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.

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 PowerPoint slides can be found at: presbyterian.ca/mm

Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service & Development are making a difference!
Celebrating youth in Hungary

Heeding the PCC’s call for young adults to participate in the Reformed Church in Hungary’s Starpoint Youth Festival in July, Maya Kirstein (Prairie PC, Winnipeg), Philip MacFie (Parkwood PC, Ottawa), and Hanna Yun (Kitchener-Waterloo Korean PC) jumped at the chance. Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, they joined thousands of Reformed young people between the ages of 14 and 35 from Hungary, Romania, Syria, Pakistan, Germany, Spain, USA, Scotland, Taiwan, Korea, UK and France for worship and fellowship... More importantly, that we are all part of God’s Global Church!

Hope abound

Cyclical PCC is a church-planting initiative within The Presbyterian Church in Canada that encourages presbyteries and leaders to take first steps towards beginning new worshipping communities. At the Spring 2019 Cyclical PCC Gathering, 46 leaders discerned ways that the Holy Spirit is calling the PCC to plant new ministries. Not only are people interested in starting new worshipping communities, but such communities are already beginning, and there is a growing interest in taking part in this work. The task of starting new worshipping communities belongs to the whole denomination. Please pray for the leaders already engaged in this work and for new leaders as they discern their involvement.

World Teachers’ Day (Oct. 5)

Many children around the world do not have the opportunity to go to school for a variety of reasons—one of them is a lack of trained teachers. To improve access to quality education that helps children escape cycles of poverty, PWS&D’s girls education project in Afghanistan runs workshops to strengthen the capacity of teachers. Teachers are educated about child rights, gender and peace, and trained in improved teaching methods to ensure that access to education translates to positive learning outcomes for girls and boys. “My lessons were difficult and sometimes boring for the students,” admits Ismatullah, a school teacher in Bamyam, Afghanistan. “After receiving this training, I learned interactive teaching methods that improve the teaching quality and engagement of the students during classroom activities.”

World Food Day (Oct. 16)

Yemen’s four-year civil war has produced the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet and put thousands at risk of famine. Instability has disrupted food production and access, leaving women and men trapped in cycles of hunger, and children facing acute malnutrition. Staggeringly, conflict is named as the cause of acute food insecurity in 18 countries around the world. PWS&D responds to hunger by delivering food and nutrition assistance in times of conflict or disaster. In Yemen, PWS&D is supporting members of Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide 1,100 hungry families with packages of flour, beans, oil, sugar and salt. “Hope has started to appear over the horizon,” says Wardan, who is relieved to be able to feed her daughters again.

PWS&D helps teachers thrive

PWS&D meets food needs in time of conflict

Presbyterians Sharing encourages youth

Presbyterians Sharing is planting new ministries
A healthier future

November 19 is World Toilet Day. Toilets are vital for improving sanitation and health in countries around the world. Without proper toilets, human waste can get into water sources, and killer diseases spread quickly. That’s why the sudden loss of latrines in a disaster zone is such an urgent health issue. In Mulanje, Malawi, about 4,000 toilets were damaged by rising water levels produced by Cyclone Idai, which swept through southeastern Africa in March. In the wake of the storm, families in the region—especially children under five—faced an increased risk of contracting cholera and typhoid. PWS&D responded by helping local partners rebuild latrines. Now with safe and working toilets available, 2,600 families in the hardest hit areas are looking towards a healthier future.

Making connections and finding community

For many years, Erskine Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, Ont., has been a congregation that deeply loves both Jesus and their neighbourhood, a church where the gospel is preached in word and action each week. Now Erskine has a vision to become a beacon for health and wholeness in the community—a “Neighborhood Wellness Hub” where individuals and families can connect with services and groups that will lead them to greater wellness. Already partnerships are forming—with youth shelters, food banks, government agencies and other local churches—that will enable Erskine to offer new services to neighbours and to foster connection, community and well-being.

Connecting with neighbours

Around the Well is a new missional experiment of the Presbytery of Westminster that reaches out to people living on the University of British Columbia’s campus and its surrounding communities. The focus of this ministry is to gather a diverse group of Christians invested in connecting with neighbours as part of their commitment to intentional Christian living. With events that draw people in and initiatives that lead the group out, Around the Well ministry hopes to be a blessing to their community and introduce their neighbours to a life with Christ.

Take the Advent challenge!

During the Advent season, we celebrate God’s amazing gift—Jesus! This gift changed the world. Inspired by God’s overwhelming generosity, we work to make a difference for our people across the globe. Each week of Advent, PWS&D challenges individuals and congregations to share the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love with those living in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. In the midst of poverty, injustice and disaster, the Christ light shines. To help create bright futures through the Advent Challenge, visit WeRespond.ca/advent-challenge.

Presbyterians Sharing is reaching out to neighbours

PWS&D improves sanitation

Presbyterians Sharing is bringing people together

PWS&D is sharing the hope, peace, joy and love of Christmas

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Understanding the past to light the way forward
The Rev. Robinson Christian is a Doctoral student and a pastor in the Church of North India, a PCC partner. While researching material on the impact of the colonial legacy on preaching in India today, Robinson came across the Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis of Knox College in Toronto, author of “Decolonizing Preaching.” Robinson and Sarah began to correspond, and International Ministries invited Robinson to study in Toronto for two months. This is what mission is all about. Together we learn from the past, and God illumines a new understanding today. As partners in the Global Church, how can we not engage in these challenging conversations, learning from one another how God works through us?

