

Receive the Holy Spirit

Today begins General Assembly – the annual gathering of commissioners from across Canada who meet together to worship and discuss, debate and vote on matters that affect our denomination. This year’s theme is “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Last year, a first-time commissioner shared, “I came home feeling very blessed and encouraged about our Church. I loved the music and the praise team. They added so much to worship. The speakers and the messages were just what I needed to hear. It was an incredible experience and one I would gladly repeat.” Please pray for those gathered as they work together to plan the future of our church with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Presbyterians Sharing brings Presbyterians together at General Assembly



A house of hope in Romania

Brothers Kevin and Ionut live in rural Romania. When their mom died, their father, unemployed and devastated by his wife’s death, felt that there was no other option but to put his boys into a state-run orphanage. A local minister approached Csilla Bertalan, the Director of Samuel House, asking her to help the boys. Samuel House

is a Christian social ministry of the Reformed Church in Romania that receives support from Presbyterians Sharing. 36 children from struggling families, some at risk of being put into orphanages, are cared for in a loving and stable environment. Education is key and the tutors of the after-school program ensure the children will succeed. Csilla shares, “We are grateful to God who sends us generous supporters such as the PCC, who are thinking of and caring for the kids that live and study with us.”

Presbyterians Sharing brings hope to children in Romania



Committed to serving

For over 90 years, Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre has offered empowering, supportive programs and services to the community of Little Burgundy in south-west Montreal. As one of the few English community centres in the city, Tyndale's programs include early literacy programs for preschoolers, after-school programming and day camps for school-aged children and life-skills training for adults. Located in an area that faces challenges related to poverty and has a high concentration of single-parent families, the centre is committed to ensuring that each member of the community has the opportunity and skills needed to realize their full potential.



Presbyterians Sharing helps people realize their full potential

Presbyterians Sharing: Together we make a difference!

New church development. Partnership. International mission staff. Theological colleges. Healing and reconciliation. Leadership development. Congregational support. And so much more! Today is Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, a time to celebrate the impact our church's mission and ministry programs are having across Canada and around the world. As we encourage and equip one another and teach about love, faith and hope, we proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

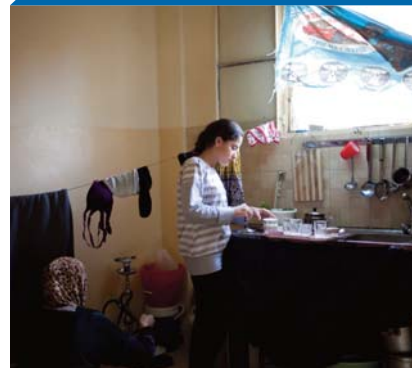


Presbyterians Sharing puts faith into action



World Refugee Day (June 20)

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D envisions a world where no one has to live in danger or exile. Because of the efforts of congregations, presbyteries and other groups involved in refugee sponsorship, those forced to flee their homes out of fear for their lives and liberty are experiencing peace in Canada. This year marks the 40th anniversary of The Presbyterian



Church in Canada as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the Government of Canada. This World Refugee Day, we are celebrating the partnership between PWS&D and sponsoring groups, and the life-giving work that welcomes refugees to Canada. Together, we continue to journey alongside refugees as they search for peace and security.

PWS&D welcomes the stranger

Exploring the power of prayer

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Two Rivers Church in Guelph, ON is exploring new ways of being the church. A recipient of the PCC's Supporting Ministry Grant, the ministry is made up of "Living Rooms," where people gather together in homes for meals and conversations that draw them deeper into friendship in Christ. They recently began The Prayer Project, which encourages spiritual depth, wisdom and maturity among its members through prayer. The Prayer Project is a multi-faceted approach to forming missional apprentices of Jesus, through a variety of initiatives that include a weekly contemplative prayer walk, a Healing Prayer Team, as well as special events dedicated to communal prayer.



Presbyterians Sharing helps congregations explore new initiatives



Canadians care!

As we mark Canada Day, let us also celebrate Canada's contributions around the world. International aid plays an important role in addressing poverty, hunger and inequality in vulnerable countries. Support from the Government of Canada for PWS&D's maternal, newborn and child health program in Afghanistan and Malawi maximizes Presbyterian contributions to projects delivering life-saving healthcare to mothers and babies. Let's continue sharing Canadian compassion and generosity throughout the world. Through the I Care campaign, Canadians can sign a postcard addressed to the prime minister, letting him know that they care about and support Canada's role in ending global hunger and poverty.



PWS&D shares God's love beyond our borders



International Literacy Day

With PWS&D's support, children living in the 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. Other graduates pursue vocational training in order to achieve employment, a dream otherwise unachievable. A

student from Francisco Coll will be continuing her studies in business administration at university. Her words of thanks are a testament to the importance of the project that is equipping students to pursue their dreams: "I give you thanks because with your extraordinary effort I will have a better future full of more opportunities to be able to help my family and grow professionally."

PWS&D builds bright futures through education



Shining hope

PWS&D helps to ensure access to medical care and training in disease recognition and prevention so that families and communities can grow healthier. Through timely diagnosis, medical care and health education, people affected with leprosy and other illnesses in a

region of Nepal are improving their health with support from PWS&D partners at the Shining Hospital. Dal is one person receiving support. A reaction to the medication Dal was prescribed for his leprosy left him very sick. Every hospital he visited couldn't provide treatment, until he visited the Shining Hospital. There, Dal received the support he needed to restore his health and the life he enjoyed. This story of hope is shared by 158 patients who received treatment for leprosy over the past year.

