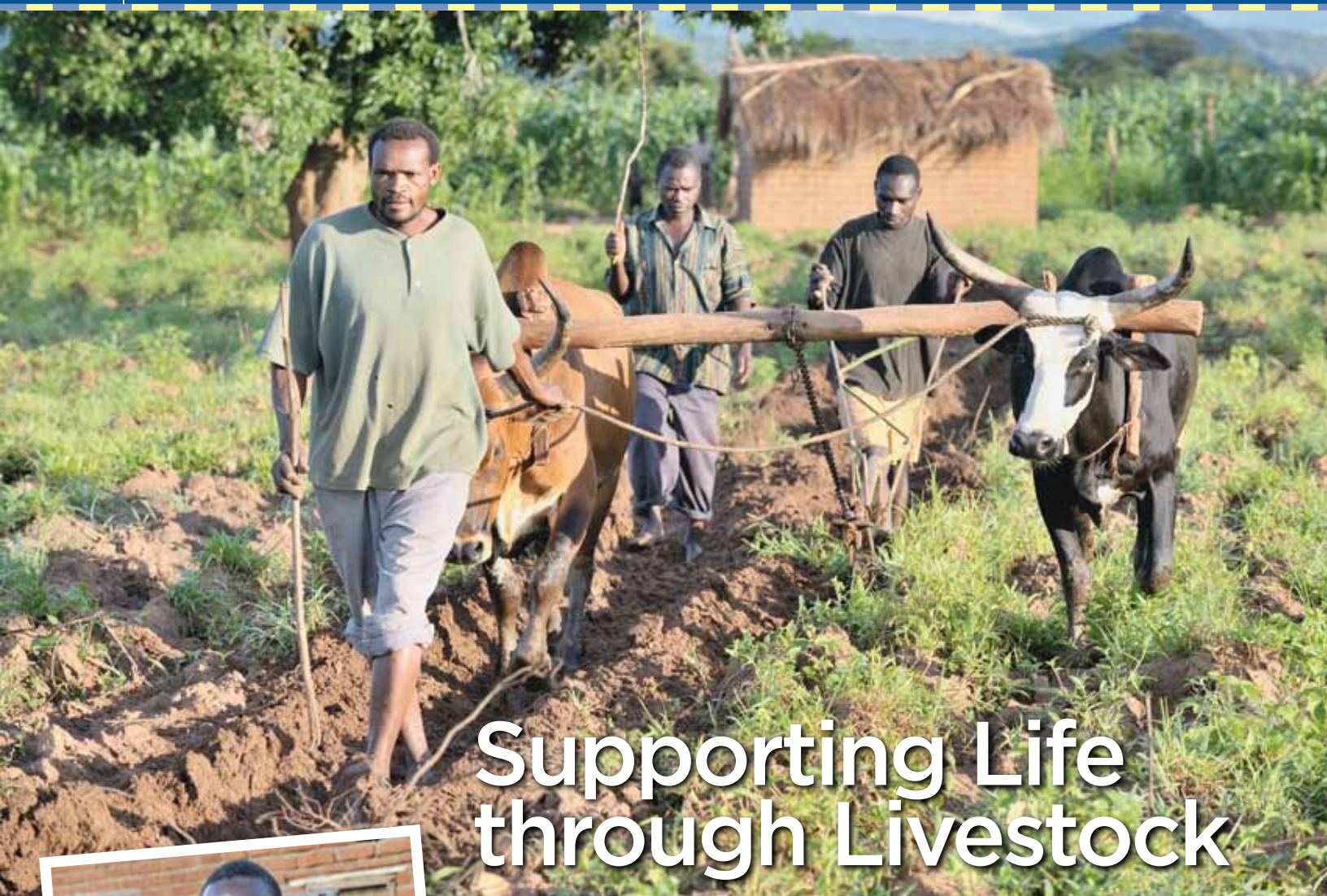




PWSDevelopments

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Supporting Life through Livestock



ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK, APPROXIMATELY 70% OF THE WORLD'S 1.3 BILLION poor live in rural areas, and of those about 600 million depend on livestock as part of their livelihood. For many marginalized people, livestock is one of the few means of breaking free from relentless poverty, giving animals an important role in rural poverty reduction strategies.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) agrees that owning livestock offers a promising opportunity to combat poverty, however most livestock policies and services tend to favour large-scale production. Small farmers and herders need access to basic services and technologies, such as veterinary care, grazing lands, as well as policies that take account of their needs.