PWS&D cares for orphans and vulnerable children

World AIDS Day
Sheila was just a few months old when her mother died and she went to live with her grandmother, Elube, in Malawi. Two years later, Sheila’s health began to sharply decline. Elube brought her granddaughter to the PWS&D-supported Mulanje Mission Hospital where Sheila was diagnosed as HIV positive and acutely malnourished. Elube’s grief weighed a little less heavily when she learned that Sheila could receive treatment at a nearby orphan care centre. Supported by PWS&D, these centres provide vulnerable children with free medical care, school support and nutrition assistance. With a place to receive antiretroviral treatment and highly nutritious food, Sheila’s health is improving and Elube is better equipped to meet her granddaughter’s needs.

PWS&D responds to those living in danger or exile

Human Rights Day (Dec. 10)
For Ahmad and Sarah and their daughters Reem and Rana, each day brought distress, thinking about what the future might hold. Their home in Al Raqqa, Syria had been bombed, and acts of brutal violence were taking place in their own neighbourhood. The family escaped to Kfarbo and forged a home in a cramped, unfurnished apartment.

Navigating the streets of a brand-new city, in a country broken by over eight years of civil conflict, Ahmad and Sarah prayed each day for peace and relief from hunger. Their prayers were answered when the family received their first food and hygiene basket through a PWS&D-supported project with Canadian Foodgrains Bank partners. “It came at the right moment,” says Ahmad.

PWS&D responds to those living in danger or exile

The gift of giving
As we reflect on giving and receiving this Christmas, let us give thanks for Presbyterians across Canada who are living out the gospel message through their generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. Together, we put our faith into action by equipping congregations, ministries and presbyteries; engaging in evangelism, outreach and discipleship; embracing local, national and international mission work; living out God’s call to justice; empowering youth; engaging in healing and reconciliation and creating new faith communities — and so much more! Every gift is a gift of hope. Every gift changes lives. This Christmas we will once again celebrate the greatest gift of all — Jesus Christ our Lord — whose example of giving inspires our own.
Empowering rural women
In Africa, women comprise about 60 per cent of the agricultural labour force. And yet, structural barriers and social norms prevent many women farmers from making decisions about agricultural practices on their farms. So that vulnerable communities can rise above hunger, it is essential that women are able to make choices about land, resources and which crops to grow. With the help of PWS&D, this transformation is taking place in Kamisimbi County of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a place where many farming families struggle to meet their food needs, PWS&D is providing seeds and training in conservation agriculture and encouraging women to take the lead in agricultural decision-making. Empowering rural women translates to better food security and the improved well-being of households and communities.

PWS&D empowers rural women

Everyday acts of kindness
Recently the Rev. Tim Choi, minister at Edmonton Urban Native Ministry, encountered unexpected grace after a hard day. He and his wife, Hillary, were busy preparing for an evening event. Tim was planning the music and Hillary was setting up for the meal when Wendy and her family came through the door. Wendy had a feeling that their help might be needed! Suddenly everything was different, with extra hands to make the work lighter. Wendy and her daughters made bannock to share, and Wendy offered to come and volunteer every week. Sometimes we ignore the small ways that God cares for us. The community at Edmonton Urban Native Ministry is learning together how to see God’s grace in everyday acts of kindness.

Presbyterians Sharing supports community ministries

Bibi’s healthy family
In the village of Ziarat, Afghanistan, Bibi is mother to nine children. For many women like Bibi, having many children is partly due to a lack of access to information about family planning. Frequent pregnancies and limited healthcare facilities contribute to Afghanistan’s high maternal mortality rate. When a community health worker from a PWS&D-supported health centre came to examine Bibi, the young mother learned about the benefits of child spacing. “I am advising other women in the village to adopt family planning methods as it is for the betterment of the family as a whole,” says Bibi. A woman’s ability to choose when to become pregnant helps families improve their well-being, increases economic opportunity and promotes gender equality.

PWS&D protects the health of mothers and children

Sowing seeds of hope
Through Justice Ministries, the PCC works with congregations to sow seeds of hope and respond to the justice imperatives of the gospel. At the centre of this work is engagement with Presbyterians across Canada. Staff visit and speak to congregations, presbyteries, synods, youth groups and camps. They provide workshops, respond to the TRC’s calls to Action, facilitate the Blanket Exercise in many different places and speak on reconciliation. Justice Ministries has recently produced resources on the Doctrine of Discovery, how to “green” your congregation, Earth Day, and materials to engage the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls final report.

Presbyterians Sharing sows seeds of hope
Cooperatives combat effects of climate change

Ever since the devastating Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in 2016, Lucsius faced his share of challenges. His community in northern Haiti sustained weeks of heavy rains that washed away his vegetable crop and caused his soil to become degraded. The farmer wondered if he would ever harvest a good crop again. Lucsius’s circumstances changed when his farming cooperative started receiving support from PWS&D partners. Along with 2,308 farmers in the region, Lucsius participated in workshops where he was taught to use sustainable, organic farming techniques—like using mulch and planting trees—to restore his soil’s fertility and grow enough food, despite the effects of climate change. Lucsius has been thrilled with the fruits of these newly discovered agricultural techniques.

PWS&D helps farmers improve lives and livelihoods