

Nobleford Christian Reformed Church

newsletter ~ June 23 , 2022



RENEWING HOPE:
CHANGING STORIES OF POVERTY.

A NEW WAY TO GENERATE INCOME

COUNTRY: MALAWI

AREA OF IMPACT: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



PLEASE PRAY:

Creator Lord, please open doors so the most vulnerable people have access to the training and tools they need to better support their families on the journey to food security.

In July 2020, Maureen joined a Village Savings and Loan (VSL) training group in Thanzi n'chuma, Malawi, through World Renew. She and the other participants formed a VSL Association (VSLA) that met once a week to pool their savings. Maureen said, "After receiving training, I joined the VSLA and started saving money for the future."

The VSLA meetings also provided a space where the members of the group (60 females and 1 male) received training in small business management, conservation agriculture, proper health and nutrition practices, and more. And, they were able to access low-interest loans from their savings pool to pay off debt or to invest in their farms and small businesses. Maureen shared, "I borrowed some money from the VSL group to buy pigs for rearing, adding to chickens that I already [had]."

From the money she earned from the sale of some of her pigs, Maureen built an electricity generator for her home. She said, "After contributing monthly to the savings pool for almost a year, I was able to withdraw a share of about \$110 US which I used to buy solar panels, a battery and a generator." She now earns additional income by charging people a small fee to charge their cell phones.



RENEWING HOPE: CHANGING STORIES OF POVERTY

Spring 2022

COUNTRY UPDATES

The southern part of Malawi has been hit by three tropical storms in the last two months which has brought flooding. The flash floods have washed away houses, agriculture fields, livestock, and household goods. The devastation has been significant, with even parts of tarmac roads being destroyed in some areas.

Due to the washed-out roads, disaster response help has had difficulty reaching these villages. World Renew is responding in Chikwawa with our partner Eagles Relief and Development and we've been able to connect with many communities working hard to recover and rebuild.

We currently have 2 International Relief Managers based in Chikwawa helping out with the disaster response. It is hot and the rains are still coming, which has made things a bit more challenging.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that there will be a break in the rain so that roads can be repaired and people can move back to their villages to rebuild their lives.
- As seeds and cuttings are distributed, pray that people would be able to replant crops so that they can harvest needed food items in the next few months.
- Pray for Faye, that she'll have strength and traveling mercies as she prepares for a tour in June. She had COVID a couple of months ago and was easily fatigued for a long time.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Habakkuk 3:19 reminds us to give thanks in all circumstances:

"The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights."

Amen! Thank you for lifting up and encouraging our team with your continued prayerful support.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HOPE!

the World Renew team in Malawi

World Renew Malawi
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Church Picnic 2022. The Church Picnic Committee invites everyone to our Annual Church Picnic to be held FRIDAY, July 1 at Park Lake Day Use Area. ****We will be doing a potluck again this year and are asking if your household has 4 or less people, please come with a dessert OR salad for 15 people. If your household has 5 or more people please come with a salad AND a dessert for 15 people.**** The committee will place a bulk order of KFC, to be paid for by a church fund. **We ask the congregation and their extended family/friends to pre-order the chicken via a signup sheet in the foyer Sunday, June 12, 19 or 26 so we can order the correct amount of chicken needed.** We will also order some extra pieces just in case. If KFC is not an option for your dietary needs, you are welcome to bring something else instead. The committee will provide cutlery, plates, napkins, cups, juice and water. Cold water will remain available all day for your convenience. Tables will be brought from the church for the buffet as well as extra eating space. Please bring your own chair, your requested food items, serving spoons, a refillable water bottle (if desired) and all other personal supplies for the day. This will be the itinerary for the day:

12:00 P.M. O Canada & Prayer followed by lunch

1:30 P.M. Carnival Games led by the Youth followed by volleyball, 9 Square & fellowship

3:00 P.M. Family Nature Scavenger Hunt by the picnic committee followed by beach time

4:30 P.M. BBQ supper; burgers, fries and drinks (by donation for new sanctuary chairs)

7:00 P.M. No Baseball Game on this date, the Young Adults will organize for another day.

Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Wonder: Read Revelation 21:1-5 and ponder or discuss the following questions. What do you wonder about the new heaven and the new earth? What will it be like to have God dwelling among us for eternity? What do you long for God to “make new” right now? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

World Renew DRS 50th Anniversary Tour - For 50 years, disaster survivors have been met with God’s justice through church and volunteer partnership with World Renew Disaster Response Services. Come and celebrate all God has done at our 50th Anniversary Tour on July 21st from 4-7 pm, open house style, at Trinity Christian Reformed Church – 13427 57 St NW, Edmonton, AB T5A 2G1, CA.

Water is Life. Share the Gift of Clean Water. - Water is essential for survival and it has to be clean to help ensure good health. Yet, 40% of the global population does not have access to sufficient water and 31% of schools around the world do not have access to clean water. Join churches across Canada on July 17th for Clean Water Sunday. Through your gift to World Renew, you can help share Christ’s hope and make clean water a reality for communities facing challenges accessing clean water. To learn more, visit worldrenew.ca/resources-clean-water-sunday

Let the Living Water Flow - Jesus said: “...whoever drinks of the water that I will give shall never thirst, but the water that I give will become a well of water springing up to eternal life” (John 4:14). Next week, join World Renew to learn how through our gifts we can help make clean water and better health possible for vulnerable communities around the world, and share the Living Water of Christ that is essential for eternal life—the water that refreshes all who come to him thirsty. For more information, go to worldrenew.ca/resources-clean-water-sunday

