



Making a Difference

A Devotional produced by the
PWRDF Youth Council



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada





The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, seeking to build a truly just, healthy and peaceful world, works in 28 countries with a variety of local partners and covers a wide spectrum in the field of international development. We hope that this devotional will help you explore the history of PWRDF as well as the various pillars of PWRDF's work: food security, preventive health, humanitarian relief and refugee support, poverty reduction, human rights and peace. We pray that this resource will help you in your mission to seek justice in our world.

— PWRDF National Youth Council Resources Committee, May 2017



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History of PWRDF



LOOK AT THE local and international news of the day. People are being forced to leave their homes due to climate change, violence and a lack of food. People's human rights are being violated. People are living in war-torn worlds. It can seem overwhelming.

What is our response? As Anglicans, it is through The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, the official development and relief agency of the Anglican Church of Canada.

In 1958, a coal mine explosion in Springhill, Nova Scotia killed 75 miners. Anglicans and Canadians felt called to help and the Anglican Church of Canada realized that the church needed an efficient way to respond to emergency situations.

In 1959, The Primate's World Relief Fund was founded by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. It was renamed The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund in 1969 to reflect its maturing program focus and philosophy.

Today, The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund is a separately incorporated, registered charitable agency within the Anglican Church of Canada. It is a Christian organization engaged in international development, relief and social justice around the world.



Cool facts

- PWRDF engages in development through partnership by connecting with local organizations and supporting them in their vision.
- PWRDF works in Canada (Indigenous Communities, emergency response) as well as all over the world
- PWRDF is a member of many ecumenical organizations including the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), helping PWRDF to increase its overall impact.
- PWRDF could not do this work without the amazing support of volunteers: diocesan representatives, parish representatives, board of director's members, Refugee Network members, National Youth Council members all make PWRDF's work possible.

Prayer

*Just God, You call us to seek justice, love mercy and to walk humbly with You. Let us not be apathetic to the calls of those who are oppressed by the forces of injustice. Ignite in us a drive to engage in development and relief work both at home and abroad. **Amen.***



BRAINSTORM ways that you can engage in social justice work in your community and further afield. Does that mean sharing PWRDF stories with friends in person or through social media? Fundraising for a PWRDF project? Engaging your local church in a PWRDF project?



SHARE PWRDF stories with friends



FUNDRAISE for a PWRDF project, with such projects as the Ride for Refuge. There are PWRDF teams across Canada and if there is not one within your city, then we encourage you to start your own! Ride for Refuge has various lengths for the ride as well as a walk if you are not comfortable riding



FUNDRAISE World of Gifts (<https://pwrdf.org/worldofgifts/>) is a great way to fundraise in your parish or with your family. Honour your loved ones at Christmas, Easter or anytime celebrations are in order while supporting PWRDF partners. Bake sales and craft sales are also a fun way to raise money towards World of Gifts items, which support people in developing nation communities



ENGAGE your local church in a PWRDF project (e.g. Sign up for daily Advent and Lent Devotionals), host an awareness exercise about a particular issue, such as Mapping the Ground We Stand On.



CONNECT Instagram: [PWRDF_justgeneration](#)
Facebook: [@pwrdfjustgeneration](#) Check out pwrdf.org/youth-movement to find ways to engage in PWRDF projects. There are many options including hosting a PWRDF event, or becoming a member of the National Youth Council

Food Security



WE OFTEN HEAR about the issue of global hunger, but did you know that it goes beyond simply making sure that people have enough to eat? This is where food security comes in. Simply put, it means having access to a sufficient, sustainable amount of food that is both affordable and nutritious.

How PWRDF Makes a Difference

PWRDF's work in the area of food security has helped many to achieve goals and bring stability and prosperity to their families, as can be seen in the case of Champa Begum, her husband Saifu and her youngest child.

The family lives in the Shalpa Naru village in Bangladesh where they use their land as a garden in order to supplement their food and income.

At a workshop held by PWRDF partner UBINIG, Champa learned about the nutritional value of sweet gourds. She did not have any sweet gourd seeds so she visited the nearby Nayakrishi Seed Hut. Seed huts are supported by UBINIG where farmers can store and borrow seeds. Champa borrowed enough seeds to start her first crop of sweet gourds.

This crop did so well that she not only had enough gourds to feed her family, but also had gourds left to sell at the market, the proceeds of which she used to purchase a goat.

However, Champa's goal was to purchase a cow. Previously, she had sold her cow when her daughter was married and never had the money to replace it.

Just six months after she started to grow sweet gourds, her goat was old enough to be sold, and with the money from the sale, Champa purchased a calf. In one season Champa was able to grow sweet gourds to feed her family, return the borrowed seeds with enough left to plant next season and purchase a cow. Champa and her family now have food security: a sustainable amount of affordable, nutritious food.

