



Champion Connection

CONNECTING CHAMPIONS,
DEACONS AND BOARD
MEMBERS TO MINISTRY

September &
October 2013

We're Here
to Help!

1-800-730-3490

Church Relations
Peter Bulthuis x4237
Maria Oliveira x4319

**Ministry Partner
Program**
Amanda Bakale x4344
Maria Oliveira x4319

Free A Family®
Laura de Ruiter x4277

Donor Relations
Judy Eising x4297
Ashley Wallace
(ON) x4242
Emma Cunningham
(BC) x4355

**Global Volunteer
Program**
Iona Buisman x4321

Refugee Program
Rose Dekker x4292
Rebecca Walker x4232

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Adele Konyndyk x4305
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x4306
Christina de Jong
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What's New?

Thanksgiving Bulletin Insert — These inserts highlight the way God is blessing families around the world through World Renew's Free a Family® program. They are ideal for use during your Thanksgiving Day service—especially if you are holding an offering for World Renew. Please watch for these inserts and make sure they are distributed. Copies have been sent automatically to your church.

World Hunger Sunday — This year's World Hunger Materials are built around the theme "Think. Act. Fast." By participating in this campaign your congregation will be reminded that God loves all of his children and wants us to reflect that love by the things we think and do. Look for your materials to arrive soon and remind your deacons to schedule World Hunger Sunday on November 3. For additional information, and to ensure that your church is listed as a participating congregation, visit worldrenew.net/worldhunger.

CFGB Fall newsletters — "Sharing the Harvest" — that is the theme of the most recent World Renew/Canadian Foodgrains Bank newsletter. This issue includes stories from Zambia, Syria, and Alberta and help to demonstrate how your support of World Renew's CFGB account is making a difference. Copies for each member of your congregation are being sent to your church.



A Note from the New Associate Director of Church Relations

By Peter Bulthuis



So what draws you to World Renew? What is it that feeds your passion about this organization? For me, it's the stories of loving transformation happening on so many levels, in so many places. And from what I can see, it's the heartfelt understanding of the imperatives of the full message of the gospel of Christ that motivates the people in the organization.

Over 20 years ago, I began eight years on the board of (then) CRWRC. Those years confirmed for me what many CRC members already know in their bones: CRWRC is a great organization made up of great people. I was a high school educator then, and more and more, I began to use CRWRC examples in my geography teaching, and the CRWRC model of collaboration in other parts of my work. I also told myself that if the opportunity ever arose, I would love to share my experience more fully in the organization. Well, the Lord opened that opportunity, and as of the beginning of August, I am the associate director of church relations.

Since I am new to this role, I have the privilege

of shifting from my "outside view" of the organization to an "inside" one. What I have been seeing is phenomenal. The values that have defined World Renew from the outset, still burn as brightly as they did on day one, more than 50 years ago. The focus has always been on developing and transforming communities through dignity, respect, and capacity building.

For the past several weeks, I have been blessed to hear so many great stories. The empowerment and transformation of farmers in northern Tanzania, who worked together with World Renew to gain title to their land, learn to solve land rights conflicts, and begin to make long-term investments toward sustainable farming; or the group in Uganda that received one bag of groundnuts which they multiplied to 10, and then to 13 more bags that could be sold to diversify their income; and many stories of Spirit-led volunteers who dedicate weeks to disaster response. I encourage you to take some time this month to visit worldrenew.net, read some of the stories there, and recognize the role that you play in making them possible.

Thank you so much for all that you do. I look forward to serving God with you and World Renew as we work together to "live justice, love mercy and serve Christ".



You Ask, World Renew Answers: Why is the Annual Gift Catalog the Best Option?

By Adele Konyndyk

Thank you to those of you who responded to the survey we recently sent out to Champions about World Renew's offering materials! You asked great questions. For the next few issues, we have decided to add a temporary column that answers some of the questions raised.



An online version of the catalog is also produced.

Each year, God takes this \$30,000 investment and works in the hearts and minds of individuals, families, and churches across the United States and Canada to inspire generous giving. As a result, the Gift Catalog Program typically raises over 1 million dollars for people in need! That's about \$33 raised for every \$1 spent.

We feel that this is a very good return on investment. But the catalog is more than a

money maker. Every year we hear back from individuals, families, schools and churches that have been blessed through their participation with the catalog. They have learned about World Renew's ministry, and have benefitted from seeing the concrete connection of their financial gifts to lasting change for those in need. They also find that the process of taking time to select gifts for others in need has helped make their Christmas season more meaningful.

One year we did try to do a smaller, pamphlet version of the catalog, but it did not go over as well. We therefore believe that the cost of producing a full printed resource is well worth its impact!

The 2013 Gift Catalogs are now available! Look for copies in your church in October or visit worldrenew.net/gifts.

Your question:

Does your annual gift catalog cost much to produce? Could you be better off sending out a one-page colour brochure directing people to the website for more gift options?

Our answer:

Our annual catalog is one of our most popular publications each year. It is used by families, churches, schools and businesses in the Christmas season. It is also a helpful resource to guide giving all year long.