God’s Love Reflected in Clean Water - Binta, in Mali, lived with the anxiety of unsafe water. She and the other women in her village walked long distances to fetch water that was often contaminated. Through World Renew’s partnership with her community, Binta and the people in her village now enjoy clean water that is easily accessible; Binta no longer worries that the water will make her family sick. Through your offering this Sunday, you can help vulnerable communities around the world see God’s love reflected in clean water—like Binta’s community did! To learn more, visit worldrenew.ca/resources-clean-water-sunday

Thank You for Sharing the Gift of Clean Water - Last Sunday, churches across Canada gave generously and extended God's love to communities where access to clean water is only a dream. Thank you for walking alongside World Renew to help make clean water a reality in vulnerable communities around the world. To learn more about how your gift is reflecting God's love, visit worldrenew.ca/cleanwater

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Huldah: Using Her Gifts - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What are you good at? Sports? Reading? Music? Juggling? Crochet? Did you know that God can use what you're good at in his story? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Miriam: Worship Leader - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Music must have been an important part of worship in Israel. The Israelite women had timbrels (like tambourines) with them on the journey. They had left Egypt in a hurry but still packed musical instruments! Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: Jonah: Praying for God's Deliverance - When we find ourselves in situations that we cannot fix, it's natural to feel anxious, desperate, overwhelmed, exhausted, and scared. Join Groundwork as we study Jonah 2 to remember that God is ready to hear us, to deliver us, and to offer us his abundant mercy. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Groundwork: Jonah: Doing God's Work - It doesn't matter who we are, what we've done, or how inadequate we feel, God has work for us to do. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Jonah 3 to better understand how much God cares and to discover the courage to never give up on someone or let our bias hinder our message as we continue to do God's work and follow God's call in the world today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Groundwork: Jonah: Discovering God's Heart - Do you want to know and understand the heart of God? Join Groundwork as we study Jonah 4 to conclude our study of Jonah and witness the stark contrast between our human tendencies and his sovereignty. Together, we'll discuss how we can respond to God's relentless love and abundant mercy in our own lives today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Eutychus: Staying Connected and Alert - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. A young guy named Eutychus fell asleep during an overnight worship service and fell out of a window! How does this story have a happy ending that comforts a community? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Naaman's Servant Girl: God's Power - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Naaman's servant girl was brave enough to show God's love to a powerful enemy, and that allowed God to change a heart and a nation. God's power follows different rules. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

God's Love is Already There - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Naomi felt like there was no hope. But even through all of Naomi's sadness, Ruth was faithful to her and stayed by her side to comfort and encourage her. God's love never changes, and we can seek his comfort through the people he's placed in our lives. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Ableism Training Hosted by CRC-RCA Disability Concerns - Join us online August 11 & 12 (from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm EDT) for our annual training event. We will unpack ableism and consider ways we can help reduce the impact of ableism in churches. This event is open to everyone interested in learning more about this very important topic. We will continue to release more information about this event on our dedicated website: Let's End #AbleismAtChurch Register at <https://bit.ly/ableismatchurch>

Safe Church Ministry Series 2022: The Safe Church Basics - Webinar 3: Training Leaders and Volunteers - All church leaders and volunteers should know what constitutes abuse, how to spot it, and what is expected of them to prevent and respond to abuse well. Join us July 20, 2022 at 12pm EDT as we explore ways to train and support our safe church teams. Register at <https://bit.ly/SCwebinarJuly22>

Diaconal Coaches Needed! - Diaconal Ministries Canada is currently recruiting new Diaconal Coaches in British Columbia and Alberta. A Diaconal Coach helps deacons grow in their understanding and capacity as leaders - providing coaching/training, support, encouragement, and accountability for CRC diaconates. Our team of Coaches are well-trained and supported by our Regional Staff. Positions are flexible, part-time, and paid! If you'd like to find out more, reach out to Rachel, Regional Ministry Developer for Western Canada. You can also find out more on our website: <https://bit.ly/39eVvPS>. Please share this with someone you think would make a great coach, and/or within your CRC networks.

Grants Available to Churches - The NewGround Program of Diaconal Ministries Canada (formerly called Operation Manna) offers coaching, networking, and grants to churches who want to love their community! For over 35 years, over 100 CRCs across Canada have been supported. NewGround has Community Ministry Grants, Deacon Scholarships, help with Community Opportunity Scans, AND a Youth Justice Project! Find applications, deadlines, and more information on our website: diaconalministries.com/newground/. You can also email our NewGround Program Director, Karla, with your questions and ideas: kwinham@crcna.org.

Hearts Exchanged - is a project of our denomination designed to equip Reformed Christians to engage with Indigenous people as neighbours. The Canadian Indigenous Ministry is now recruiting participants from across Canada. Find out more information on this process ,and let them know you are interested in participating, on their website: crcna.org/hearts-exchanged

Last Chance to Register for Inspire 2022 - Registration for Inspire 2022 will close on June 30. Don't miss your chance to join hundreds of your fellow church members from across the continent at the Tinley Park Convention Center near Chicago on August 4-6 for a time of renewal, fellowship, and inspiration. Learn more and sign up at <https://www.crcna.org/inspire>

Free CRC Leadership Training Course - Register now to take the Thriving Essentials virtual training in July at no cost (limit 25 persons). The two, 2 hour-long Zoom sessions on July 13 and 20 can help get all church leaders on the same page concerning the key concepts of Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Take the class for yourself, then decide if attendance would benefit your core church leadership. Website: crcna.org/Thrive