

JOSEPH STEWARDS NEWSLETTER

A special publication for Legacy Friends of World Renew



World
Renew
LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

JOSEPH
STEWARDS

Fall 2017

A Message From Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo



“Stand firm and you will win life” in Luke 21:19 is a powerful reminder for how we need to serve in a

global context that seems quite turbulent. We hear of flooding in Texas, Sierra Leone, Nepal and Bangladesh. We hear of elections being nullified in Kenya. We hear of friends and family members stricken with a dreaded diagnosis of cancer. There is a lot that could make us tremble and anxious. Yet, we are called to stand firm in Christ to win life.

I recently read a reflection by Richard Rohr, an American priest and author, which gave me new insight into how important it is to stand firm in Christ’s passion. Rohr noted that passion is a word that comes from “patior” which means the “suffering of reality”. So living out Christ’s passion really means we stand firm in Him while in the midst of a reality of suffering in our world. When we do this well, it draws people into the undeniable power of God’s grace and love.

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A Smart Giving Option

BY JUDY EISING, ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DONOR RELATIONS

Did you know there is a way to support the ministry of World Renew that is as simple as sending a cheque or giving on-line, with the added benefit of substantially reducing your income tax? It’s easy to give non-cash assets — and the tax advantages are an added bonus. Here are some key details about this smart giving option:

What are some benefits of donating assets?

- You can eliminate your taxable capital gains. When you donate securities that have appreciated in value your taxable capital gains on these assets will be eliminated. (You don’t receive this tax advantage if you decide to sell them and make a donation from the proceeds of the sale.)

- You can carry forward excess credit. If your donation exceeds the amount eligible for a tax credit in the year your donation is made, your excess credit can be carried forward for up to five years.
- It is convenient. You can transfer securities electronically, either directly to the broker for World Renew or through Christian Stewardship Services.

How do I do this?

You can transfer ownership of your gift of non-cash assets directly to World Renew through CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisors, which is the Canadian broker for the Christian Reformed Church of

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Standing firm in a “suffering of reality” means that we do not avoid the brokenness and that we don’t posture ourselves for perfectionism as we use what God has given us to change the story of poverty. Avoidance only neglects God’s call for renewal and perfectionism only makes us resentful and judgmental.

Christ’s passion puts us in the messiness of holding together a reality that is mixed with injustice while working towards justice, mixed with poverty while working towards flourishing livelihoods, and mixed with disaster while restoring hope. As Joseph Stewards and people of Christ’s passion, I pray that you will not be surprised or discouraged by the darkness of our world, but instead continue to embrace it as an opportunity to share God’s incredible love with those who suffer.

Ida Kaastra Mutoigo
Director, World Renew

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North America. World Renew will then issue you a donation receipt that reflects the value of the securities on the date they were received by our broker.

You will have the option of directing your gift where it is most needed, to a specific community development or disaster response program of World Renew, or to have your gift placed in the World Renew Joseph Fund. Gifts placed in the Joseph Fund are used over a seven year period in support of World Renew programs.

To receive a form to authorize the transfer of shares of stock and mutual fund units, please contact Judy Eising at World Renew, 1-800-730-3490 ext.4297 or jeising@worldrenew.net, or Terry Veldboom, Controller for the CRCNA in Canada, 1-800-730-3490 ext.4243 or tveldboom@crcna.org.

Alternatively, you can direct your gift through Christian Stewardship Services, which is set up to receive appreciated securities on behalf of World Renew at no charge. If you are

considering supporting more than one charity with your gift, it may be advantageous for you to work with CSS. They can receive the securities directly, issue a donation receipt, sell them and then distribute the gift immediately to your designated charities. CSS can also hold the funds in an Endowment or Donor Advised Fund. You can contact CSS at 1-800-267-8890 or admin@cssservices.ca.

A gift of non-cash assets is a tax effective way for you to support the ministry of World Renew. If you have any questions about donating stocks, shares, units or shares in a mutual fund or units of segregated fund trust from an insurance policy, or if you would like to discuss how you can increase your support of World Renew’s community development and disaster response programs through other giving options, please feel free to contact Judy Eising at World Renew 1-800-730-3490 ext.4297 or jeising@worldrenew.net.

Mike Bos: A Man Who Changed Lives

BY RUAIRIDH WADDELL AND JUDY EISING



In September 2015, Mike Bos passed away at the age of 48 after a brief illness. He was a family guy loved by his mother Jannette, his late father,

Bert, his four brothers, and the rest of his family. He spent the first ten years of his life on farms in Blyth and Drayton, and then moved Cambridge, Ontario.

