



Serving and Thriving Together

By Kenneth Kim, Director of Disaster Response and Rehabilitation

“Christians are an Easter people in a Good Friday world.” Does this statement resonate with you in describing our life as Christians? Our world remains divided, filled with conflict, hunger, and natural disasters. Yet, through God’s gift of his son Jesus Christ, Christians are renewed as a community of hope and live to serve all our neighbours in this broken world.

The history of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a part of this story of Christians thriving together as a community to serve and offer hope for others. At a meeting of Mennonite farmers 40 years ago, the world’s food crisis was discussed and the hunger concerns of the world motivated the Mennonites to start their “Foodgrains Bank” to feed the world’s hungry. Soon after, they realized that this idea was just too good to keep it exclusively within the Mennonite family, so they invited other churches and agencies to join. Thus in 1983, the Foodgrains Bank was founded with 5 members, which included World Renew (at the time, the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee).

Today, the Foodgrains Bank has grown to include 15 Canadian church based agencies, representing over 30 denominations, wholly agreeing that as Easter people living in a Good Friday world, it is God’s call to us and our responsibility to end hunger. And what a marvelous story it has been, having provided over \$800 million worth of food, seeds, training and other food-related programs to tens of millions of people in over 70 countries! It is an amazing testimony to the generosity of Canadians; the spirit of cooperation among its members; the skilled work of partners in the hungry communities; and partnership with the Canadian government.

From Afghanistan to Zambia, I have witnessed the life-giving work of Canadian Foodgrains Bank programs. Offering food and hope in the midst of destruction, drought, conflict and hunger is a basic tenet of our Christian belief and practice. What’s more, working together to help the hungry thrive is a powerful witness of Christ’s teaching to us. I recently



Through World Renew, Mulu Yimer and her family received food assistance that enabled them to have enough to eat in a time of drought.

visited Ethiopia with Jim Cornelius, Executive Director of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and Don Peters, the current Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee to reflect upon the incredible contribution of Canadian churches in our fight against hunger. World Renew has a remarkable track record in this mission, sharing thousands of tonnes of food to Ethiopians, totaling over \$35.5 million in food assistance in three decades of this life saving ministry.

We visited a World Renew food distribution in a region hard hit by El Nino caused drought. In this community I met Mulu Yimer, a mother of 10 children, who shared that because of the drought, her oxen had died. After two years of successive harvest failure, she was left with only coffee to



drink in the morning to quell her hunger as she saved the meager amount of food that the family could afford for the single meal given to her youngest children. For eight months, World Renew provided food assistance to make sure that Mulu and her entire family had enough to eat. She smiled with energy and thanked World Renew that her children are healthy, energetic, and able to attend school without hunger.

Thankfully, as our food assistance ends her harvest begins and the yield will be enough to keep her family fed.

As partners in this ministry, working together to be Easter people in this Good Friday world, this is your story. The work of World Renew, as a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, is only possible because of your faithful prayers and generous financial support. Thank you for partnering with us!

Global Partnerships Equip Farmers to Fight Hunger

By Jonathan Self

Snakwezi Maswabi is a Zambian farmer who relies on her maize harvests to support her family. This year, crops did not grow as planned. Instead of harvesting enough maize to last an entire year, Snakwezi was only able to harvest enough to feed her family for one month. Drought created debilitating circumstances for Snakwezi and left her and her family with few places to turn. Widespread crop failure also left thousands of others in south-western Zambia struggling to provide for their families.

On the other side of the world, in south-western Ontario, some farmers also experienced the stresses caused by a lack of rain. Despite these challenges, most Ontario farmers still had successful harvests because of access to a wealth of technology, research, and farming knowledge. In the extreme cases, even if crops do fail in Canada, farmers can rely on crop insurance. Even in a dry growing season, they are much less vulnerable than their Zambian counterparts.

Since July 2015, World Renew has been partnering with communities in south-western Zambia to provide much needed food assistance to equip them to make it through this unimaginably difficult time and be strengthened for the future.



Severe drought has made it hard for Snakwezi Maswabi in Zambia to grow enough food for her family.

improving her harvest each year. After each training, Grace would return home and excitedly share what she had learned with her husband and three daughters. Grace's enthusiasm bubbles over today, as she talks about how the work is now being shared by all the members of her family.