PWS&D is working to help small-scale farmers around the world through livestock programs that go beyond just providing animals, but also teach farmers how to provide adequate housing, access veterinary services and ensure their animals are properly fed and cared for. Working through local partners that are able to engage the entire community, livestock programs are helping provide new sources of income, nutrition and opportunity. ►



Investing in the future

From the largest cow to the smallest baby chick, there are many benefits to keeping livestock for families in need. Perhaps most important of all, livestock are an investment. For many people, animals represent savings and the sale of livestock and manure can be crucial income during hard times. The profits from livestock and their many products—such as milk, eggs, meat, wool, leather and honey—can help poor families access enough food, improve their nutrition, send their children to school and purchase medicine.

Beyond the financial benefits of owning livestock, animals can help reduce the need for human labour by carrying heavy loads, ploughing fields and providing a means of transportation. Their manure fertilizes the soil, and most livestock graze on unusable materials such as hay, grass, kitchen scraps and other waste, converting them into high-quality food for people.

The dietary benefits of livestock are important to families consuming meals that are often limited to a small number of grains. Meat, milk and eggs add a valuable source of protein that can have dramatic effects, particularly on developing children and pregnant women. As well, there are social benefits that livestock can provide. When women own livestock, their social status can be improved, empowering them to participate in decision-making, while also increasing their sense of accomplishment and self-confidence.

Guatemala: Progress through pig farming

In the western highlands of Guatemala, many indigenous people are struggling to overcome deep-rooted poverty and years of civil war. PWS&D is working to help families have new hope for the future through agriculture programs that focus on adding vegetables to diets for more nutrition, improving crop yields and establishing small-scale pig farms.

Thanks to the dedication of PWS&D's local partner ASDENA (New Dawn Association for Health and Community Development), over 130 families received a pig last year to help launch

their businesses. New pens were constructed and the community worked together to ensure the success of all members. With guidance from ASDENA, the families were able to raise their animals for sale at market. The money was an important addition to household incomes and helped provide more food, supplies, clothing and ensured children could stay in school.

Many families used a portion of their new income to purchase another piglet as an investment and continue their farm. The program continues to add participants, improve pig facilities and provide training in proper feeding and care. The pigs are growing up healthy and strong, and the whole community is proud of their success.

Malawi: A land flowing with milk and honey

In northern Malawi, PWS&D is responding to prolonged poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation. Working through local partners, PWS&D is helping to establish seed banks to provide food during the hungry season, organize village savings projects and plant trees. The program is also providing livestock for income-generating initiatives including bee keeping, fish farming, raising dairy cattle and rabbits.

These initiatives have become highly successful projects for many families, providing crucial sources of protein, milk and honey to diets heavy on corn intake and helping families access more funds for the household.

With the support of local partners overseas, and with the generous support of Canadians, livestock programs are working at a grassroots level to help people from developing countries replace scarcity with opportunity. To learn more, visit www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd.



Did you know? Most people in the world eat 1-5 food items every day: rice, wheat, cassava, potato or maize to which a small amount of vegetables, meat, fish or sauces may be added. Compare that to the over 30,000 food items we can choose from at the average grocery store.

Presbyterians in ACTION!

Congregations and individuals across the country have been busy raising funds for PWS&D programs around the world. Thank you to everyone involved for your hard work and dedication—together we are helping create new opportunities for people in need.

