

Living Matthew 25

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IT'S OUR WORLD

by Sean D. Krausert

Majestic mountains, pristine lakes, wonderful cultural diversity, and riches and resources beyond historical comparison. This is the *beautiful* world in which we live. Hunger, pandemics, economic crisis, and climate change. This is the *hurting* world in which we live. While both beautiful and hurting . . . it is OUR world.

Given the international economy, global communication, the age of information, and a complex network of media - it is no longer realistic to view oneself or one's people as being separate and apart from others. Seeing ourselves as separate from others ignores the realities of OUR world; and ignores the challenges and issues that are there to be seen and addressed. While it is easy to try and separate "us" from "them" - in the end it cannot be ignored that everyone in the world is part of WE.

WE are rich . . . and WE are poor. WE are living longer, and yet WE have AIDS. WE are impacting our environment, and WE are all impacted by the actions of one another. WE are highly educated and technologically advanced, and WE are illiterate and have never used a telephone. WE all have basic human rights, and WE are oppressed. WE all want to feel safe, and yet WE are in mortal danger. WE have medicine and science, yet WE are sick. WE have food and resources to feed everyone, and yet WE die of hunger. WE have angry groups of people who are desperate, and WE are responsible.

Living Matthew 25 is a celebration of what WE have, and a reminder of what WE can do with what we have. Its purpose is threefold - (i) to inform people of the needs of the world, (ii) to encourage people to assist in meeting the needs of the world, and (iii) to connect people with others who are working to meet the needs of the world.



WE have been blessed with the resources and intelligence to enable us in overcoming every challenge that affects OUR world and the people in it.

The question is - do WE care enough? I believe WE do. I believe that most, if not all, of us would jump into a lake to save a drowning child; and, WE instinctively acknowledge that the child must be saved whether the child is in our immediate proximity or not. I believe that people, once informed, will take action and help one another . . . to save the child. That seems only right.

That is living Matthew 25.

THE MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES & FISH ISN'T FINISHED

Submitted by Bob McInnis – Executive Director of Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids

"Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over."
Matthew 14:16-20

Jesus could have miraculously provided the hungry with food to eat but instead he charged those around him with this opportunity. The miracle continues today as the hearts and minds of thousands of people in Calgary are touched to feed our children.

Every day more than 25,000 children in Calgary don't know where their next meal is coming from . . . or if there will be a next meal that day. These numbers will continue to increase as the impacts of the economic slowdown begin to be felt at the community level. Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids (BB4CK) believes that all children in Calgary should receive adequate nutrition.

Beginning with four schools and 500 lunches a week in 2005, BB4CK has grown to providing almost 15,000 lunches to 80 schools and partners, and expects a 20% increase in demand beginning this fall. Each lunch meets the Canada Food Guide and Alberta School Nutrition Guidelines. The average lunch cost (prepared and delivered) is less than \$1.50.

In an attempt to meet increasing demand and leverage its supply and delivery chains, BB4CK will be starting an in-school breakfast with approximately 25 of its existing school partners. It is expected that 1,000 breakfasts a day will be provided at an average cost of \$1.00. Therefore, BB4CK is seeking support for the additional \$250,000 being added to its 2010 budget.

Just as the disciples found abundance within those gathered, BB4CK is confident that generous, caring Calgarians will step forward and share of their time, their resources, and their money. Each morning, about 10 volunteers arrive at BB4CK's kitchen to prepare 1,500-1,800 lunches. Most mornings, 15 community programs, including two churches, open their spaces to community members to prepare food for kids in their neighbourhood. Numerous times a year, food drives are conducted in workplaces, homes, places of worship and through service clubs. In 2008, more than 600 generous Calgarians gave of their financial resources to help BB4CK feed kids. Last year, more than 2,500 people shared of their abundance through gifts, support, time, and voice.

A little can go a long way. Will you be part of continuing the miracle?



Brown Bagging
for Calgary's Kids
Society

Healthy Kids. Healthy Minds.

**Brown Bagging for
Calgary's Kids provides
nutritious lunches to
1800 kids in Calgary
schools and programs
every day.**

www.brownbaggingit.org

Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids believes that every person can make a difference by taking actions, large and small. The combined efforts of many people making it their problem will result in amazing solutions to persistent issues.

**Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids (BB4CK)
223 12th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB
T2R 0G9**

403.264.7979

IT'S TIME TO "ADDRESS" EVERY CANADIAN

The following has been reproduced from Habitat for Humanity's Vision Brochure:

What comes with a home besides an address?

Stability. Security. Confidence. And the power to profoundly improve lives. At Habitat for Humanity Canada, we've seen again and again the power that a home can give people to become stronger, healthier, and happier. Unfortunately, over 1.5 million Canadians today are far from having the affordable, adequate, suitable housing that makes all that possible. That's why we're going beyond our role as a homebuilder, to build something just as imperative: a national movement for affordable housing. It's time for Canada to address this issue, so that every Canadian has a safe, decent place to call home. And everything that comes with it.

