



A bi-annual review of  
World Renew-CFGB programs

Spring 2019

## Canadians Care about Ending Hunger

By Jonathan Self

When it comes to ending global poverty and hunger, **I Care.**

That's what thousands of Canadians from coast to coast have been saying over the last six months. World Renew is taking part in the "I Care" campaign — an advocacy initiative that focuses on telling the Prime Minister that Canadians care about the role that Canada plays in ending global hunger.

**There is no better time for this message than right now.**

Canadian aid has played an important role in addressing global hunger, and the world has made significant progress. From 1990 to 2015, over 215 million people broke free from the cycle of global hunger. However, in the last three years hunger has been on the rise. In 2017, the number of undernourished people increased to nearly 821 million. However, as the number of hungry families in the world continues to rise, Canada's aid as a percentage of its national income is falling.

In the face of these enormous numbers, it is easy to be overwhelmed. We can forget that each one of those 821 million people has a story and is made in the image of God.

Samuda is one of these people. Her husband was killed by the Myanmar military. After experiencing atrocities that nobody should have to endure, she fled to Bangladesh. She now lives in a refugee camp, but has no reliable way to earn enough money to put food on the table each day.

Then there's a young girl\* living in Syria who received a basket of food from one of World Renew's local church partners. For many Syrians like her, years of conflict have made it increasingly difficult to have enough food to eat.

**But there are also people breaking free from the cycle of hunger every day.**



Photo by Clarence Wassink

Canadians participating in the I CARE campaign.

Esther was struggling with chronic hunger. She is a farmer in Kenya who faced years of difficulty because of recurring drought. Since becoming involved in World Renew's conservation agriculture project, she and her husband have seen significant improvement in their crop yields, and they are sharing this amazing news with their neighbours.

A father in Nigeria\* was unable to provide enough food for his family after he and his children fled their home because of violence caused by Boko Haram. Today, his family receives cash from World Renew's local partner that they use to buy food from the local market.

Esther and this Nigerian father are examples of the difference that Canadian aid is making. They are no longer hungry because of the support the Canadian government provides through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

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World Renew and the Foodgrains Bank are thankful for ongoing support from the government for our programming, but more can be done. Our goal is to end global hunger and we need the Canadian gov-

ernment to increase the aid budget to help make this goal a reality.

As Christians, we play an important role by voicing our support for policies that help people around the world who experience hunger. Through the "I Care" campaign, Can-

adians are letting the Prime Minister know that they care about Canada's role in ending global hunger.

**For more information, you can visit [www.foodgrainsbank.ca/icare](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/icare)**

\*names have been excluded for security reasons

## Canadian Singer-Songwriter Raising Funds to End Hunger

By Jonathan Self



**Jeremy Benjamin on tour.**

I am not my own  
But belong body and soul  
In my life and in death,  
To you Lord, Christ my Lord.

Since May 2018, singer-songwriter Jeremy Benjamin has toured from coast to coast, singing these words in each place he has visited. These words are a powerful reminder that as Christians all that we are, and all that we have, belongs completely to God.

Through the tour, Jeremy is raising money for World Renew's work in Nigeria. With funding from the

Canadian Foodgrains Bank, World Renew is helping 750 families who have been displaced by violence caused by Boko Haram. Most of these families are farmers who have lost livelihoods as they've fled their homes in search of safety. Even for those who do own land, it is often not safe to harvest because of the threat of violence. Without a reliable source of income, many families are going to bed hungry. World Renew is providing families with cash each month so that they are able to travel to local markets and purchase what they need most.

"As I've traveled, I have been continually amazed by the generosity of Canadians. Their gifts have been declarations to the truth that we are not our own — we belong to Christ," shares Jeremy.

"I have also been absolutely thrilled and inspired by the passion that Canadians have for World Renew and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. As my family and I have travelled from coast to coast, we've had the opportunity to engage with school children, churches and concert goers and we found there to be a deep love and respect for the ministry of the Foodgrains Bank.

We heard stories from elderly folks in Alberta about starting up growing projects many years ago, and we witnessed young families continuing on the tradition.

"In places where there was not an opportunity to participate in a growing project, we saw passion for supporting a uniquely Canadian ecumenical initiative that engages in culture and the ministry of Christ in a tangible way."

For Jeremy, World Renew's work in Nigeria to help hungry families resonates with him on a deeply personal level. "There was a time for our family when we needed to turn to the local foodbank. As I think back on these moments, I am grateful that this support was there. For those in Nigeria that World Renew is supporting, I can imagine the same is true."