PHOTO: CARBERRY NEWS-EXPRESS



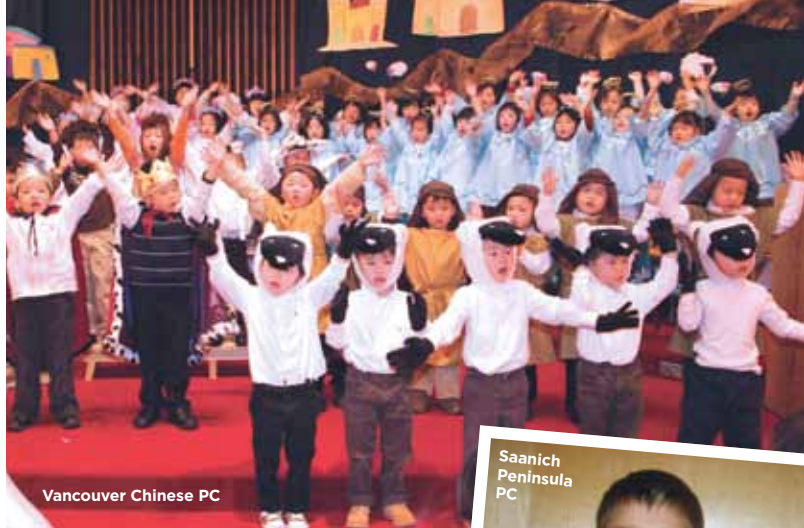
▲ COLLECTING PENNIES FOR MOSQUITO NETS

“Enclosed you will find a cheque for \$552.96, which is the easy way to send the 55,296 pennies that we collected,” writes Rev. Peggy Reid from Carberry United Church in Carberry, MB. Having worked with PWS&D at Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi, Rev. Reid knows how just one mosquito net can dramatically reduce a child’s chances of contracting malaria. The Sunday School challenged the adults to see who could raise the most pennies to purchase mosquito nets. As the pennies rolled into Rev. Reid’s office in pickle jars, the entire town pitched in to make donations and put jars in their businesses. In the end, they raised more than 10 times their initial goal! Congratulations to the Carberry Sunday School for a creative and fantastic effort.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT ▲

The Grade 9 and 10 youth group at Leaside PC in Toronto, ON has been busy raising money to build a well in Tanzania through PWS&D. They held a number of fundraising events, including a 26-hour fast, a pancake breakfast and community lunches, all while learning about hunger and poverty around the world. All their hard work raised an incredible \$7,160!



Vancouver Chinese PC

FUNDRAISING AND FASTING FOR THE WORLD

Several groups and churches have taken on impressive fundraising campaigns for PWS&D, including the Women’s Fellowship of Grace PC in Calgary, the children at Vancouver Chinese PC in Vancouver, Norman Kennedy PC in Regina, the grade 4-5 Sunday School class at Saanich Peninsula PC in BC, the Sunday School at Knox PC in Grand Valley ON, St. Andrew’s PC in Pictou NS, the Sunday School at St. Andrew’s PC in Kamloops BC, and a youth group at Calvin PC in Kitchener ON held a “Fast for the World” fundraiser.



Saanich Peninsula PC



◀ MEMORY TREE

The congregation of St. Andrew’s PC in Gananoque, ON, raised money for PWS&D over the Advent season by designating the Christmas tree in their church as a “Memory Tree,” using white tags identifying the people who have been “lights” in their lives.

ENOUGH FOR ALL ▶

Tim and Mike Fiss, along with their teacher, Rebecca Otitoju, make up the Sunday School of St. Andrew’s PC, in Qu’Appelle, SK. Determined not to let their small size stop them from making a big difference in the world, they handed out jars labelled “Enough for All” to the congregation and people in the community. The congregation matched all donations and raised over \$500 to support recovery efforts in Haiti.



OOPS! The “Mission Madness” fundraiser that raised \$1,800 to support Maya women in Guatemala, published in the previous issue of PWS&D, should have been attributed to First PC in Pictou, NS, not New Glasgow. A big thank you to the Sunday School and congregation at First PC for their exceptional support.



Youth Activity: Food Distribution Around the World

Here's a fun and easy activity to try with children and youth to help us all remember how unfairly food is distributed around the world. This game only takes about 30 minutes but will demonstrate how many people in other areas of the world struggle to access enough food to eat.

Materials you will need to prepare in advance:

- 100 small food items (such as pretzels, goldfish crackers, small candies)
- 5 clear bags (for portioning the food items as assigned below)
- 5 region signs posted around the room

Divide students into 5 groups as listed below. (Modify the number of students in each group, as needed.)

- Asia: 18 students – 11 food items
- North America: 1 student – 42 food items
- Europe: 3 students – 38 food items
- Africa: 5 students – 4 items
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 3 students – 5 food items



Have students brainstorm for five minutes and then share about what they know about the region they are representing. Explain that the food you are about to divide up represents the way wealth is distributed in the world.

Hand out food to the groups, announcing the number of food items given. Ask: Which area group has the most people? Which area group has the most wealth? How do you feel about the way things are distributed? How do you feel about the amount of food your group received?

Have students brainstorm for 5 minutes and then share about how and why they would divide the wealth.

For more activities and information, visit the Canadian Foodgrains Bank *Fast for Change* website at www.fastforchange.ca.

PWS&D is a member of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partnership of 15 Canadian church-based agencies working to end hunger in developing countries around the world.



Fasting for Food Justice

According to the United Nations, six million children die of hunger every year—17,000 every day—however, global per capita food production has been increasing substantially for the past several decades.

You are invited to stand up against this kind of inequality by joining with thousands of people from across the country in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank *Fast for Change* on October 16, World Food Day. Taking time to fast—whether it is from food or something else—provides an opportunity to reflect on why some people in the world don't have the choice of whether they will go to bed hungry while others enjoy great abundance.

Worship and educational resources are available for your congregation or group, free of charge. Visit www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd to learn more.

A GIFT OF HOPE



Presbyterian World Service & Development

The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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