The catalog costs approximately \$30,000 to produce. This includes the cost of designing the publication, getting it printed and assembled, and distributing it to our audiences.

World Renew Continues its Critical Response to Syria Conflict

By Karen Vanderwillik



When Syrians took to the streets back in March 2011 to protest the ruling government, they could not have imagined the horrific events that would soon follow. Since then, Syria has fallen into an intense civil conflict that has already forced over 1.89 million people to flee the country,

and displaced millions more within Syria. Innocent lives have been lost and families have gone from living relatively comfortable lives to living in poverty and hunger in what is currently one of the most severe humanitarian crises in the world.

World Renew is grateful for the opportunity to reach out to those in need through the generous gifts and faithful prayers of our supporters. Since 2012, World Renew has been responding in Syria by providing food, shelter and other emergency assistance to refugee families in Lebanon and displaced families within Syria. As the civil war continues, World Renew has recognized the need to expand this response into Jordan where there are many families who are

not able to remain in the UN-managed refugee camp due to health problems, security concerns, or lack of available services. Approximately 70% of the refugees arriving in Jordan are living outside the camp, where they can sometimes wait months before they receive any sort of international assistance.

There is still much to be done in this ongoing response. Through a recent \$1.1 million commitment from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), World Renew is assisting Syrian families when they initially arrive in Jordan and will provide for their needs while they await registration for more long-term international humanitarian assistance. The project is also providing food to poor and vulnerable Jordanian families living in the city whose lives have been hurt by the dramatic increase of new refugee families, sky-rocketing rents, and competition for jobs. Thanks to additional funding from ZOA International, the World Renew project in Jordan also includes psycho-social support for 100 Syrian women.

Please continue to pray for Syria—and keep your congregation informed about ways to join World Renew's ministry to those in need. Find out more World Renew's response at worldrenew.net/Syria.



Farmer’s Hobby Raises New Support for CFGB

By Karen Vanderwillik

On August 3 and 4, the Bosomworth family opened up their farm in rural Ontario for a very special “Antique Extravaganza” fundraiser to help end hunger around the world. Thousands came to the farm to see their incredible private collections of antique tractors and farm equipment.

Over the years, John Bosomworth’s after-work hobby of antique collection became a unique fundraising tool. Bosomworth passed away last year, but his family is pleased that his love, his passion for antique farm equipment and his desire to share his blessings with global communities live on.

Through these antique events, the Bosomworth family and community have raised over \$75,000 for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) - which is made up of 15 church denominations and agencies who work together to respond to hunger around the world. The amount is matched 4:1 by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (formerly CIDA).

The first one-day Antique Extravaganza in 2006 was the idea of John’s sister-in-law, Mary-Lou Holliday, who was a long-time supporter of CFGB. Over 1,300 people came out and raised more than \$13,000 for CFGB, which was then used by CFGB’s 15 member agencies to respond to disasters and chronic hunger around the world. In 2009, the family decided to host a second event. Again, thousands came out

to the farm—and that day they raised over \$21,000.

For the third and final “Antique Extravaganza” in August, the family planned a two-day “open-house” style event that allowed people from across the province to explore the barns filled with antique equipment and restored classic cars, admire the farm’s unique Fjord horses and enjoy great music and food. An afternoon service was held to honour John’s memory and to thank supporters.

In honour of the 30th anniversary of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Eunice and her children, together with a planning committee that brought together 6 local church denominations, set their fundraising at \$30,000. On Sunday evening, however, as participants enjoyed an anniversary dinner, Eunice announced to the crowd that they had raised over \$40,000!

“Support like this enables us to provide food and other assistance in response to urgent needs,” explained Wayne de Jong, Director of Disaster Response for World Renew.

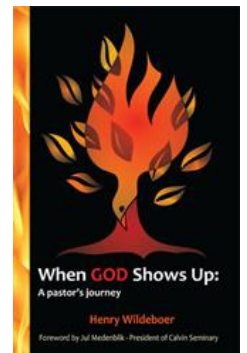
“Very few organizations have this kind of support,” commented David Mayberry, the Ontario Regional CFGB Coordinator. “When you ask for help, people come forward offering their gifts, time, passion and their compassion. This event has surpassed even our great expectations.”



When God Shows Up: A Pastor’s Journey

By Pastor Henry Wildeboer

When God Shows Up is an engaging book for anyone who is keen to see their church become spiritually vibrant while also connecting meaningfully with their community. The book explores the life and ministry journey of Pastor Henry Wildeboer, and is filled with faith-building stories and experiences--some miraculous and others utterly painful. When God Shows Up is a book about what it means to walk with God. It is valuable to any audience, but is especially encouraging for pastors and leaders. You can purchase the book through Faith Alive at faithaliveresources.org. Proceeds from the sale will be donated to World Renew’s ministry to combat global hunger!



A note about the frequency of the Champion Connection newsletter: Moving forward, we have decided to publish the Champion Connection newsletter every other month instead of each month with occasional important updates via email. Our goal is to produce quality content with fresh stories and information. We see that it is necessary to reduce the frequency of this newsletter so that we can accomplish that. You may notice that some editions may be longer than others when we have more information to share with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you!

