



CRWRC

Through the Dust

A MAGAZINE FOR CRWRC CHAMPIONS AND DEACONS

www.crwrc.org

Fall/Winter 2010



CRWRC Champions Are Changing **Page 4**

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World Hunger Campaign
and More! **Page 6-7**

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Lord Does!" **Page 10**

Join "A Show of Hands"
for the MDGs **Page 15**



Through the Dust

FROM THE DESK OF WENDY HAMMOND, U.S. CHURCH RELATIONS MANAGER

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Dear Friends,

As you may remember from the last issue of *Through the Dust*, budget shortfalls have weighed heavily on the minds of staff over the past year. However, we now have good news to report.

Andrew Ryskamp, director of CRWRC, writes, "Because of your pivotal involvement in the lives of people who subsist in poverty daily around the world, CRWRC was able to successfully end the fiscal year in the black at the end of June. Praise God! Not only were we able to meet

and exceed our adjusted 2009-10 budget of \$10.2 million, we were also able to avoid significantly tapping our reserve funds. As a result, we are starting 2010-11 as a 'right-sized' organization. Through prudent, nimble reductions mid-stream last year and a flat budget this year, we can continue to replenish our reserves and focus on the quality community-based ministry that CRWRC is known for around the world. Your loyal support makes this work possible."

In other words, thank you! Christian Reformed churches provide such a base of support for incredible ministry. CRWRC's work is recognized by many organizations and governments around the world which means your donations go even further. For example, our supporters gave \$7.9 million for Haiti relief, and those donations were matched by various organizations so that the total programming will be about \$10 million. God is so good!

The following pages provide updates on how you can get involved in the work of CRWRC, as well as stories about what your support makes possible.

Thanks again,

—Wendy



Ride for Refuge



Ride Your Bike, Help the Hungry

Ride your bike for CRWRC on October 2, 2010, in a fundraising bike-a-thon happening in Grand Rapids, Chicago, and other cities across the U.S. Bike routes range from 5 to 60 miles. Anyone can ride—just be sure to select "CRWRC-World Hunger" or "CRWRC-Disaster Response" when you designate a non-profit to ride for. Form a team as a church or start your own. Go to www.rideforrefuge.org to learn more. Too late for this year's ride? Join us in 2011!



Save the Date!

Fall and Winter 2010

Order your free CRWRC church and family resources today by calling 1-800-CRCNA-01 or learn more at www.crwrc.org/order!

August 25

2010-2011 CRWRC Gift Catalog ready

October 10

Micah Challenge 10.10.10 "Lend A Hand" Campaign

October 17

2010 World Hunger Campaign begins

November 1

World Hunger Week begins

November 7

World Hunger Sunday CRWRC offering

November 25

Thanksgiving Day CRWRC offering

November 28

Advent begins

December 1

World AIDS Day 2010

December 25

Christmas Day bulletins and CRWRC offering

March 6

CRWRC Disaster Response Services Sunday

Optional CRWRC Offering

May 29, 2011

Embrace AIDS Sunday

For more information, visit www.crwrc.org.

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Churches and Champs in Action

CHAMPION: IT'S SOMETHING YOU DO!



Do you feel that tug in your heart to volunteer with CRWRC but don't think globetrotting is for you? You can be vitally involved with CRWRC without leaving home! As a CRWRC Champion, you can make a tangible difference in the future of your church and directly help CRWRC expand its capacity—while using your skills, strengths, and passions at the same time!

When you become a **CRWRC Champion**, you can engage your church members in the fight against poverty and injustice worldwide.

Position Overview

CRWRC is committed to engaging and educating congregations in literacy, health, agriculture, justice, leadership and community development, small business development, and relief as a way to respond to poverty, injustice, and disaster in the name of Jesus around the world. By investing in people who are eager to learn about these issues and engage others, lives can be transformed!

Key Responsibilities

1. Actively collaborate with your church leadership and committees to engage your local congregation in CRWRC projects.
2. Participate in training opportunities and become familiar with CRWRC resources in the areas of

sustainability, community development, disaster response, communication, and collaboration by means of

- Initial orientation
- Classis or regional training conferences
- Suggested readings
- Webinars and teleconferences with other CRWRC Champions

3. Maintain communication with your CRWRC classis board delegate and CRWRC church relations staff through email, biannual activity reports, training, and other opportunities.