As World Renew continues to provide families in Nigeria with much-needed support, the funds raised through Jeremy Benjamin's tour are helping to ensure that this work can continue. It is an incredible testament to the faithfulness of churches, families and individuals across Canada who so generously

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support the work of World Renew and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank each year.

“Thank you to the ecumenical body of Christ across Canada for inspiring us to continue on our journey,” shares Jeremy and his family.

To find out more about Jeremy Benjamin’s “I Am Not My Own” tour, go to [www.iamnotmyown.org](http://www.iamnotmyown.org).

## Helping Hungry Families in Yemen

By Adele Konyndyk, with reporting from ADRA



Photo by ADRA

Seventy-five-year-old Amani is one of the millions of people who has been devastated by the ongoing civil war in Yemen, which began in 2015.

Amani lives with her five children and grandchildren in an abandoned three-room home. She has chronic blood pressure and health issues related to her age. Even so, her determination fuels her efforts to provide for her family of thirteen by collecting empty plastic bottles and selling them for recycling. In a land crippled by war, however, these efforts are not enough to ensure her family’s health and survival.

Amani’s eldest son, Mubarak, longs to help provide for his mother and family, but currently has no means of earning in income.

“I cannot find a job to help support my family and my mother,” he shared.

Every day, families like Amani’s endure violent conflict, bombs, hunger, and disease. Approximately 8.4 million people are at risk of starvation in Yemen. Tragically, current conditions make it extremely difficult to provide assistance; in some cases aid shipments have been blocked and imports of food have been refused.

In the midst of this crisis, World Renew is extremely grateful for the opportunity to help families in Yemen facing extreme hunger by supporting a Canadian Foodgrains Bank food assistance project led by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Through this project, which is also supported by other Foodgrains Bank members and the Government of Canada, 1,100 vulnerable

Halima has five grandchildren in her care.

families in Yemen will receive emergency food rations of flour, beans, oil, sugar and salt.

Such food assistance will make all the difference for people like Halima, another elderly woman whose family is suffering and struggling to survive because of the ongoing war in their country.

Three years ago, the violent conflict forced Halima to leave her hometown. Her eldest son died, leaving her as head of the household for his five orphaned children. Without basic food items, clean water, basic sanitation services, and other necessities, Halima and her family are extremely vulnerable.

“The poor kids have a miserable life,” said Halima. “When one of us gets sick, there is no one to help us”.

This food assistance project is a powerful way to demonstrate to family’s like Halima’s that there are indeed those working together to be the ‘ones to help’. Please continue to pray for guidance for World Renew, Foodgrains Bank members, and other humanitarian organizations navigating the difficult but critical work of reaching out in love to God’s children affected by the war in Yemen.



# Supporter Spotlight: Lighting and Furniture Stores in Alberta Hold Charity Day

By Jonathan Self

For eleven years, the Park Lighting & Furniture and Cartwright Lighting & Furniture stores in Edmonton and Calgary have displayed an incredible generosity towards the work of World Renew. On four Saturdays each year, these stores hold “Charity Days” where 100% of the proceeds from sales are donated to a charity of choice.

In November 2018, the charity of choice was World Renew. As those from the Edmonton and Calgary areas visited the stores on that day to make their purchases, they were part of something much larger. Every dollar spent will help Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh through the work of World Renew.

With matching funds from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, World Renew is providing 4,500 Rohingya families with emergency food assistance. The incredible support given by Park Lighting & Furniture and Cartwright Lighting & Furniture is making this possible, ensuring that thousands have enough to eat.

“The Lord has blessed us in so many ways and we feel both a responsibility and consider it a privilege to be able to help the less fortunate in our community, both



local and globally,” shares Tim Pasma, a Manager at Park Lighting & Furniture in Edmonton. “We strongly feel that access to food, clean water and security is a fundamental right of every human being, so working with World Renew to support their campaigns to end global hunger fits perfectly with our values.”

**Thank you to these two stores for faithfully and generously joining World Renew in helping Rohingya families in their time of need.**

## How the Canadian Foodgrains Bank Works

It starts with a few **“seeds”**: generous gifts from community growing projects, church offerings, and individuals from across Canada

The **“seeds”** are **“planted”** into one of 15 member accounts — including World Renew’s

The **“crop”** grows and multiplies — up to a 4:1 match from the Canadian government plus other member contributions

World Renew and other members use their **“harvest”** to help end hunger in the lives of those affected by natural disasters and conflict around the world.



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**1-800-730-3490** [worldrenew.net/cfgb](http://worldrenew.net/cfgb)    

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 **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**  
A Christian Response to Hunger