Debilitating rents. Poor living conditions. The threat of homelessness. They're what over three quarters of a million Canadian families come home to every day - families struggling for an affordable, suitable place to live. All this in a Canada that once prided itself as a world leader in affordable housing. A Canada that believed it had an obligation to house every Canadian in a safe, decent home, a strong base from which to find and keep a job, join a neighbourhood, raise a family, and give back to their country. For all those reasons and so many more, we need to be that Canada again. By insisting that housing be a right for all. By opening doors to the hundreds of thousands looking for home. And by making sure that no one is left out.

Through our work, we've seen incredible things happen when people build a home. But even more incredible is seeing how home builds people. Children living in suitable housing do better in school, building learning and social skills. People who spend less on rent can spend more on other necessities like childcare, utilities and food, building the well-being

of their families. Safer, well-maintained houses and apartments improve living conditions, improving the health and outlook of people of all ages, including those with physical and mental disabilities. And a stable home builds connection, pride, and greater opportunities for work. For people to become everything they can be, they need the right place to become it. Home.



Person by person, family by family, every single individual whose life is improved by improving their housing helps to build the foundation of a better Canada. When more people work, the economy works better. When children can grow in safety and comfort, we know we're growing a stronger future. When people from all walks of life connect as families and neighbourhoods, they come together to strengthen the fabric of society. And when people who feel marginalized begin to feel included and valued, Canada becomes everything it stands for as a nation – a place where everyone can strive for a better life, and a home that makes that life possible.

More than a million and a half Canadians need affordable housing right now. This need must not only be heard, but addressed. Home ownership is only one part of the answer. That's why Habitat for Humanity Canada is calling on you and all Canadians to join us, in stepping forward and bringing the issue of affordable housing to the forefront. To urge discussion, action and change right now, right across the country. So that every Canadian can know the life-changing power of being at home, at last. Work with us.

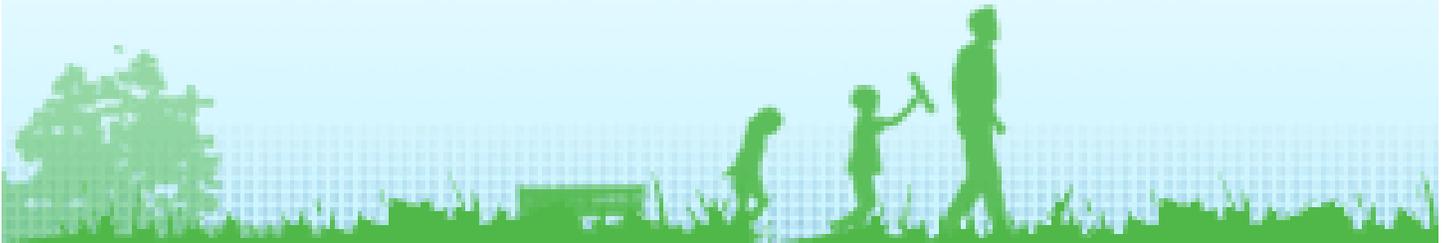
Habitat for Humanity Canada is a national, non-profit, faith-based organization working for a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Our mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting home ownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty.

The organization was founded in 1985, consists of 30,000 volunteers and 71 affiliate organizations from coast to coast, and is a member of Habitat for Humanity International which spans 92 countries, has built over 225,000 homes, and is now building a new home every 21 minutes.

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"More than
1,500,000 Canadians
need affordable
housing right now.
This need must not
only be heard, but
addressed."



Habitat for Humanity® Habitat pour l'humanité® Canada



www.habitat.ca

How your congregation can help:

- Pray for the work of Habitat for Humanity and families in need throughout Canada
- Sponsor a Home
- Make a cash donation
- Offer in-kind goods and services
- Gather members of the congregation to volunteer on the building site (no experience necessary)
- Provide meals and snacks for workers during a build project
- Involve your youth group . . . take part in a build . . . organize a fundraiser
- Invite a Habitat representative to speak at your church to increase awareness
- Study groups can read and discuss "The Theology of the Hammer" by Millard Fuller (call 1-800-667-5137 to purchase a copy). This publication outlines Habitat's biblical principles.