Initial Impact

- Your church leaders will have information about upcoming educational and giving opportunities with CRWRC.
- Your church will have scheduled visits from CRWRC missionaries.
- Your church will be engaged in the annual World Hunger Campaign.
- Your church leaders will have access to children's giving projects for church school and vacation Bible school.
- Your church leaders will have information for international or domestic service opportunities with CRWRC.
- Your church will create opportunities for local community development in your own neighborhood.

—Kellie Scholma

What's the Next Step? Take the First Step!

It's very likely that the CRWRC Church Champion job description fits someone you know...Perhaps a college student? Someone on the missions committee? A past CRWRC volunteer? Maybe it's you! We are looking for passionate people in churches all around the United States. Find the full details at www.crwrc.org, and fill out a short volunteer profile. After that, Kellie Scholma will be in touch to talk some more and answer questions!

Service Learning Opportunities



CRWRC has Service Learning Opportunities for you and your congregation. Self-funded opportunities for individuals range from one week to 36 months.

Opportunities for Individuals

Now taking applications!

Bangladesh

- Story Writer/Teller, 3-6 months.
- English Teacher in Dhaka, 3-6 months
- CRWRC Grant Writer, 3-6 months
- Bangladesh Community Development & Agricultural Volunteer Facilitator, 12 months with possibility of extension

Cambodia

- Farmer Field School Implementation Coordinator, 3-12 months
- Health Programming Facilitator/trainer, 12 months with possibility of extension

Honduras

(Fluent Spanish required)

- Nutritional Health Educator (Community Health and Nutrition Education), 7 months

- Diaconia Assistant Director, 12 months

India

- CRWRC Grant Writer, 1-3 months
- Story Writer/Teller, 3-6 months

Malawi

- IT Trainer—train partner organization staff in Microsoft Office and basic email
- Teachers—high school; math, English
- Librarian—high school
- Teachers—kindergarten
- Agronomist
- Vocational Teachers—welding, carpentry, computer science, auto mechanics
- Grant writer

Mozambique

- Organization Development Volunteer, 6-24 months

Nigeria

- Accountant/Information Technology Specialist
- Chief Administrative Officer
- Program Officer
- Publicity and Advocacy Officer

Zambia

- Administrative & Management Consultant—6 months

Opportunities for Work Teams

Together you can build latrines, provide water storage and potable water systems, make housing improvements, do roofing and home construction, teach sewing, and many other types of service in the following countries.

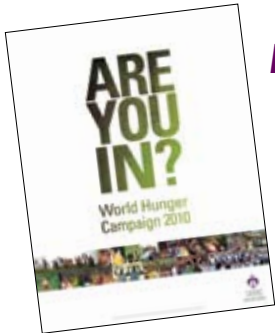
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Malawi
- United States
- Canada



Want to know more?

For information on these and other Service Learning opportunities, visit www.crwrc.org and click on the Volunteer tab, or contact Mary Dykstra at 800-552-7972, or email servicelearning@crwrc.org.

Fall/Winter Resources 2010-2011



NEW! **CRWRC** **2010 World** **Hunger** **Campaign**

Are You In?

Materials for CRWRC's World Hunger Campaign "Are you in?" are ready *now* for church use this fall, October 17 to November 7, 2010! Congregations in your area received a project announcement and sample copy in late August.

CRWRC's World Hunger Campaign 2010 is a celebration of Christ's body around the world—and a call to join the action. A great learning opportunity for the whole church, the World Hunger project includes worship and devotional resources, leader's guide, Peter Fish banks, and bulletin and promotional materials. Can CRWRC "count you in" on fighting World Hunger in 2010?

- **Are You In? Devotional Guide** contains three weeks of family devotions and activities that

Feed the

Feed the Fish

Peter Fish is going virtual! CRWRC is launching a Facebook campaign to spread the word and "Feed the Fish" as much as possible. Our goal—to maximize the number of people and number of dollars committed to the fight against hunger. Want to know more? Go to www.crwrc.org/fish!



make hunger a matter of learning, prayer, and action.

- **Are You In? Leader's Guide** includes a sample worship service, song suggestions, bulletin announcements, children's sermons, and more!
- **Are You In? Bulletin inserts, covers, and poster** are available for your congregation.