Prayer

*Dear Lord, we pray for those who do not have access to affordable, nutritious food, and for those for whom finding this food is difficult. We pray that through raising awareness and being informed about this issue, we can help in its resolution. We ask for Your help as we work together to ensure that everyone has enough to eat, in Jesus' name. **Amen.***



ENGAGE Hold a movie night with your youth group, friends, or family, and watch the movie *The Hunger Games* with PWRDF's *Hunger is Not a Game* resource: pwrdf.org/resources. This resource shows how key scenes from the movie connect to real world issues in the area of food security and provides reflections, activities, and information on the work being done by PWRDF and partners around the world



CONNECT Go to www.fredsays.ca to learn about the 5 A's of Food Security (Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability, Appropriate and Agency), and PWRDF's work in this area.

Preventive Health



LIVING IN CANADA, health care is something that is far too often taken for granted. Once you cross the Canadian border and enter other countries, the same cannot always be said. Health care is a topic of concern around the world and PWRDF is working with partners to try to relieve some of that distress.

In May of 2016, 686 Community Health Workers from Tanzania, Mozambique and Burundi were given bicycles as a way to travel between villages and hamlets in order to see patients. These bicycles provided much needed transportation for these workers to be able to travel quickly between towns, and efficiently up and down the rolling hills of these countries.

One Community Health Worker named Fatuma Mohamed Bora from Tanzania serves in 1 village and 10 hamlets caring for 986 households! The bicycle that she was provided made it possible for her to commute from home to the hamlets which were between 1 and 8 kilometers away. Fatuma works to provide not only health care but also education surrounding health care to the people she treats. This information is especially vital to new mothers because it gives them information so that their children will be healthy.

Each bicycle that is provided costs close to \$100 yet the impact that it has on the lives of hundreds is priceless.

Prayer

*Healing God,
We pray for the hands of those who heal others,
We pray for the hearts of those who provide healing words,
We pray for the support of many from all corners of the world,
We pray for health care workers who try so hard to dedicate their time to heal and make others well,
We thank everyone who provides support in all forms,
We thank those who try to make others well
and care for those in suffering and pain
We thank You God for providing your support and wisdom to those who work to aid others. **Amen.***



ENGAGE While Canada does have universal health care, not everyone and everything is covered. Often agencies are in need of goods that are costly (e.g. hygiene items, first aid supplies). Check with your local agencies to see if they are experiencing a shortfall. Organize a drive for the items they need



LEARN about the work PWRDF is doing around Maternal, Newborn and Child Health by watching this video <https://youtu.be/Q6PALFQfOEw> . Brainstorm ways to get involved with preventive health on an international level with PWRDF.

Refugee Support



THE TERM 'REFUGEE' is used frequently in our daily language but what does it mean to be a refugee or to provide support to refugees? The Syrian refugee crisis for example, has been all over the news for several years now and support is still greatly needed. PWRDF works to provide support to many impacted by the global refugee crisis.

How PWRDF Makes a Difference

PWRDF has been helping refugees since 1959 — just a few months after the organization started. At that point in time, PWRDF was supporting refugees from India but throughout the past several decades, PWRDF has supported refugees from Syria, Colombia, Myanmar, Iraq, South Sudan, China, Pakistan and many other countries.

One of the biggest ways in which PWRDF has supported refugees is through ecumenical partnerships. Through the ACT Alliance, PWRDF is responding to the needs of Syrian refugees by providing displaced people in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan with food, water, health care, shelter and education. Through CFGB, PWRDF is providing food to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Beirut as well as in Syria. Many parishes in Canada have worked to sponsor families seeking new and safe homes.

One example is a family of six living near Toronto, Ontario. This family has four young children — their youngest two being twins! Originally from Syria, this family had applied to be refugees in Canada but they had started to lose hope that they would be accepted when they found out that they were pregnant with twins. When they finally heard that they had been accepted by Canada, they felt as though a large weight had been lifted off their shoulders. However, before they could move to Canada, the time came for the twins to be born. The father was no longer in Syria therefore it was up to the mother to deliver the babies on her own. Soon after giving birth to healthy twins, bombs started dropping close to the hospital where they were born. Terrified, she tried to grab her children and run out of the hospital. Fortunately, she was stopped by hospital staff as it was too soon for her to leave after giving birth.

Many months later, the family is now safe and settled in Canada, appreciative of the support and aid that they

have received from Canadians and PWRDF. Without that support, this family would still be in Syria frightened by bombs dropping around them and struggling to stay safe.

