the sub-Carpathian Ukraine (RCCU), a church of ethnic Hungarians. David helps post and supervise RCCU missionaries in Ukraine and coordinates external missions and mission outreach to Roma communities. He is an education consultant and public relations assistant for the RCCU and serves as a consultant to four Christian secondary schools serving Hungarian students living in Ukraine. David also works with the Terra Dei Foundation, helping to develop agricultural practices in the region. Anna is a teacher, former principal and founder of Nagyberég Reformed Church Secondary School. She serves as an educational advisor and supervisor to the four RCCU schools.



*Presbyterians Sharing supports international mission staff*



**World AIDS Day**

December 1 is World AIDS Day. The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through Presbyterian World Service & Development, continues to support HIV and AIDS programs that fight stigma and discrimination, teach and equip people to prevent the spread and the transmission between mother and child, and provide home based care and medications to those living with the disease. PWS&D also works with partners at Titukule Ana—a program in Malawi that provides counseling and support for orphans and vulnerable children. Janet Machemba's parents passed away when she was young. With support from the program, Janet was able to participate in a tailoring course and is well on her way to creating a brighter future. "I am very happy that I have been given this opportunity," she shares.



*PWS&D is restoring hope for vulnerable children*

**International Day for People with Disabilities**

December 3 is International Day for People with Disabilities. When Atanga Yaaji of Ghana was young, he developed an illness that caused him to lose the use of his right leg. While his other siblings got to go to school, Atanga was encouraged to stay home so that his health could improve.

Atanga eventually enrolled at the

Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Centre—an organization supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development that helps people with disabilities improve their quality of life. Through the centre's vocational training, Atanga became a bicycle fitter, earning enough money to secure his basic needs. When Atanga's illness took his other leg, the program continued to lend support, providing him with a wheelchair and training in agriculture. Atanga is full of gratitude for the acceptance, faithful care and training he received at Garu.

*PWS&D supports people living with disabilities*

**Thinking outside the box**

*Presbyterians Sharing* provides grants to smaller congregations and pastoral charges as they work towards becoming self-sufficient. Central Grey-Bruce Presbyterian Cooperative Ministry in Ontario is made up of four small rural congregations with a focus on shared ministry, renewal and growth. Born out of a mixture of



difficulty, necessity and an unprecedented willingness to do whatever it takes to maintain each of their individual churches as vibrant and meaningful God-centred presences in their communities, these congregations have chosen to step outside of their comfort zones. Members of each congregation hope to build on their strengths and gifts to continue their ministry in a new way.

*Presbyterians Sharing supports congregational renewal*

**This church will be our church**

*Presbyterians Sharing* supports new congregations as they respond to specific needs in their communities. Lighthouse Evangelical Arabic Church is meeting the needs of Arabic speakers in Winnipeg, MB. The Bahgat family was part of a Presbyterian church in Egypt before coming to Winnipeg in 2001. The first time they attended Lighthouse church, Rev. Ibrahim Zabeneh preached about the vision of the church and God's desire for Lighthouse to reach out to the community. At the end of the service, the Bahgats approached Rev. Zabeneh and said, "This church will be our church. We are committed!" They had been longing for a church where they could feel at home in Winnipeg, and were thrilled to have found a welcoming place where they could worship in their own language.



*Presbyterians Sharing supports new congregations*



### Food assistance a relief for families in Pakistan

Narso and her family used to grow enough nutritious food on their small parcel of land to last them for months. But a severe drought affecting large swaths of land in Pakistan destroyed grain crops and left the family—and many others in the village—without enough food to eat. Narso and her husband are disabled, so their only source of income during the drought was the small earnings of their youngest son, who worked as a helper in a house a village away. In response, Presbyterian World Service & Development collaborated with local partners to distribute food packages to families affected by the drought. “I have been saved from taking out loans, selling my livestock and borrowing food,” shares Narso.



*PWS&D responds with food assistance*

### Advocating for refugees

*Presbyterians Sharing* supports Action Réfugiés Montréal as it advocates for refugees in Montreal and beyond, promoting partnerships for mutual empowerment among people in refugee and faith communities and society at large. Through its detention, sponsorship and twinning programs ARM provides hope and assistance while raising awareness of refugee rights.



The Twinning Program pairs newly-arrived refugee women with women volunteers, helping to break isolation, create unique bonds of friendship and introduce the women to realities they might never have otherwise encountered. The twins meet at least six hours per month for at least six months, and also participate in regular group activities hosted by ARM, including potlucks, information sessions and collective cooking.

*Presbyterians Sharing advocates for refugees*

### The key is good soil

Subsistence farmers in Africa, Asia and Latin America make up more than 70 per cent of the world’s hungry. While Canada has a good track record for supporting agriculture in its aid programs, the aid budget for agricultural development has been on the decline. Good Soil is an ongoing campaign of Canadian Foodgrains



Bank that aims to strengthen government funding for small-scale agriculture. Increased funding will not only help farmers improve their yields and adapt to changes in climate, it will stimulate economic growth, improve opportunities for women, enhance vital nutrition for children and promote environmental sustainability. Learn more about the issue at [www.foodgrainsbank.ca/good-soil](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/good-soil).

*PWS&D is working toward a world without hunger*

### Stay related to us; keep us in your prayers

Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support and strengthen connections with international mission partners. The PCC has had a close relationship with the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon thirty years. This has included the presence of personnel teaching at the seminary, visits to the school to learn about issues in Middle Eastern theological education and financial support for special initiatives. At the 2015 General Assembly, Dr. George Sabra, President of NEST, asked that we continue to partner with Christians in the Middle East. “Stay related to us,” he said. “Stay aware of what is happening to us; encourage us and support us morally, spiritually and materially. And above all, keep us in your prayers to God almighty, the Lord of our lives and of all history, in whose love and mercy our ancestors, our parents and grandparents, have always trusted.”



*Presbyterians Sharing strengthens partnerships*

### Syrian refugees call Canada home

In response to Christ's call to serve and defend the vulnerable and the persecuted, Presbyterian World Service & Development provides humanitarian aid to refugees worldwide, while promoting and protecting their rights. This past year, the Pickering Presbytery Mission and Outreach Committee headed a refugee sponsorship project with support from PWS&D. An outpouring of generosity from member churches allowed the presbytery to raise enough money to sponsor not one, but five Syrian families escaping violent conflict. "Although many of the churches in our presbytery are small, as partners together we have been able to do something really meaningful," said Liz Stark, a member of the Pickering committee. In generosity, faith and partnership, Presbyterians are helping refugees on their journey toward peace.



*PWS&D responds to refugees*

### Thank you for your gifts!

Thank you for your generous gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing!* Together with Presbyterians across Canada, you are encouraging and equipping congregational renewal and development; supporting inner city, native and refugee ministries; sending mission personnel to work with our international partners; developing innovative ministries for children and youth; equipping ministers and lay leaders to do effective ministry; bringing people together to share experiences and learn new skills through events like Stewards by Design and Canada Youth; supporting healing and reconciliation ministries... and so much more! As we participate together in the life-giving mission of God, we are making a difference, in Canada and around the world.



*Presbyterians Sharing is making a difference!*

## One Mission, Two Funds Proclaiming Christ in Word and Deed

*Presbyterians Sharing* is the national church fund that supports the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations commit to raising an accepted allocation each year. The budget for 2015 is \$7.5 million.

*Presbyterian World Service & Development* is the PCC's development and relief agency. PWS&D raises funds directly from congregations and individuals and through government (CIDA) 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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