Order your CRWRC World Hunger Campaign 2010 materials today! Request your FREE copy to use now or any time of year by calling 1-800-CRCNA-01 or visit www.crwrc.org/order.

New Resources



NEW! 2010 **Thanksgiving** **Bulletin Insert** **Give Thanks Where** **Thanks Is Due**

What does a widow in Uganda have in common with a married mother of two in Guelph, Ontario? The two have never met, but they are intricately related through CRWRC's Free A Family© program. This Thanksgiving, your church family can give thanks for God's blessings in your lives by sharing your gifts of gratitude with families in need in Uganda and around the world.

CRWRC 2010 "Give Thanks Where Thanks Is Due" Thanksgiving bulletin inserts are available to order today by calling 1-800-CRCNA-01 or visiting www.crwrc.org/order.



NEW! CRWRC **2010-2011 Gift** **Brochure for Your** **Thanksgiving** **Offering** **Give Hope**

A smaller, 7"x10" version of our larger 2010-2011 CRWRC Gift Catalog that tucks neatly into your church mailboxes or Thanksgiving Day bulletins! The Gift Brochure includes a sampling of items from our larger catalog, including those items you love like pigs, calves, soccer balls, and clean water. Do Thanksgiving right this year by giving a gift of gratitude to someone in need.



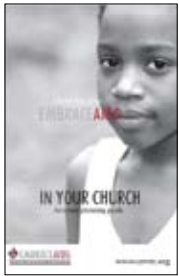
NEW! CRWRC **2010-2011** **Gift Catalog** **Give Hope**

An alternative with purpose for holiday, birthday, or other giving, the CRWRC Gift Catalog is a great way for families, schools, church schools, small groups, or anyone who wants to give a meaningful gift that also makes a difference in the lives of people living in poverty around the world. Chickens, ducks, trees, bikes, goats and oxen are just a few of the items listed in this exciting catalog provides the opportunity to give locally and globally.

Give Hope with CRWRC this Christmas. Order your 2010-2011 CRWRC Annual Gift Catalog today from www.crwrc.org/order or by calling 1-800-CRCNA-01.

When you call, request a gift card(s) to present to your

recipient(s) that tells how your gift helps another family. We will also send you a receipt for tax purposes.



World AIDS Day

Christians around the world join to pray and take action on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, World

AIDS Day. CRWRC's awareness-building materials provide your congregation with resources from offering suggestions to a full worship service.

- *Embrace AIDS in Your Church* is a planning guide with instructions for nine different events, dozens of additional ideas, tips for success, and many other CRWRC AIDS resources. Great for congregations who want to do more about the global AIDS pandemic!
- **NEW!** The *2010 World AIDS Day Postcard* highlights CRWRC's work in HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and caregiver support around the world. Use it with your mid-week classes and services in 2010.
- *Embrace AIDS Worship Packet* is a complete, easy-to-use resource that includes everything needed for AIDS-focused corporate worship and intervention.

Order your Embrace AIDS planning guide and worship packet today by calling 1-800-CRCNA-01. Also, check on the availability of the **NEW!** 2010 World AIDS Day Postcard from www.crwrc.org.



Christmas Day 2010 Bulletin Insert

Rejoice in the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son, into the world as a baby! Specially designed CRWRC bulletin covers and inserts for your Christmas worship celebrate Jesus' birth and the peace that only the Christ-child can bring.

Order your CRWRC Christmas bulletin covers or inserts today from www.crwrc.org/order or call 1-800-CRCNA-01.

Haiti Earthquake Updates

CRWRC has received more than \$10 million to bring essential relief and help restore lives in Haiti! Keep your congregation updated on CRWRC's Haiti earthquake response by downloading one of these great resources today. See how your support is making a real difference in the lives of Haiti earthquake survivors.

Download these **print** resources from www.crwrc.org/haiti or your church mailboxes or lobby:



The **6-month Update** is a snapshot of CRWRC's work on the road to recovery in Haiti.

Learn about the emergency relief already received and learn about the next steps toward restoration.



The **3-month Update** shows in detail how the emergency phase of earthquake response in Haiti progressed and how CRWRC's established presence in developing countries like Haiti can often bring quick relief in times of disaster.

Use these **visual** updates for your church offering time! Download them for an upcoming worship service today from www.crwrc.org/haiti.



A **Haiti Update PowerPoint presentation** shows how CRWRC's presence prepared partners and staff for emergency response and chronicles the first days of relief distribution.