All of his adult life he worked in construction, where he was valued for his work ethic. He loved biking, soccer, snowboarding, and travelling. He was also a man of faith who followed God’s call to help those in need and who used his own life to change the lives of others for the better.

As Mike’s family reflected on the person he was, they knew they wanted to honour him in a way that would reflect his values.

Through Peter Timmerman, a good friend of Mike and former World Renew Southern Africa Team Leader, Jannette Bos heard about how World Renew was assisting hungry families in Western Zambia whose crops had failed due to drought caused by El Nino. World Renew has been working with community schools that are all facing a terrible scarcity of water.

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Ending Hunger through Conservation Agriculture

BY KENNETH KIM, DIRECTOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND REHABILITATION



Ruth is one of the farmers who has improved her crops through conservation agriculture.

Recently, I read an inscription on a memorial stone that has stuck with me. It said, “The future inspires us, the present defines us, and the past teaches us.” I love this message. The person who wrote it wanted others to understand that while we learn from our experiences, and thoughts of the future inspire us to action, it is what we do now that defines us. As Joseph Stewards, you’re putting this philosophy into action by choosing to use what God has given you to help others find freedom from hunger and create a better future.

In Kenya, “champion farmers” are also taking action to improve their lives and livelihoods. These men and women are taking their years of farming experience, including failed harvests, and investing in new knowledge that will bring them towards a better future. They are becoming exemplary leaders

in their communities for improved agricultural production.

In Kenya, as in much of the world, many farming families rely on less than five acres to produce enough food to support themselves. To put this in perspective, the average size of a farm in Manitoba is 1,135 acres. With only a small, five-acre plot, you can understand why it is difficult for these farmers to get by. In fact, 70% of those that are hungry in the world are farmers.

These small scale farmers have a difficult life even during good harvest years. Right now, things are even worse. Successive droughts — at levels that are unprecedented — are leaving farmers in an impossible situation. The land that they are able to farm is not producing enough to sustain their family.

World Renew’s program with Canadian Foodgrains Bank on



Conservation Agriculture is aiming to solve this problem. By teaching farmers how to grow crops that produce more — even during drought — hunger could be a thing of the past for 9,740 farmers in Kenya.

I recently had the opportunity to visit these champion farmers in Kenya as part of a Foodgrains Bank board delegation. Ruth Muthoni Ikaru is just one of the incredible Kenyan farmers that we had the honour to meet. In Africa, women provide 70% of all agricultural labour and produce 90% of all food, yet own only 1% of the land and receive 1% of the agricultural credit. Ruth has championed Conservation Agriculture in her community and she is actively fighting for gender equality. Ruth won a prize from the Kenyan Government that acknowledged her work as a champion Conservation Agriculture farmer, and is a passionate promoter of gender equality.

Farmers like Ruth are being transformed by your love and generosity, as demonstrated by your continued support of World Renew’s work in conservation agriculture. God bless them and you.

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“Students walk up to 15 km a day with a gallon of water to go to school. The underground water is dangerously saline,” explained World Renew Program Consultant Ruairidh Waddell. “The nearest surface water sources dry up in August, and in other months these same sources are home to a significant population of crocodiles, making the task of collecting water a very perilous one.”

In order to try to overcome this challenge, two World Renew volunteers have been working with the communities of Adonsi, Alibuzwe, and Aibelilwe in Western Zambia to install rainwater collection and storage systems at each school.

Peter Timmerman also told Jannette about the plan to build community gardens at the schools in Mwandu to supplement the school feeding program and serve

as demonstration plots for more drought resistant crops like cassava. Given the scarcity of water in the area, World Renew staff in Zambia proposed installing gutters on some of the schools to funnel rain from school roofs during the rainy season into water collection tanks for drinking and garden irrigation.

Janette and her family decided that this work of providing water for families in need was just the kind of project that Mike would appreciate. They chose to donate gifts they received from Mike’s estate to pay for a water collection system for two schools in the Mwandu district of Western Zambia.

So many different stories on so many different levels have been changed through this project. The change in the child not having to carry water on her head for miles, or risk death to simply collect water. The change in the volunteers’ stories of not just



being givers, but teachers too. The story of communities that have come together to support and overcome a challenge that until now appeared insurmountable. Finally, the story of the Mike Bos and his family who made all this possible through an incredibly generous estate gift. That single act of generosity changed so many stories. To God be the Glory.

You are invited!

Will Clinic Webinar

Hosted by Christian Stewardship Services

LEARN HOW TO:

- Protect you and your family through your Will and Estate Plan
- Ensure proper Power of Attorney documents
- Support charities that are important to you
- Discover tax effective gifting options
- Question and Answer time

Thursday, December 7, 2017, 8:00 P.M. EST