For Grace and the hundreds of other farmers, agriculture and livelihood programs can be the difference between feeding their families and experiencing hunger the next time a drought comes. What's more, they are empowered to take hold of their own future and work for positive change in their community.

Such program success is made possible through global partnership. Through the work of farmers across Canada, crops are harvested and the proceeds are given to the Foodgrains Bank to feed the hungry around the world. Through their hard work and generosity, World Renew is able to provide food to Snakwezi and thousands of others experiencing hunger, and to train farmers like Grace. It's a powerful example of God's people working together so that more hungry families can not only survive, but thrive.

For communities that face recurring drought and poor harvests, World Renew prioritizes stepping in before the need becomes dire to make sure that farmers are better equipped to handle the difficult times. For example, in Uganda, World Renew is partnering with the Nebbi Diocese Church of Uganda to train 476 farmers in the community on agriculture practices that will help farmers become food secure and better able to provide for their families.

Grace Ocama is one of these farmers. Taking part in these agricultural lessons, Grace learned important steps in



Working Together to Provide Food and Hope to Syrian Families

By Adele Konyndyk

Hafa will never forget the instant that changed her life forever. She was bringing her husband, Mounir, lunch at a hospital in western Syria when she was struck in the head by shrapnel from a suicide bomber's explosive. The accident left her partially blind. Every day since then, she has been forced to live with this injury and the ongoing pain it brings. With the costs of Hafa's medical care, family expenses have skyrocketed. In order to care for his wife and their children, Mounir cut down his hours as a medical technician at the hospital. Confronted with enormous medical bills, a dwindling income, and an escalating cost of living because of the war, this family was becoming hungrier and more vulnerable than ever.

Five years of war in Syria have torn apart society and left a trail of people living in desperate need everywhere. Four out of five people in Syria live in poverty and nearly one in three households are in debt, mainly because they cannot afford the rapidly increasing food costs. In the midst of this war, Mounir tried to reach out to others to help his family. However, with such significant need everywhere he looked, he could not find anyone to support his family in their time of crisis.

In Syria, World Renew has been reaching out to families who have been forced from their homes by the conflict and have few options before them. In partnership with the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD) and the Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches (FMEEC), this project initially provided monthly



As the conflict in Syria continues, food assistance is helping many families stay strong and keep up hope.

food distributions to 2,000 families. However, with the increased need, the actual number of families who received food assistance during this 6-month project was 4,252. This project has been funded by Global Affairs Canada, through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

This food assistance project was a great source of help for Mounir and Hafa's family in their time of need. Every month, they received a parcel that included basics such as rice, legumes, oil, canned meat, and more. Although these distributions did not cover the family's entire food needs each month, it provided the support they needed to keep up their nutrition and look to the future with greater hope.

Mounir is deeply grateful to all those who have made this support possible for his family. The food assistance has helped him stay positive about his family's situation even as the conflict in Syria rages on. Mounir is also thankful for the encouraging sign of progress in