The **"Hope Rising Like Dough" video** (4:15) is a story of restoration among community members who recovered their bakery business from the ruins of the January earthquake.



The **6-month video update** (8:22) shows the progress and hope CRWRC is bringing as Haitian families rebuild their lives. Tells the stories of staff and participants who lived through the disaster.



The **"Madame Guirlene" video update** (5:08) tells how one CRWRC participant received resources to help her cope after losing everything.

Responding to Disaster

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

CRWRC Bears Witness in Pakistan Floods



Eduardo Diaz, www.un.org.



CRWRC is responding to devastating summer floods in Pakistan with a multi-million-dollar emergency response through long-time partner InterFaith League Against Poverty (ILAP). Weeks of rain that started in July caused mudslides, collapsed buildings, and covered entire villages with muck and water. More than 15 million people across the country were affected by the disaster, 1,500 were killed, and more than a million homes were damaged or destroyed.

“It’s a desperate situation,” says Wayne de Jong, director for relief and rehabilitation. “People have nowhere to live and nothing to

cook on. They need clean water and a way to eat.”

CRWRC has provided emergency relief aid to 64,000 displaced people in the Nowshera and Charsadda Districts of the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, including 8,000 mosquito nets, 1,000 basic hygiene kits, kitchen utensils, shelter tents, and trauma counseling. CRWRC is also distributing thousands of one-month food supply packages that include flour, oil, beans, salt, sugar, and spices.

Northwestern Pakistan, where CRWRC’s emergency response is focused, borders Afghanistan where extremist groups are

reported to be active. CRWRC director Andrew Ryskamp says that the agency’s response is an important component there. “This is what we as the church are called to in Matthew 5:44, to be children of our Father in heaven who love our neighbor. This is where living justice and loving mercy become visible.”

CRWRC has continued to assess the disaster and its response based on the needs and the funding available. DeJong estimates that given the size and scope of the devastation, CRWRC will have opportunities to continue to assist in Pakistan in longer-term rehabilitation.

How can you help Pakistan flood survivors?

Pakistan will continue to struggle to recover from this pervasive, catastrophic disaster for years to come through already marginal economic, education, and health systems. With your support, CRWRC hopes to continue to help Pakistanis displaced by flooding with items like these:

- \$5 Mosquito net
- \$20 Hygiene kit
- \$30 Kitchen set
- \$160 Shelter tent

Give to “Pakistan Flooding 2010” today at www.crwrc.org/donate or call 1-800-55-CRWRC.

CRWRC-Disaster Response Services

Hooked on Serving with CRWRC

Although Sara Gifford had volunteered to help with Hurricane Katrina recovery on the Gulf Coast, when she left on a mission trip to Slidell, Louisiana, she knew she would be traveling outside her comfort zone. What she didn't realize was how rewarding her experience there would be!

Sara and her husband, Theo, left Holland, Michigan, in mid-March for a week of volunteer construction work with CRWRC Disaster Response Services. Their destination was Sovereign Grace Fellowship Church in Slidell, where they would meet up with 20 more volunteers from across the U.S. and Canada.

"Sovereign Grace is a small church of about 12 families," Gifford says. "Since Katrina, they've focused on helping out in the neighborhood around the church—ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of their community." Gifford and her fellow volunteers helped complete an annex at the church that, when finished, would house a community pantry filled with donated food, clothing, and household items for church members to distribute to their neighbors—along with sharing the gospel.

"What touched my heart the most was a family who had some means and needed not only physical help to rebuild their home, but also spiritual fellowship to strengthen them." Gifford says the family provided lunch for the work crews at their home each day and put on a "crawdad feed" at the church at the end of the week.

Gifford says that when she took a step of faith by giving her time and energy to help others, she found out "how fortunate I really am, and how rewarding a volunteer mission trip with CRWRC really is. By stepping out of my comfort zone, I opened myself up to live life more in keeping with God's will. Mission trips will open your eyes to walk with God. Try it—you'll get hooked, just like me!"



Interested in volunteering with CRWRC?

CRWRC is recruiting individuals and groups for Fall and Winter disaster response assignments. Visit www.greenshirts.org or call 800-848-5818 to find out more.