PWS&D brings medical care to remote villages

International Day of Prayer for Peace (September 21)

The International Day of Prayer for Peace is a time to reflect on the importance of upholding peace among people and across nations. A peaceful society is one where justice, equality and security are available to everyone. To achieve this, people everywhere need to have the opportunity for economic and social development. That is why PWS&D is working in some of the most vulnerable and marginalized countries around the world to help families overcome poverty, hunger and oppression by promoting health, education, gender equality, sanitation, protection of the environment and social justice. While peace will enable a compassionate world to take shape, a sustainable environment will also further peace.



PWS&D promotes sustainable development for peace



A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday August 25

A home away from home

When her niece fell ill, Zenabu was accused by her sister of bewitching the little girl. Belief in witchcraft continues to be widespread in Ghana, and those accused can face relentlessly cruel treatment. Zenabu feared for her safety, until she found sanctuary at the PWS&D-supported Gambaga Camp—a refuge for women who have been accused of witchcraft. Zenabu has been trained in soap making and earns an income by selling her handiwork. She enjoys the self-reliance that comes with the chance to sell her goods. Even as PWS&D works with communities to help them see that misfortune is not a result of witchcraft, this support is giving women like Zenabu the chance to lead safe and meaningful lives.



PWS&D responds to ensure safety and security

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday September 1

Learning and healing

For students in Central India, higher education is too often a distant dream. Many nurses who aspire to enhance their skills cannot afford the tuition. With support from Presbyterians Sharing, the MIBE Graduate School for Nurses in Indore offers partial scholarships which help to make advanced education accessible. This Christian school offers a Post-Basic Bachelor of Nursing degree, equipping men and women to become educators, administrators and leaders in nursing. It even attracts students from other faiths, as they appreciate the emphasis on academic excellence, learning in a collegial environment and compassion in health care. As anyone who has been ill knows, compassion and competence are essential skills to care for the whole person.



Presbyterians Sharing supports leadership development



A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday July 14

A ministry of presence

When 35 cm of rain fell in Malawi over 5 days in March, the presence of PCC mission staff was invaluable. Vivian and Blair Bertrand gave us first-hand accounts of the devastation experienced by over 900,000 Malawians. They grieved together with their friends and colleagues when roofs collapsed, walls caved in, latrines were washed away, and family members died.



Amid the darkness, Vivian, working with Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), has been busy writing proposals for CARD's relief efforts. These include providing emergency items such as food, plastic sheets, cooking pots, water buckets and chlorine to treat water and agricultural support to help people reclaim their livelihoods after the loss of crops and livestock. Presbyterians Sharing supports the Bertrands whose presence opens a window into this tragedy.

Presbyterians Sharing supports international mission staff

A PCC Mission Moment

Sunday July 21

Giving with generous hearts

Throughout his ministry, Jesus preached on the importance of caring for people living on the margins of society. Responding to a need in their local community, the grant-receiving congregation of St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church in Grand Falls-Windsor, N.L. has constructed a "community clothesline" in their sanctuary. At each of their monthly services, the congregation hangs new adult socks, hats, mitts, scarves and underclothes on the clothesline, which are later distributed by the Salvation Army's Community and Family Services division. At each service, the clothesline cannot hold all of the items due to the generosity of its church members, and extra bins must be set up to collect all of the donations.



Presbyterians Sharing encourages generosity



It began with a loan

When Thoko's husband left her to care for their six children alone, she felt like she was sinking. But support PWS&D was providing in her Malawian village helped her rise above challenging circumstances. Thoko joined a self-help group—an organized way to come together with women in her village to save money and distribute loans. With the loan she received, Thoko bought farming supplies to grow more food. After selling the produce she harvested, Thoko began earning enough to pay school fees for her children. Soon, she could afford supplies to repair the roof of her home and was also able to purchase a goat and pig, which will be an additional source of income. Today, little trace of that hopelessness is left. Thoko feels empowered—and it all began with a loan.



PWS&D empowers people to shape their future

Spreading the gospel message



Just as the early disciples travelled to share the good news of the gospel, Cariboo Presbyterian Church is working to spread the love of Christ to rural and remote regions of British Columbia, with support from Presbyterians Sharing. The “southern” part of the ministry is made up of five house churches around the 100 Mile

House and Lac La Hache areas. Combined, the house churches reach more than 150 people who reside in areas that are considered beyond the reach of the traditional church. Bruce Wilcox has served as the southern region's leader for the past several years and credits the ministry's consistent growth to the work of the Holy Spirit and the desire for God's family to gather in community despite geographical challenges.

Presbyterians Sharing is spreading the gospel message



A healthy start for newborns

In addition to providing skilled and compassionate care during pregnancy and delivery, PWS&D's maternal, newborn and child health program is improving the well-being of children during their first few years of life. Part of this is ensuring that newborns access postnatal care and necessary vaccinations. In Afghanistan, Fatima hadn't had her 10-month-old seen by a

health worker since the day she was born. She is filled with gratitude for the community health worker who visited her home and told her about the importance of protecting newborns against infection through vaccinations. The health worker also told Fatima that this care is provided at a new PWS&D-supported health facility only two kilometres away. “I would not have known how important vaccinations are for children,” shares Fatima.

PWS&D improves health outcomes for children

World Humanitarian Day (August 19)

In communities ravaged by violent conflict, people are driven from their homes and left without access to food, water and safe shelter. The horror of life disrupted by conflict has become a tragic reality for Alifa from Myanmar. She still feels numb with shock nine months after being forced to flee her home when the military opened fire on her village. Alifa and her family managed to find shelter in Bangladesh, but the uncertainty of life keeps her in darkness. What does bring comfort is that she has been able to feed her children through support from PWS&D and members of Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This support is keeping Alifa's family alive until they can return to a peaceful home.



PWS&D responds to people displaced by conflict