Habitat for Humanity, Calgary

Bay 125, 2323-32nd Avenue NE
Calgary, AB T2E 6Z3
Phone: (403) 253-9331
Email: info@habitatcalgary.ca
Website: www.habitatcalgary.ca

Habitat for Humanity, Red Deer Region

4732 - 78A Street Close
Red Deer, AB T4P 2J2
Phone: (403) 309-0998
Fax: (403) 309-0915
Email: habitat@telusplanet.net

Habitat for Humanity, Brooks

PO Box 1436
Brooks, AB T1R 1C3
Phone: (403) 794-0101
Email: hfbrooks@gmail.com

Habitat for Humanity, Mountain View

c/o Olds United Church
4810 - 50th. Street
Olds, AB T4H 1E4
Phone: (403) 507-7994
Email: info@mountainviewhabitat.ca
Website: www.mountainviewhabitat.ca

Habitat for Humanity, Medicine Hat

#2, 476 4 Street, South East
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0K6
Phone: (403) 504-5043
Fax: (403) 527-5016
Email: HFHmedhat@hotmail.com
Website: <http://nonprofit.memlane.com/habitat/>

Habitat for Humanity, Lethbridge

#20 Rocky Mountain Blvd. West
Lethbridge, AB T1K 8E1
Phone: (403) 327-6612
Fax: (403) 331-2195
Email: lhfh@theboss.net

PARISH OUTREACH UPDATE

Parishes throughout the Anglican Diocese of Calgary are tackling serious needs through their Outreach Programs. As posted on the internet, the following are some examples of recent outreach activities in some of the parishes. Communication with the parishes is encouraged in order to find out more, collaborate, and to support one another.

St. George's-in-the-Pines (Banff) – One of the challenges we face is ministering to the very many young seasonal employees, many who are away from home for the first time. We have begun by supporting and connecting with the Living Room, a programme of the Banff Service Industry Network reaching out to 18 – 30 year old workers in the service industry.

Cathedral Church of the Redeemer (Calgary) – Upcoming projects include: (i) KAIROS - Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives - in support of their work with Aboriginal and Indigenous people; and (ii) Providing assistance and support for Day Break, a new low-income housing project planned for Inglewood.

Christ Church (Calgary) – HIV/AIDS Grandmothers to Grandmothers. This wonderful program was started through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Grandmothers in Africa have been left to pick up the pieces of families shattered by the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has swept through most of Africa. The idea behind this organization is for grandmothers in Canada to assist with fund raising in order to help out African grannies. Christ Church has sponsored three gatherings already, and looks forward to more.

St. James (Calgary) – NeighbourLink, headquartered in N.E. Calgary, assists individuals and families in need. NeighbourLink relies on church volunteers in local communities, primarily to deliver food hampers, help move furniture items, and give rides to medical appointments.

St. Barnabas (Calgary) – Mission boxes and collection of glasses for Operation Eyesight as well as Operation Christmas Child.



Native Counselling Services of Alberta

Our mission is to contribute to the holistic development and wellness of the Aboriginal individual, family and community.

Programs

- Court Workers
- Family Wellness
- Homelessness & Housing
- Residential Schools & Healing
- Corrections & Restorative Justice
- Community Wellness
- Employment
- Youth

Our goal is to continue to strategically plan and deliver culturally sensitive programs and community education through accountable resource management.

www.ncsa.ca

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Lethbridge	(403) 329-6140 lethbridge@nca.ca
Brockton	(403) 965-3933 brocket@nca.ca

PARISH OUTREACH UPDATE (cont'd)

St. Stephen's (Calgary) – Started at St. Stephen's by a group of people representing eight churches and a number of denominations, Inn From the Cold ("IFTC") is now a city wide emergency shelter program run by the Inn From The Cold Society. The shelter program has grown to include over 70 congregations and synagogues, each hosting Inns on a rotating schedule. Two to four Inns are open each night, year round. IFTC remains the only shelter in the city where moms, dads and their children of any age can stay together.

St. John the Evangelist (Calgary) – Over the last 5 years, we have been working in partnership with local Anglican parishes to support grassroots programs in Malawi. Money raised has gone directly to various projects including, feeding programs during times of drought, aid to flood victims, support for schools and medical clinics, mosquito net distribution, the Mphatso Pure Water household bio-filter project, the building of churches and aid to HIV/AIDs affected families.

St. Laurence (Calgary) – The first thing you see when you come into St. Laurence is a water filter into which parishioners drop their loonies and toonies every week. The money collected goes to the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology.

St. Barnabas (Medicine Hat) – Our companion relationship with the Dioceses of the Windward Islands continues and we are happy to report that a team of youth and chaperones are preparing to travel there again this July.

St. Augustine's (Lethbridge) – Stephen Ministry is a program at St. Augustine's Anglican Church that equips lay persons to provide distinctively Christian one-to-one care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances, both in our congregation and community.

Contact Living Matthew 25 to share the outreach activities in your parish.

Share your light!