Country Updates

Bangladesh/India: In a new project called SUSOMA, CRWRC is training staff to help decrease deaths among babies under one month old. The staff teach community members the benefits of breastfeeding, proper baby wrapping, the importance of postnatal visits, and thermal warming or “kangaroo care” to help families save lives.

Cambodia: In a country that is 96 percent Buddhist, CRWRC staff work with churches and Christian organizations to help them testify to the one true God while transforming local communities through peace, justice, health, environmental, and disaster preparedness programs.

Indonesia: CRWRC and Christian partners are working in eleven villages in Western Java to help survivors recover after a September 2009 earthquake. The efforts, in a religiously sensitive area, are done by an interfaith group that is reaching out to their neighbors even though their village was previously burned down by extremists.

Laos: CRWRC is helping 15 adult learners in the small village of Sampoy learn to read and write at evening literacy classes held four nights a week. The dedication of both the learners and their teacher is exciting to see as the world of the written word opens up to them.

Journey Walk in Asia

Amazed at What the Lord Does

Often I feel so privileged to be a part of CRWRC’s work. It’s not always a “bowl of cherries,” but sometimes I have an amazing sense of seeing signs of Jesus’ kingdom drawing near. Here are some examples of why I felt this way while working in Bangladesh last month.

Bangladesh is filled with 155 million people, mostly very poor Muslims. Many people have called Bangladesh “a basket case”—and the changing weather patterns seem to be making things even more difficult!

Yet it is in Bangladesh that we find CRWRC working with Muslims and the Christian minority—Baptists, Lutherans, and Catholics—to help people in poverty organize small savings groups and then create larger groups called “People’s Institutions.” It is amazing what can be accomplished with small but regular savings. In one situation, a People’s Institution built an elementary school to provide their children with a decent education.



Also, CRWRC has added both midwife and community health training. We estimate that more than 300 babies’ lives have been saved in the last five years because of “simple” things like vaccinations, breastfeeding, proper childcare, and referring at-risk mothers to area hospitals. It’s amazing to see the respect our trained traditional birth attendants have built at district hospitals.

And there is more. Men in CRWRC agriculture programs have learned to increase food production on their small plots of land by using water more effectively, composting better, and rotating their crops with legumes.

I pray that what Jesus said to Nicodemus about “seeing the kingdom of God” will come true for many more people in Bangladesh: to see it, you’ve got to be “born again.” It feels to me that many people in Bangladesh are getting the opportunity to “see farther” through CRWRC.

—Tom Post, Asia Team Leader

Fighting for Better Health in Honduras

For several years CRWRC's partner, Stewardship Christian Ministries (MCM), has been working in Nueva Suyapa, Honduras, to strengthen women's leadership roles. Women have shown interest in helping their community develop, so MCM is training them in community transformation.

As a result, the women have formed committees to carry out a community plan. CRWRC and MCM train the committee's board members in participatory planning, biblical principles, and continuous learning. Most of the women leaders in Nueva Suyapa have also had the opportunity to serve as credit union board members, volunteering their time to others and to improving the community as well. Their good work has been recognized by regional leaders and the groups with which they work.

The women also participated in a national campaign against the spread of dengue hemorrhagic fever. The Honduran government issued a health alert in early 2010 saying that neither national nor local health departments had the capacity to train the residents of Nueva Suyapa and other communities in disease prevention.

The women leaders and their groups began to work with the health center in Nueva Suyapa. In all, 172 women were trained to teach dengue prevention techniques in their neighborhoods. Each group began with Bible reading and prayer before they started their tasks of the day.



The women were amazingly effective—and very grateful to be able to contribute to the health of their community. In all, they reached 85 percent of the families in Nueva Suyapa with disease prevention education and the message of God's love. "The rate of dengue cases in Nueva Suyapa was reduced by 90 percent compared to last year," according to the area health center director. The 172 CRWRC-trained volunteers gave their energy and enthusiasm to the project, and it had results far beyond what they imagined.

When national health department representatives heard about the efforts being made by the women in Nueva Suyapa, they approached the World Food Program for funding for hunger alleviation in their community. The World Food Program distributed 42 tons of food valued at HNL\$1,500,000 (US\$79,280) in the Nueva Suyapa area!

As a result of the leadership of the women in Nueva Suyapa, there is better health and wellness in their families and in their community. CRWRC and MCM will continue to help make changes that improve lives, emphasize service, and encourage leadership.