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;

Look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, who are homeless and who are hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief; Inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;

And guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your place of justice and of peace;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

–A Prayer for Refugees. Posted by the Church of England
(<https://www.churchofengland.org>)



REFLECT on refugees with your church or youth group by watching these two short videos and discussing the questions below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTomywMRngc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqOZCC-aEV0>

- What is the difference between you and a refugee?
- What does it mean to be a neighbour?
- What is something that you can do to help refugees and the refugee crisis? It can be something small or it can be something on a larger scale
- Does your church sponsor a refugee family or do you know of one that does? If so, having a member of the family come and speak to your youth group can be a powerful experience for youth, even if it is only a brief talk



CONNECT If you have more time to reflect upon refugees or you would like a glimpse into some of the decisions that face refugee families daily, then check out this activity titled 'Forced to Flee' that was created by CFGB: <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/product/forced-to-flee-a-simulation-on-decision-making-during-conflict-and-migration/>

- This activity can take close to 1 hour to complete and was created with youth aged 12 and up in mind.

Poverty Reduction



POVERTY CAN AFFECT anyone, anywhere. There are very few places in the world, if any, that do not have people who struggle with poverty. Yet people living in places that are also affected by natural disasters, food shortages, disease or conflict are especially vulnerable to the most serious impacts of poverty.

How PWRDF Makes a Difference

Much of the work PWRDF does is to reduce poverty, as either a cause or symptom of more specific needs. Poverty reduction is an underlying factor of many parts of the work of PWRDF.

The work of PWRDF partner Madre Tierra in Guatemala is a good example. Madre Tierra works on agricultural sustainability and women's rights in Guatemala, seeking to improve the lives of their community. Historically, they were persecuted and driven from their lands by civil war, their way of life uprooted. Madre Tierra has worked for many years as advocates for education, health, food security and income security for the Indigenous people of Guatemala. In partnership with communities, local groups, and NGOs, Madre Tierra works to improve the standard of living for those who have suffered hardship and violations of rights for decades.

Prayer

*Creator God,
You loved the world into life.
Forgive us when our dreams of the future
are shaped by anything other
than glimpses of a kingdom of justice, peace
and an end to poverty.
Incarnate God,
You taught us to speak out for what is right.
Make us content with nothing less than a world
that is transformed into the shape of love,
where poverty shall be no more.
Breath of God,
let there be abundant life.*

*Inspire us with the vision of poverty over,
and give us the faith, courage and will
to make it happen. Amen.*

–Posted on the Christian Aid website
(<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>)



LEARN more about Madre Tierra. PWRDF has created two videos highlighting their work: <https://youtu.be/Gy06yXV0Ldw>

And a PWRDF Home Video, which is a bit more in depth, can be found here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yLLv_e6lus



REFLECT on how poverty impacts us locally and internationally:

- Think about where you see poverty in your community and internationally and how that might be connected to issues of food security, education or health
- How might improving one of these areas in people's lives help pull them out of poverty? What other specific global concerns can you think of that might be connected to poverty?
- What areas or issues could you engage with in your community to help reduce poverty?

Human Rights and Peace



CHILDREN BORN TO migrant construction workers often do not receive documentation when they are born. This is the case for many children born of Burmese migrant workers in Mae Sot, Thailand. Without documentation, they cannot claim citizenship in either Burma or Thailand, they cannot go to school and they are at higher risk for child trafficking.

Close your eyes. You are 5 years old and it is your first day of school. You are so excited! You go to register and the principal says that she needs your birth certificate. However, you do not have a birth certificate. You were never given one when you were born. The principal says that without a birth certificate, you are a nobody. You cannot go to school. You can never get a health card number or go to the doctor. You can never get a social insurance number and get a job. You cannot get citizenship in your country. You are invisible. You are considered non-existent. You could disappear and nobody would notice.

How PWRDF Makes a Difference

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Article 6 states, "Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law". The Committee for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights (CPPCR), a PWRDF partner, works with local schools, hospitals and villages to register the births of children of migrant workers in Thailand. Birth registration records a child's age, gender, names, parents and country of origin, helping to prove each child's identity. Since 2000, CPPCR has worked with the Thai government to get identification for children. They go into communities and raise awareness about the importance of birth registration and give community members the tools to register their children. Over 25,000 children have received documentation and are now far better protected. Birth registration is a fundamental human right. CPPCR is helping to uphold this human right.

Prayer



Creator of us all, You have known us since before we were born. Every single one of us is created in your image and we are worth more than we can even imagine.

For the oppressed and the exploited, strengthen and support them. You have shown a special concern for the needy in our world. May that concern inspire us to work for a more just society and working for that time where there will be an end to suffering, mourning and pain. Amen.