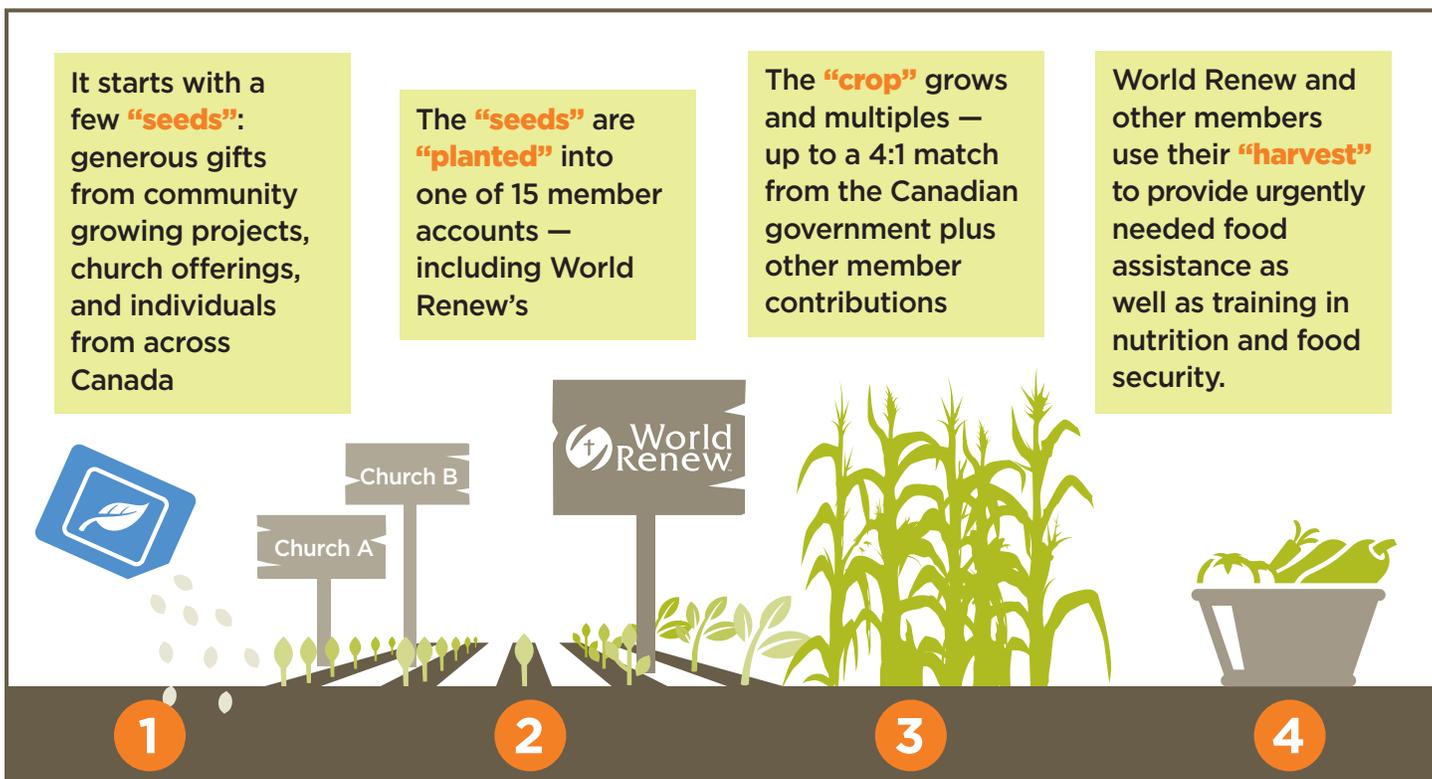
Hafa's health. The muscles in her eyes are getting stronger and she's able to keep one of her eyes open for longer periods.

In dozens of communities around the world, World Renew is helping to provide food to thousands of other families who are hungry because of emergency crises like war, drought or flood. Through these food assistance projects, World Renew helps families make it through incredibly difficult situations that otherwise might have led to complete devastation and despair. This assistance is carried out in ways that strengthen a family or community's long-term food security, while also addressing a lack of nutrition.

World Renew's success in giving strength and hope to people in a seemingly hopeless time is the result of many generous people and organizations partnering together to raise funds, coordinate support, and demonstrate God's abiding love to Syrians suffering as a result of the war.



How the Canadian Foodgrains Bank Works



Canadian Foodgrains Bank at a Glance

Established in 1983, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a Canadian-based, Christian organization that helps provide food and development assistance to people in need on behalf of its members

World Renew is one of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies that own the Foodgrains Bank, pooling their human and financial resources together to end global hunger. These member organizations are:

- ADRA Canada (Adventist Development & Relief Agency)
- Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM)
- Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada

- Emergency Relief & Development Overseas (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada)
- Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
- Mennonite Central Committee Canada
- Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
- Presbyterian World Service & Development
- Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (Anglican Church of Canada)
- The Salvation Army
- United Church of Canada
- World Relief Canada
- World Renew

Between April 2015 and March 2016, Canadian Foodgrains Bank programs

reached nearly 1.1 million people through 133 projects in 40 countries. Much of this support reached people through direct food transfers, with 18,260 metric tonnes of feed and seed reaching people in need. An increase in the use of cash and vouchers for food assistance has led to a reduction in physical food tonnage. World Renew has programmed 20% of the Foodgrains Bank's total program expenditure of \$43 million.

From April to December 2016, World Renew has received approval from the Foodgrains Bank for 14 new projects totaling \$5.6 million. This includes projects in Uganda, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Laos, Syria, Zambia, Lebanon, Tanzania, Malawi and Haiti.

For more information about World Renew's membership in and programming through the Foodgrains Bank visit www.worldrenew.net/cfgb

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