Country Updates

Guatemala: Women in remote Pull Chico, a dry, windswept village 3,300 feet above sea level, are growing tomatoes and other nutritious vegetables using drip irrigation systems, small greenhouses, and organic fertilizers. The women will use the crops to feed their families and earn income from selling their produce.

Dominican Republic: CRWRC is building a justice network in seven communities in La Romana. Program participants have learned about human and constitutional rights and labor law, and begun training to prevent child abuse, sexual harassment, and rape in their communities.

Nicaragua: One of CRWRC's unique roles is to equip church leaders to promote a biblical model of faithful, healthy relationships in their congregations and communities. CRWRC also educates about HIV and AIDS and the injustice of the stigma associated with this devastating, misunderstood disease.

Haiti: CRWRC is working with earthquake survivors who, although they may have been completely spared from the disaster, are traumatized by the magnitude of the destruction they witnessed. CRWRC is leading survivors through the grief process as they deal with stress and loss.

Farewell, Brother John



This year, John Orkar is ending many, many years of “heart and hands” ministry with CRWRC in Nigeria, West Africa.

“From the bottom of my heart, I am grateful to God Almighty and to CRWRC for 27 years of ministry,” John says.

Brother John and Sister Esther, as they are affectionately called, have devoted their lives to CRWRC and the Christian Reformed Church, and we shower this family with many blessings as they turn a new chapter in their lives.

John is slowly winding down his job tasks and will return to Canada by November 30, 2010. We wish Brother John blessings in his future endeavors, and we are thankful for the leadership he has provided to CRWRC and to the partner organizations he worked with in Nigeria.

Thank you, John, Esther, and the Orkar family!

Frank Yasweika’s 360-Degree Turn

Frank Yasweika’s life is an example of repentance and redemption. Frank is a vocal advocate for HIV and AIDS prevention, using his own experiences as a backdrop to counsel his family, friends, and neighbors in Salima, Malawi, with love and truth.

“Who will take care of you if you fall sick like me?” he asks. “I had a wife but she left me. I was rebellious, left home, and lived recklessly. I had affairs with countless women and eventually got married. As I became persistently sick, and it was clear that I was infected with HIV, my wife walked out of my life.”

Frank sought to make amends with his family and found that his mother received him with open arms despite his HIV-positive status. Their reunion was laced with sadness however, because he learned that his younger siblings had followed his poor example.

Frank, who now lives with his mother, is a member of a CRWRC Home-Based Care (HBC) support group in Salima. He says that he “sees the group’s work as an extension of God’s love.” Care providers often help group members with basic tasks like delivering anti-retroviral drugs and other medicines to those who are too weak to travel to a clinic or can’t afford bus fare.



CRWRC is also helping HBC volunteers build relationships with area health centers in Frank’s region of Malawi, three of which have ambulances. Thanks to the trust HBC workers have built with the clinic staff, these ambulances are available to pick up AIDS patients who are seriously ill from their homes so that they can receive appropriate medical attention.

CRWRC and the HBC program are bringing hope in Salima by creating awareness about HIV and AIDS. Through group members like Frank Yasweika, they are also breaking the stigma associated with the disease.



Patience Makes for Better Eggplant

When a farmer named Wilson Karisa living in a small village on the coast of Kenya earns \$20 growing and selling eggplant, it might not seem like a big deal. But it’s a huge deal to Wilson Karisa. That \$20 made it possible for him to open a savings account for the first time, deposit \$13 of his hard-earned cash, and invest the other \$7 in his future: vegetable seeds and pesticide to grow more crops.

In Kenya, where the average annual income is \$1,600 and the unemployment rate is 40 percent,

every penny counts. CRWRC is working with people like Wilson Karisa to ease hunger and poverty—and to do it by building community participation.

CRWRC-Kenya consultant Stephan Lutz says there is more to community participation than asking people to do things like help build their own livestock enclosure or help pay to rent an ox to plow their fields. “Participation means that community members are responsible to make the decisions that guide their projects: they plan their projects, implement, manage, monitor, and, most important, take control of them.”

Why is community participation so important in CRWRC’s work? When the decisions that affect a community are made by all of its members—not by an outside organization or donors—the community becomes responsible for the project’s outcome and will work hard toward their own success!