DIOCESE CELEBRATES PWRDF'S 50 YEARS

Submitted by Alison Longson – Anglican Diocese of Calgary PWRDF Diocesan Representative

The Primates World Relief and Development Fund ("PWRDF") is now well into its 50th anniversary celebrations, which the Anglican Diocese of Calgary has embraced enthusiastically. As part of the 'From Cookies to Champagne, 50 Cafe Events' initiative, some churches have already held special anniversary services and hosted social events.

The chairman of PWRDF's 50th anniversary committee, Bishop Philip Poole, visited the Diocese in the spring. He gave a presentation at the Provincial Synod and attended a dinner for PWRDF friends and parish reps, where he gave a rousing speech emphasizing how PWRDF is a wonderful success story for the Anglican church in Canada. He congratulated the Diocese of Calgary for being leaders in PWRDF's '50 Refugee Families Sponsorship Project' noting that it has committed to sponsor three Palestinian families (or individuals) from the El Hol refugee camp on the Iraq/Syria border.

The celebrations are continuing on Saturday October 17th with a PWRDF Diocesan Celebration and Fundraiser reception at St. Stephens (Calgary). This event will feature ethnic food, entertainment, a cash bar, and a chance to hear some of the latest news about PWRDF. Funds raised at the event will go to the Diocesan refugee committee for their work with the '50 Refugee Families Sponsorship Project'.

Anyone interested in attending the Diocesan Celebration on October 17th should contact their PWRDF parish representative or Alison Longson (pwrdfcalgary@telus.net or 403-243-5478). The cost is \$20 per person. For those attending from out of town, billets can be arranged.

To find out more about how this significant year for PWRDF is being marked nationally, check out their website - www.pwrdf50.org.

THE PROMISE OF EDUCATION

The following is based upon excerpts provided by CAUSE Canada.

Numerous studies from around the world have shown that education is one of the most effective ways to help a country develop. When more girls and boys go to school, it has been shown that incomes, health, life-span and basic human-rights are increased. In other words, children, families, communities and countries are all better off.

CAUSE Kids has been incredibly encouraged by the results of its work in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Teachers report that the training they are receiving is making a difference in the classroom and that increased books and supplies are helping the students to learn. Improvements in the schools have increased enrolment, and students are healthier and more attentive because of the nutrition they are receiving.

School gardens continue to be one of the greatest successes as vegetables and grains are harvested for breakfast and lunches. The schools have



Without some form of intervention breaking the poverty cycle, a child born in one of the poorest regions of the world is unlikely to have access to formal education, quite likely to be impoverished, and will probably not live beyond their 40's.

also retained many seeds to create "seed banks" that will make the gardens sustainable for seasons and years to come.

CAUSE Kids also works to rehabilitate schools and implement solar lights as well as other innovations to support the learning process. Currently, over 1,400 children and their families and communities benefit from CAUSE Kids program support.

CAUSE Kids is an education program in Sierra Leone, a country where only 69% of children attend elementary school, with percentages being much lower in rural areas. Many children grow up illiterate and unable to benefit from the opportunities that education provides. With 20 years of experience in Sierra Leone, CAUSE Canada started CAUSE Kids to partner with communities in providing quality education. CAUSE has made a long-term commitment to building a legacy of education, opportunity and justice in Sierra Leone.



CAUSE
CANADA **KIDS!**

CANADIANS CHALLENGING GLOBAL POVERTY
... ONE CHILD AT A TIME

CAUSE Kids provides assistance to entire school communities through food and health programs, purchasing school uniforms, planting school gardens, and making school supplies accessible.

PLEASE Sponsor a Child Today!

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Make a world of difference in the lives of these children.

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A Program of CAUSE Canada www.cause.ca

MENTAL ILLNESS DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE

by Sean D. Krausert

Old or young, rich or poor, man or woman, and no matter the colour of your skin – all Canadians will have direct contact with mental illness in their lifetimes. According to Health Canada's "A Report on Mental Illness in Canada, 2002" – 20% of all Canadians will personally experience a mental illness in their lifetime; and 100% of Canadians directly know someone (a friend, colleague, or family member) who will experience a mental illness.

The most prevalent forms of mental illness are depression and anxiety disorders. Other forms of mental illness include – schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, eating disorders, and attention deficit disorders among others.

Yet despite the prevalence of mental illness in our society, there is a social stigma attached to it that compounds the suffering of those afflicted by mental health issues. In 2008, the Canadian Medical Association provided the following statistics with respect to "the stigma" in its 8th Annual National Report on Health Care:

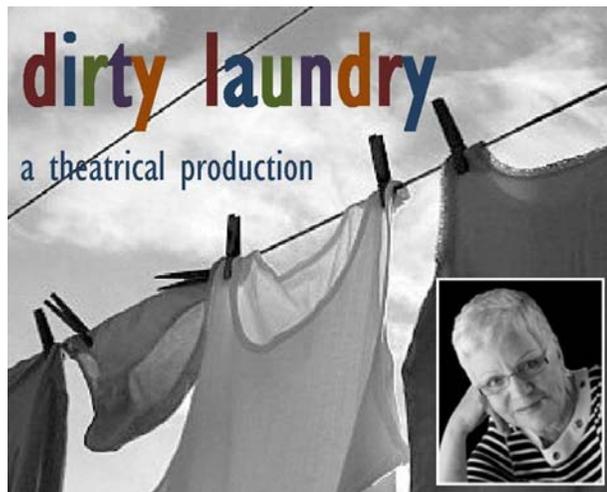
- Only 50% of Canadians would tell friends or co-workers they have a family member with mental illness (72% would discuss cancer in the family and 68% would discuss diabetes in the family).
- Only 12% of Canadians would hire a lawyer who has suffered from mental illness.
- Only 49% of Canadians said they would socialize with a friend who has a serious mental illness.
- 46% of Canadians think people use the term mental illness as an excuse for bad behaviour.

It is no wonder that only 1/3 of those who need mental health services actually receive them. (*Statistics Canada: Canadian Community Health Survey – Mental Health and Well-Being 2003*)

On the topic of health care, while depression doesn't discriminate, government funding seems to treat mental illness unfairly. In a September 2008 article published by the Institute of Health Economics entitled "How Much Should We Spend on Mental Health", it was noted that while mental illness constitutes more than 15% of the burden of disease in Canada, it receives only 5.5% of health care dollars.

Mental health issues affect us all, and not only emotionally or with respect to relationships. As a nation, it hits us in the wallet as well. Every day 500,000 Canadians are absent from work for mental health / psychiatric problems. (*Insurance Journal 2003 as cited by the Government of Canada in "The Face of Mental Health and Illness in Canada", 2006*) But how much does it cost us? According to a study conducted by C.S. Dewa and others in 2008 (Chronic Diseases in Canada), it is estimated that in 2008 the total cost of mental illness to the Canadian economy in terms of health care and lost productivity was \$51,000,000,000 (\$51 BILLION).

WE need to reach out and support one another, and let sufferers of mental illness know they are not alone. People get the help they need and recover faster when they know they are loved and supported. And, in the end, that benefits us all.



Written & Performed by Marilyn Avient

A theatrical production that takes direct aim at the stigma attached to mental illness – which hundreds of thousands of Canadians must cope with every day.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Sidney, BC Sept. 30 – Oct. 4 '09

Whitehorse, Yukon Oct. 9 – 10 '09

Dawson City Yukon Oct. 13 '09



**Bring Dirty Laundry
to ALBERTA!!**

For information about the production:

www.dirtylaundrytheatre.ca

If your group wants to bring *Dirty Laundry* to Southern Alberta, e-mail the Producer – producer@dirtylaundrytheatre.ca

A Production of
**GLOBAL
WE
INITIATIVES**



The Mustard Seed is a non-profit Christian humanitarian organization that has been caring for Calgary's homeless for over 24 years.

Through its four ministry centres across Alberta, it cares for the essential needs of the less fortunate through food, clothing, and shelter provisions, along with education and employment programs, supported housing, health and wellness services, and personalized mentoring.

Providing hope for the future.

www.theseed.ca

Please visit our website to learn about volunteer opportunities and ways you can get involved in supporting Calgary's homeless.

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS
Are Now Needed

The Mustard Seed Centre Street
102-11 Ave. SE Calgary, AB T2G 0X5
Main phone: (403) 269-1319
Email: info@theseed.ca

A HAND TO HOLD

The following has been reproduced with permission from The Mustard Seed's May 2009 newsletter.

When 12-year-olds Caitlin and Kayla saw a short film on homelessness at a film festival, the two friends were inspired to help less-fortunate Calgarians. "We wanted to make a difference, and we knew there was a problem with homelessness in our city," says Caitlin.

The girls named their initiative "A Hand to Hold." For each week of Lent, the girls asked students to bring in different items, including warm clothing, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toiletries, food and candy.

They also brought a large piggy bank to school for collecting donations. Some students gave up their slurpee money and allowance to give to the cause; others emptied their own piggy banks to fill the one at school.

With their school, St. Phillip Fine Arts School, the girls collected over 2,000 lbs of clothing, over 60 toothbrushes, and 125 pounds of soap and other toiletries. They also raised over \$800 for The Mustard Seed.

The girls' motto for their "Hand to Hold" fundraiser was: "Together we can make a difference." The budding philanthropists hope other kids their age will also stand up and take action for causes they care about.

"Even if you're really small, you can still make a difference," says Caitlin. Kayla adds, "If you want to do something, it will go big, even if it starts out small, like our fundraiser did."

"Even if you're really small, you can still make a difference."



