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Praise the LORD

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.” —PSALM 106:1

In thankfulness to God we have come to the end of our 55th year of service. This year was filled with anxieties, trials and many questions, but God has continued to be faithful to us and has blessed the work of CRWRF. We've continued to partner with organizations across the globe who are showing Jesus' love by helping those in need. Delivering food parcels and medical supplies, ensuring that vulnerable children are cared for in rescue homes, or visiting victims of HIV/AIDS in home-based care programs -- all of these activities and many more would not be possible without the blessing of our heavenly Father. Praise God for all that He has done!

In this final newsletter of 2020, we wanted to answer some frequently asked questions about how CRWRF works and how you can be a part of it.

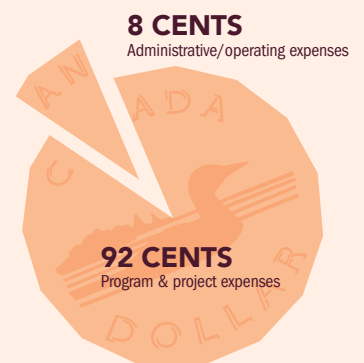
Q1: What does it mean that you're a "working board" and how does this benefit the organization?

A. One of the major costs in any non-profit organization is administration. This category includes costs associated with promotion, our annual audit and insurance costs, administrative and accounting services, bank fees, etc. Since the board of CRWRF is made up of volunteers who are not being paid, this decreases administration costs significantly. This means for that for every dollar donated, a higher percentage goes directly to the partners. We are a "working board" since we play more than just advisory roles: board members bring expertise and commitment to the work by engaging with partners (locally & abroad), researching areas of need, and prayerfully considering projects to support.

Q2: What does it mean that you "partner" with other organizations?

A. Since the CRWRF board is a volunteer, working board, we do not do the international work directly. Instead we partner with local organizations who are already established in the region. They are

Your dollar goes a long way!





Partner organizations are located in Burlington, Kentucky, Mexico, Netherlands, Kenya, South Africa, Timor.



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accountable to the board to ensure that funds received are used appropriately. The board sets out several requirements that each partner must satisfy before we start working together with them. These are outlined in our guiding principles and include such qualifications as: they must address needs which result from the temporal circumstances of the recipients; they must operate consistently with biblical principles; they use work opportunities to build capacity of recipients, so as to reduce dependency; and they must engage and work alongside the local church and its members whenever possible.

Q3: What is the benefit of supporting child development programs as opposed to capital projects, such as building schools?

A. There are different types of aid. There is no doubt that physical infrastructure (such as buildings) is important in helping a community to flourish. But there is also a desperate need for programs to develop capacity in the people who live there. After all, what good is a church building if people aren't being drawn to Christ, and worshipping there? CRWRF has chosen to be involved mostly in longer-term development projects that benefit children and families in communities, who lack the means for a sustainable livelihood. Development programs focus on building capacity. This includes providing training and support to enable local leaders to facilitate

changes that address long-term problems in their own communities. Buildings will continue to need renovations from time to time, but when people are empowered for change, that can yield positive results for generations to come

At times, however, we do support capital projects when we deem them critical to the community, for example, the well project in January 2019 that facilitated growing vegetables for a community located in an arid part of South Africa.

Q4: I've heard you need church representatives. What does that entail?

A. CRWRF is looking for representation in each local congregation. This person has a heart for the poor and for ensuring that those who are in need are taken care of. Some of the tasks would include: distributing newsletters, annual reports, and other promotional material provided by CRWRF; encouraging people to support our partners through prayers and donations; and directing people where to find more information. This individual would also liaise with their local deaconry about the work of CRWRF and attend the Annual General Meeting. This is not a large time commitment but it is a valuable role because it allows CRWRF to be "seen" in each local congregation. **Are you this person?**

Contact admin@crwrf.ca to find out more or sign up as your church's CRWRF representative.

Your support and care make a real difference, and reflect the love of Christ



This year has been unique for us all - with changing and uncertain times. Our lives - whether at work or at play - have irrevocably changed - and this also in the distant lands where relief is provided.

Yet - the faithfulness of the Lord and your support has not wavered, and in this Advent season we are reminded once again of our Saviour and the assurance and promises that the Christ brings.

Because it translates into real and practical help in countries including Kenya, South Africa, Timor, Mali, Lebanon, Syria, US (Kentucky), Mexico, Italy, Nigeria and Senegal,

your financial support is life-changing and reflects in real time the love that Christ brings to us.

So in this time of celebration of Christmas in 2020, a Christmas you likely will not forget quickly - reflect on the steadfastness and assurance of what Christ brings to our lives, and please consider helping us in sharing this gift and assurance by making a gift to those in need.

Wishing you contentment and peace,

Karl J. Veldkamp
CHAIR, CRWRF

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