“Not only are community participation and ownership vital to the success of CRWRC programs, they also create results that are sustainable—not by CRWRC, but by the community itself. Unfortunately, there are many other programs that are far from being effective or sustainable.” Lutz says that it isn’t easy to understand why, when there are years of expert evidence to the contrary.

“I think it all comes down to a lack of patience, understanding, time, and flexibility with communities and partners,” Lutz says. “A great example of how CRWRC gets it right is Pwani Christian Community Services in the Ganze area of Kenya, where Wilson Karisa lives.”

Community members in Palakumi

developed their own vision for food security in their village by setting a goal of having enough well-balanced food throughout the year—and some surplus to sell for income.

“Pwani CCS helped the people of Palakumi through Farmer Field Schools,” Lutz explains. “The farmers use participatory methodologies to come up with technologies that work in their particular area. The process makes the farmers the experts.”

Participants used techniques like deep tillage with manure and other control techniques on six test plots. After comparing results, the farmers adopted the best performing treatment for continued applications on their individual farms. The Palakumi farmers are growing corn, eggplant, tomatoes, and kale in their demonstration plots for learning and income.

Did the people of Palakumi achieve their goal of better food security?

“Yes, they have,” Lutz says. “Wilson Karisa and the other farmers in Palakumi have varied their crops to better meet their family’s dietary needs, and they have enough food to sell the surplus.”

Lutz says that CRWRC “is dedicated to continuing to evaluate our strategies and prioritize what is most important for the very people we would like to help. Genuinely allowing communities to share their voices and acquire organizational and management skills to structure themselves is always great starting point.”

Watch a video about the importance of community ownership and participation in Ganze community at bit.ly/aNFQyh.

Country Updates

Mozambique: In northern Niassa, CRWRC is helping to bring Teams of Life to 147 communities hit hard by HIV and AIDS. Team members bring hope to people living with AIDS, their caregivers, and families through home visits, improved diet, literacy, and by being the hands and feet of Christ to those who need it most.

Mali: Local church leaders from four denominations have received Timothy Leadership Training that focuses on “How to Take Care of God’s People.” Pastor Guindo says that his first follow-up step will be “to bring peace and freedom to Christian children at the local school because they are despised by others for their faith.”

Niger: CRWRC staff recently brought together local churches and organizations who requested their assistance. The members formed a “learning circle” where they come together “as one force, bringing our resources and knowledge together to make an even bigger impact.” Their vision is catching on as CRWRC teaches the group discipleship, resource identification, logic frames, and human resource development.

Zambia: CRWRC is working with the Uganda Christian University to raise up African leaders through the Community Leadership And Development program. CLAD teaches developing African leaders to embrace their calling to make a difference, rise above mediocrity, avoid corruption, and lead with character and courage.

North American Ministries

When Worlds (Need to) Collide

Ed Note: CRWRC partners with the Communities First Association (CFA) in the U.S. to build a network of churches and Christian organizations that are active in local ministry. Lifeline Community Development Corporation (CDC) in Merced, Calif., is a member of the CFA network.

Sometimes we need our worlds to collide. Why? To learn what it means to “act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6:8)



To really live out this verse of Scripture, we may need to do some radical things—like interacting with people who are suffering from injustice, showing mercy by really being with a homeless person, and walking with God by walking with our fellow human being. At LifeLine CDC, we try to make these kinds of opportunities possible through projects like the “Bus Boutique.”

In Merced, California, as in most under-resourced neighborhoods in the U.S., there are few clothing stores or shopping outlets. LifeLine’s Bus Boutique is a converted school bus filled with new and gently used clothing. The bus travels to urban neighborhoods so local residents, who can’t afford a car or public transportation, can barter or volunteer for goods. Because the Bus Boutique is staffed by local community volunteers, the door is open to conversation and relationship-building among neighbors.

Local businesses in the greater Merced area also got on board the Bus Boutique. Radio Merced donated the school bus, and a major U.S. bank provided paint as part of its worldwide community service effort.

The people who came together to paint the bus came from a wide variety of backgrounds: A young woman who couldn’t find a job but has incredible artistic abilities; a

single mom who has an organized mind and a passion for the success of the Bus Boutique; a homeless man who has a master’s degree and is great with people; a welfare parent who has a giving heart and a dream to break the chain of poverty; and a number of students, all with their own stories.

These people never thought they could create a beautiful piece of art out of an old school bus. But though they thought they had nothing to give, they gave life to each other.