AROUND THE WORLD

AFGHANISTAN – A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF A KANDAHAR HOSPITAL

KANDAHAR, 31 August 2009 (IRIN) - At the end of a long Ramadan day on 25 August surgeons and nurses in Mirwais Hospital, Kandahar city, in southern Afghanistan, had just broken their fast when a huge explosion rocked the building.

A few hours later the hospital's intensive care unit was packed with dozens of injured blast victims. At least 40 dead and over 60 injured were brought to the hospital.

"It was a very difficult night for all of us. We were tired, hungry and thirsty but we had to work hard and save lives," Mohammad Hashim, a surgeon at the hospital, told IRIN, adding: "We worked through the night to treat the casualties."

All hospital staff were called in to help. The 350-bed hospital is supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and serves patients and war victims from Kandahar and neighbouring provinces. (Source www.irinnews.org)

BAN EMPHASIZES KEY ROLE OF UN IN TACKLING TODAY'S CHALLENGES

31 August 2009 – The United Nations plays a critical role in addressing the current food, climate and other crises, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today in Oslo . . . The financial, flu, fuel and other emergencies cannot be solved by nations acting alone, Mr. Ban told reporters after meeting with Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg. "The United Nations is the forum where we can all discuss our different agendas towards a very harmonious resolution for the common well-being and the common prosperity of the world," he noted. (Source www.un.org)

FINANCIAL CRISIS EXACERBATES FOOD CRISIS

NAIROBI, 27 August 2009 (IRIN) - Two months after food deliveries to Somalia's south-central town of Jowhar were halted, several thousand internally displaced persons (IDPs) are facing a food crisis, sources said. "The little food we were given in June is gone; we have had nothing in the last two months," Asiyu Jilibey, a community leader, told IRIN on 27 August. "I don't know what will happen next but if help does not arrive soon we are in trouble." Food distributions were stopped in Jowhar after June due to insecurity, according to the UN World Food Programme (WFP). (Source www.irinnews.org)



Easter Seals Camp Horizon offers spring and summer camp programs for children and adults facing similar medical, physical and developmental challenges. For one week each summer, they are not different - *kids can just be kids again!*

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- * Sponsorship & Volunteer Opportunities
- * Kelly Hrudey Easter Seals Shoot-Out

Contact us at:

(403) 949-3818

or go to

www.easterseals.ab.ca/camp/

Easter Seals Camp Horizon, Kananaskis Country, Box 540, Bragg Creek AB T0L 0K0

IRAQ: DROUGHT HITS RICE, WHEAT STAPLES

BAGHDAD, 31 August 2009 (IRIN) - Jabir Mohan Abdullah used to hire hundreds of workers during the rice harvest season. This year, however, with more than three-quarters of his land affected by drought, only 10 workers will be hired.

"I used to plant my entire 400-acre [160-hectare] farm with rice but this year we are using only 50 acres [20 hectares] due to severe water shortages for the fourth consecutive year," said 78-year-old Abdullah from Iraq's southern province of Najaf.

Abdullah's plight is a result of reduced rainfall and the falling levels of Iraq's two main rivers - the Tigris and Euphrates.

(Source: www.un.org)

GAZA BUILDING PROJECT EXPERIMENTS WITH CLAY AND RUBBLE

GAZA CITY, 4 June 2009 (IRIN) - In the face of the ongoing Israeli ban on imports of building materials Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are looking at new building methods, and one project is using clay and rubble. Local Palestinian NGO Mercy Association for Children began building a school for handicapped children in Gaza City on 24 May to test a recently developed method using clay blocks, salt and rubble - with the source material coming mainly from the hundreds of buildings demolished during the Israeli offensive (27 December 2008 - 18 January 2009).

(Source: www.irinnews.org)

CANADA, WHO STOP COUNTING SWINE FLU CASES

July 17 '09 - There are so many new swine flu cases that the World Health Organization this week said governments should stop tallying the number of H1N1 patients nationally.

The United Nations health agency said maintaining an accurate count of the number of H1N1 cases has become impossible because of the speed at which the virus is spreading. So the WHO is now asking countries not to send the agency counts of disease cases, and it will stop publishing national swine flu tables.

Governments still need to monitor swine flu levels, the WHO said, mainly to track outbreaks among different populations and locations.

"Signals to be vigilant for include spikes in rates of absenteeism from schools or workplaces, or a more severe disease pattern, as suggested by, for example, a surge in emergency department visits," the WHO said. (Source: www.cbc.ca)

An Editorial by Sean D. Krausert

Despite dire circumstances, seemingly endless conflict and terrible challenges faced by the world today – I HAVE HOPE.

I believe that people are essentially good. Being created with the ability to choose, I think most people try to do the “good thing” most of the time. Granted, there are a few people who choose to do “not-so-good” and there are people that simply make mistakes that hurt others. That said, I truly think that most people only revert to destructive behaviour when they feel they have no other option. My hope lies in our ability to increase the good in the world by addressing the circumstances by which people feel trapped – i.e. eliminating poverty, oppression, abuse, depression, injustice.