REFLECT Watch the YouTube Video: *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvL_6fXECP4)

- Did any of the human rights mentioned surprise you?
- Do you think any are missing?
- If not, where can we improve? Brainstorm tangible ways to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in your community, in Canada and the world



SHARE One of the challenges is that people often do not know their human rights. Find a way to share the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with others: (http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf)



ENGAGE Hold an Instagram Challenge: Over 30 days, find creative ways to share the 30 articles in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Get your friends involved and make it a competition!

- Print off the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and put it in a visible place in your church or youth space. Using sticky notes have youth or church members write ways that they will uphold other people's human rights. Post the sticky notes around the Declaration to create a display
- Create a video, skit, song, spoken word poem, drawing, essay or story about a certain article in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or human rights in general. Share it at your youth group, church and/or school

National Youth Project: Right to Water (2012-2018)



IMAGINE THIS: it is a hot day in the middle of the summer and you want something to drink. You go to the tap, and within seconds, you have a glass of cold water, right there at your fingertips. We are familiar with this scenario, but for many people around the world and here in Canada, access to water is not that simple.

How PWRDF Makes a Difference

The 2012-2018 National Youth Project (NYP) is an initiative that engages Anglican and Lutheran youth from across Canada in indigenous water security issues. The current goal of the NYP is to provide water and wastewater systems to homes in the First Nation's community of Pikangikum, Ontario.

At the 2016 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering, over 850 Canadian youth took part in the National Youth Project — Right to Water. In small groups, the youth engaged in a variety of activities designed to inform them about the issues related to water access. One of these activities involved carrying a full bucket of water a short distance, as well as carrying it over something, under something, and transferring water between two buckets using only available objects, such as hats, water bottles and shoes. Many people in Canada, including the community of Pikangikum, have limited access to running water and may have to haul water every day. Lack of clean, running water has many social implications including physical and mental health issues.

After participating in these activities, the youth were given postcards to sign and send to the Canadian government urging them to take action to improve water accessibility for all communities in Canada. In 2018, a new National Youth Project will be announced.

Prayer

*Dear Lord, we pray for those who do not have access to safe, clean water and for those for whom finding water is difficult. We pray that through raising awareness and becoming informed and engaged, we can help in its resolution. We ask for Your help as we work together to ensure that everyone has access to clean water. In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Humanitarian Relief and Emergency Response



RESPONDING LOCALLY is only one way that PWRDF is involved in emergency response. Through the ACT Alliance, an ecumenical alliance of 146 churches and faith-based organizations working together in over 100 countries, PWRDF is able to provide food, shelter and sanitation during the disaster.

In 2016, wildfires in Northern Alberta blazed through the town of Fort McMurray. More than 100 000 people had to be evacuated and countless lost their homes as well as all their belongings. In response, PWRDF received over \$280,000 in generous support from Anglicans in Canada to help the Diocese of Athabasca and the Diocese of Edmonton meet the needs of evacuees. This included food, water, clothing, toiletries, bedding and more.

Having had experience with the Slave Lake fires in 2011, PWRDF realized the amount of time it takes to rebuild a community following a natural disaster. To ensure long-term support, PWRDF invested in rebuilding projects including materials for schools, home repairs, renovations and support for individuals and families.

Prayer

Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss. Bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayer for strength. Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation. May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead.

We ask your blessing on all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope. Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance. May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone.

Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

–Written by Sr. Katherine Freely SND.
Posted on Education for Justice
(<https://educationforjustice.org>)



ENGAGE Look at the ACT alliance web page (www.actalliance.org) and learn how the ACT alliance and PWRDF are responding to emergencies around the world



ENGAGE Unfortunately there are a lot of emergencies which are forgotten shortly after the initial disaster. Find a 'forgotten' or 'underfunded' emergency and:

- Host an education event about the disaster
- Host a fundraising event
- Develop a social media campaign about 'forgotten' emergencies to educate people about the work that still needs to be done



GATHER your family, youth group, church or community together and learn about disaster preparedness. Identify vulnerable people who would need help in the event of power outages, extreme weather or natural disaster. Ensure that you and your community are ready for a natural disaster



CONNECT Watch this video with song by Ken Mann reflecting on the impacts and response to the 2016 Alberta Fires: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WNGa94IfnM>. Disasters can occur close to home as well as all around the world: Wildfires, hurricanes, floods, drought and earthquakes to name a few. They can affect communities for years following the initial disaster. Brainstorm some local disasters that have occurred in Canada. Do you know of any disasters that are currently occurring around the world?

Notes

[illegible]

[illegible]



PWRDF Youth Council, 2017

Youth Council is a group of youth and young adults representing ecclesiastical provinces of the Anglican Church of Canada, as well as ecumenical partner organizations.

Our role is to connect the work of PWRDF with youth and young adults in communities across the country. Recognizing the power of youth to create positive social change, we seek to develop opportunities for young people to engage with issues of justice — both nationally and internationally — in ways that resonate with our identity as Christians.



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