After LifeLine staff gave the bus a tune-up and retrofitted it with clothing racks, a group of community volunteers worked together to donate, wash, mend, sort, store, and hang the clothing—and they also began to talk and get to know each other. As they worked together, the barriers between “us” and “them” began to break down as they walked together and learned from each other. And, as we “walk humbly with our God,” we get to do life together.

By creating venues where people can do life together, CRWRC partners like CFA and Lifeline CDC provide opportunities to learn again what it means to act justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. When we build relationships with people, share our stories, and learn about each other, worlds collide and we begin to really live out Micah 6:8.

Advocates Create “A Show of Hands” against Hunger



CRWRC is asking church members, “Are you in?” during this fall’s World Hunger Campaign—asking if you are part of the millions who are ready to help end hunger in our world.

Part of being “in” is growing in our understanding of the complex causes of hunger and poverty. Consider the Millennium Development Goals—eight goals adopted by the global community in 2000 which, if met, would cut poverty in half by 2015. These goals name some of the root causes of hunger and poverty—the reasons people are hungry in the first place.

Consider this: A farmer may have the tools, the seeds, and the soil he needs to grow enough crops to sell at the market. But if there has been deforestation around his land, it will be too dry to generate much life. 🌳 He may have a daughter who has been going to school during the day who must now stay home to fetch water to help irrigate those crops. Without an education, 🎓 the farmer’s daughter is more susceptible to exploitation because of her gender, 🧑 and at much greater risk for contracting HIV. 🚫 In this scenario, this family has been impacted swiftly by four of the factors that the MDGs are trying to address. The root causes of poverty are often intertwined.

What can we do to better understand the complexities of hunger? Check out www.handsforMDGs.org, a CRCNA website that has educational resources and

congregational activities that can help you delve deeper into knowledge about the MDGs.

But once you know, there’s more you can do—you can be an advocate for change. This fall, join millions around the world who are praying and showing their hands in support of a renewed focus on the MDGs. Host “A Show of Hands” during worship, an eight-station MDG experience during your church’s coffee hour, or a youth group activity focused on the MDGs. You can find easy instructions for all these opportunities at www.handsforMDGs.org, or contact Meghan Kraley for details, at mkraley@crcna.org.

Who thinks we can cut hunger in half by 2015? Let’s see A Show of Hands!



**Kate Kooyman, our Congregational Justice Mobilizer in the U.S., left work with the CRCNA in August to pursue a new role at Hope College. She greatly misses working with CRWRC Champs and wishes the best to all those seeking justice and loving mercy in their own congregations.*

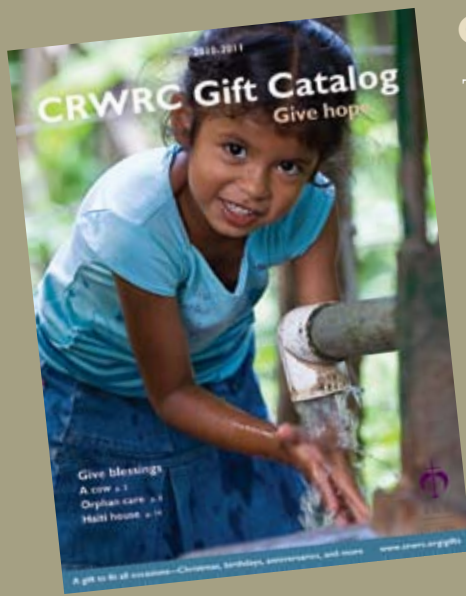


Not sure what these mean? Go to www.handsforMDGs.org to learn more!



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CRWRC 2010-2011 Gift Catalog

The CRWRC Gift Catalog is a fun, concrete way to involve churches, families, schools, VBS groups, and Christian schools in service to our global community—and bring hope to people in need! The gift catalog includes a variety of CRWRC project items like goats, calves, books, mosquito nets, fish, and pigs. The 2010-2011 CRWRC Gift Catalog reflects the scope of CRWRC's ministry around the world, including addressing human trafficking, assisting children orphaned by AIDS, and providing a warm blanket to someone displaced by a disaster or violence.

The 2010-2011 CRWRC Gift Catalog is available now! Order your free copies today at 1-800-CRCNA-01, or donate online at www.crwrc.org/gifts! Gift cards are also available.



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