I believe as we learn more about our world and its various cultures that understanding will replace fear; and less fear will result in fewer conflicts. Conflict often results when people feel threatened; and, lack of knowledge about each other fuels this feeling of insecurity. Through learning about each other, we learn that we have basic similarities – we all breathe the same air, we all want to feel safe, we all bleed, and we all cry when our children die. My hope is that through empathetic understanding of our “enemies”, our differences can be handled creatively and without violence.

I believe dialogue on matters of difference is healthy. The world would be boring if everyone agreed with one another. However, every person who wants to have their view heard in any dialogue also has the responsibility of listening to the opposing view. To be heard, you must hear. Communication is absolutely key to resolving disputes, and we all have a responsibility to help people talk to one another. My hope is in each one of us fulfilling that responsibility.

I believe that God created a perfect world – one capable of being in absolute harmony. The only reason OUR world is not in harmony at the moment is due to OUR previous wrong decisions. Eventually, through trial and error (and likely several nasty bumps), we will figure out how to live in harmony with the earth and all life on the planet. My hope is that we will soon recognize that everyone has basic rights, we can only take from the earth that which can be replenished, and true freedom comes through collaboration rather than competition.

Most importantly, I believe that through HOPE – we are truly living and can accomplish anything. Without hope we are dying. Thus, one of the best things we can do for OUR world is to give someone hope. It's not difficult. We can give the depressed hope through a touch; we can give the disheartened hope through a smile; and we can give the impoverished hope through working with them to create a better future.

Building on hope - OUR world can improve beyond anything imaginable and become the paradise that it was designed to be.

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

64,000 kids in Alberta
(i.e. 1 in 12) live in
families below the
"poverty line" (Low
Income Cut-Off after tax)
- Statistics Canada

Approx. 1 BILLION people
worldwide lack access to
safe drinking water (mostly
in Africa); and 2.4 BILLION
people worldwide lack
access to basic sanitation
(mostly in Asia)
- www.undp.org

Every day, almost 16,000
children around the world
die from hunger-related
causes (1 every 5 seconds)
- www.bread.org

Over 15,000,000 children
have been orphaned by AIDS
around the world (12,000,000
in Sub-Saharan Africa alone)
- www.worldaidsorphans.org

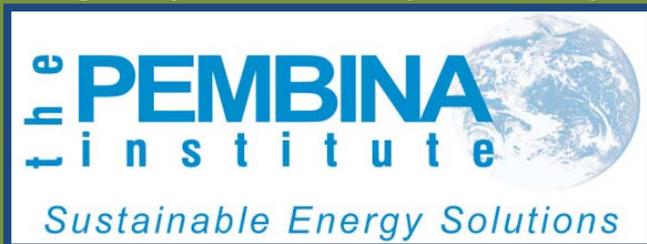


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DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

An Editorial by Sean D. Krausert

God calls my name in the night. I respond, "Yes, Lord?" In a still, quiet voice He calmly says – "Do you see what I see?" I take His hand, and follow His lead.

Together, we gaze upon the brokenness of humanity. Strangely, we only have to look as far as my own family. I see the fatal effects of a loved one hooked on heroine; I know the loneliness of depression; I shudder powerlessly at alcoholism gripping another family member; I stare sadly out the window as a parent abandons me in favour of another night of lustful pursuits; I feel the sting of divorce from a child's perspective; I suffer the desperation that contemplates suicide; and I cry out . . . "Why?" The world knows no shortage of addiction, immorality, and lost direction.

Together, we experience the aftermath of war in Sierra Leone and Northern Ireland. I dance with groups of children who are orphans and have been sexually abused. I play with young Esau – a 9-year-old boy who is permanently disfigured from being set afire by rebels in order to lure his mother out of hiding. I act out fears with former child soldiers who, by threat of painful death, were compelled to maim, rape, and kill others. I walk through the rubble of neighbourhoods – divided and destroyed by hate. I hug a beautiful little girl whose arm was cut-off by the enemy when she was 11 months old. Entire populations irreversibly traumatized. Horrific. Gut wrenching.

Together, we touch the depths of poverty in Guinea and Guatemala. The sickly face of a hungry boy begging for food in the streets is permanently emblazoned in my mind. Yellow eyes, gaunt cheeks, crooked teeth, and rotting gums. An indigenous family shares a modest meal with me in their hut perched on the mountainous highlands. Mice-infested corn dries in the rafters of the smoke-filled one room house. The young mother tending the open fire looks aged beyond her years after a lifetime of malnutrition and inhaling smoke. Hopelessness.

Together, we mourn the sudden loss of life. A friend swiftly and unexpectedly killed by a cougar while cross-country skiing. Another friend struck by a car leaving a wife and young child to fend for themselves. A thunderous avalanche tragically takes seven students' lives. Commercial airlines are turned into weapons of mass destruction killing thousands in mere moments. Suicide bombers, tyrannical dictators, and legitimate governments all commit atrocities in the name of justice. Whether by nature, accident, or violence – all death is equally regrettable. Life is short.

As these images from my past disappear, God inquires, "How are you feeling?" I sigh as a tear runs down my cheek. There is silence, and after a time God whispers - "Me, too." I ask God, "Why are you showing me this?" He grasps my hand tighter and gives me a hug, then says – "I've got some things for you to do."

**What are you being shown? What are you being called to do?
Will you do it?**

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READY . . . SET . . . MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

SEPTEMBER 2009

1 – Feed Some Kids - Schools are back in full swing, and lunches are needed for those kids who would otherwise go without. To support a lunch program or volunteer, see www.brownbaggingit.org for details.

13 – Canmore Rocky Mountain Half Marathon, 10KM, 5KM – CAUSE Canada's annual race, with proceeds from this year's event supporting environmental initiatives that make a real and immediate impact. See www.cause.ca/2009Halfmarathon for details.

25 – Arts and Community Night – An evening with the Mustard Seed featuring musical performances, spoken word, and visual arts. See www.theseed.ca/Upcoming-Events.html for details.

26 – Kelly Hruday Easter Seals Shoot-Out – Shoot-out against top goalies for fun, friendly competition. For further details see www.eastersealsshootout.com.

OCTOBER 2009

17 – Anglican Diocese of Calgary PWRDF Celebration & Fundraiser – Reception featuring ethnic food and entertainment at St. Stephens (Calgary), with proceeds supporting PWRDF. Tickets \$20. Contact parish PWRDF representatives or Alison Longson (pwrdfcalgary@telus.net) for details.

24 – The Mustard Seed Gala Dinner – Celebrating 25 Years of service to Calgary's less fortunate. For details see www.theseed.ca/Upcoming-Events.html.





The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees, and global justice. With the support of Anglican parishes across Canada, PWRDF makes financial and human resources available to support partners' initiatives and to promote knowledgeable actions of solidarity at home and around the world.

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THE WEIRD & WONDERFUL WORLD OF *LIVING MATTHEW 25*

The Wisdom of the Littlest Pig

by Sean D. Krausert

After years of contemplation, I've finally deciphered the message of the littlest pig (of "5 little pig" fame, not "3 little pig" fame). Contrary to popular belief, the littlest pig is not a whiney cry-piggy but rather an enlightened humanitarian (or should that be swine-itarian?). Let me explain.

As you will recall from folklore – one little pig goes to the market, one little pig stays home, one little pig eats roast beef, one little pig has none, and the littlest pig goes "wee-wee-wee" all the way home. A cute tale, but what does it tell us? Deeper analysis is required in order break the code.

The first little pig goes to the market. Assuming he is going alone (i.e. not being brought by Farmer Brown), it is safe to say that he is going to the market either to buy something or to sell something. In other words, this little pig is enriching himself through making a purchase or earning a living - either way

he's concerned with his own economic welfare. Some might call him a capitalist pig.

The second little pig stays home. Obviously, this means that he has a place to live. Thus, this little pig is wealthier than many people on earth. Further, given that it specifically refers to staying home, which infers an alternative choice, it could be implied that he is more concerned with his own reality rather than what is happening in the rest of the world.

The third little pig eats roast beef. Thank goodness he isn't eating pork chops as that would have made him a cannibal! Given that this little pig can afford to eat roast beef, odds are that he lives in the "developed world" and is employed.

The fourth little pig has none. We can interpret this to mean "none of the above". He does not have the ability to participate in the market, he does not have a home, and he does not have roast beef to eat. It does not say he has some or part; he has none - nothing. Perhaps

this little pig is an impoverished refugee fleeing oppression or war.

The fifth little pig, often affectionately known as the littlest pig, apparently goes squealing home. The question that has plagued me since childhood is - WHY? Is it merely to provide cheap thrills when tummy's tickle spot is found? I think not. Rather, I believe we have misunderstood this little fellow.

As proof, extensive linguistic research has discovered that he was not saying "wee-wee-wee" but was actually saying "We! We! We!" This noble little pig recognized that all of us are part of WE. He reminds those with jobs, wealth, homes, and food to be concerned for those who have none. Wow – a pig ahead of his time!

I challenge each of us to take up the chant of the littlest pig – We! We! We! - to ensure that everyone has at least some.



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Editor & Publisher: Sean D. Krausert

E-mail: seankrausert@gmail.com

Telephone: (403) 609-1762

176 Moraine Road, Canmore AB T1W 1J7

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