

First Sunday in Lent

*Written by Jim Goring and
the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)*

- L: Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,
- P: the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.**
- L: In the wilderness, we, too, are confronted by our hunger and thirst.
- P: We are tempted to grab at empty promises that offer an easy way out.**
- L: Like Jesus, we are tempted by power and prestige.
- P: Unlike him, we often submit to their glamour.**
- L: We wonder whether God is with us.
- P: We wonder whether we can trust God to take care of us.**
- L: We can only move forward in faith.
- P: Let us stand on the cliff edge and, like Jesus, dare to trust.**



Responding to Conflict-Induced Hunger

Food insecurity around the world has many causes—including conflict. In fact, 77 million acutely food-insecure people live in countries where civil wars and religious persecution are the primary drivers of hunger.

Conflict disrupts markets, causing inflation and threatening the livelihoods of many people. Moreover, wars destroy food stockpiles and often force farmers to evacuate. As a result, people are pushed toward poverty, starvation and malnutrition.

PWS&D is responding to those in need due to conflict and hunger.

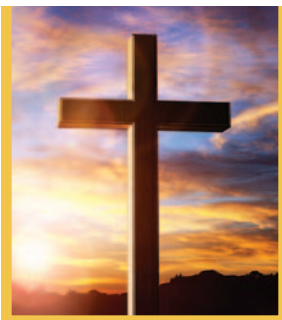
In Yemen, Ukraine, Syria and Ethiopia, to name a few conflict-afflicted places, families and individuals are receiving much needed food assistance through a combination of cash transfers, food baskets and food vouchers.

This assistance, made possible in large part through PWS&D's membership at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, ensures families have access to essential food items and helps them navigate the uncertainties they face.

This Lenten season, help those displaced by conflict have enough food to strengthen them on the journey to find peace and security.

[WeRespond.ca](https://www.werespond.ca)





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- L: Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,
- P: the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.**
- L: Even when our situation changes, we cling to the tried and the true.
- P: We insist that what worked in the past will work in the future.**
- L: Yet, Jesus calls us to die to our old ways so that the new will emerge.
- P: He said that we need to be born again to see God's new realm.**
- L: Embracing God's realm will mean accepting different principles that no longer feed our egos.
- P: It will mean putting the needs of others before our own.**
- L: We know the depth of God's love, revealed to us in Jesus, God's Son.
- P: When we are reborn by God's Spirit, we will go where the Spirit leads us and love as God loves us.**



Bhachini Resumes Her Business

In India, Bhachini Devi lost her husband due to tuberculosis. After his death, she moved in with her eldest son and his family.

Using the money she earned from running her small general store, Bhachini took care of her family. Unfortunately, her eldest son also contracted tuberculosis, so Bhachini supported his treatment when he was in the hospital. When her income wasn't sufficient she had to take out a loan.

Sadly, her son also died from tuberculosis. The stress of the situation left her unable to run her business.

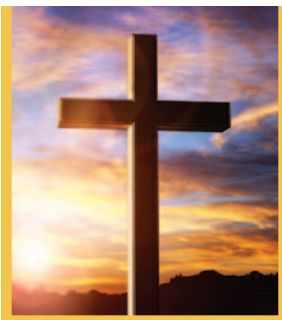
Her story became known to staff at the Mohulpahari Christian Hospital, supported by PWS&D, and soon Bhachini was provided with assistance to restart her store. This outreach turned her life around.

Now, Bhachini beams with joy because her business is running well, her store has many more things to sell and she can continue to support her family.

**This Lenten season,
faithfully responds to
Christ's call to provide
livelihood support.
Through PWS&D, we are
helping people achieve
their dreams and
support their families.**

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Third Sunday in Lent

*Written by Jim Goring and
the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)*

- L: Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,
- P: the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.**
- L: Here we are taught to pay attention to those whom others discard.
- P: Jesus insists that God is revealed in unlikely people.**
- L: Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan woman at the well who was the wrong religion, the wrong gender, and had the wrong marital status.
- P: We, too, are a gathering of nobodies, yet Jesus claims us as somebodies who all have a place.**
- L: In Christ, there is neither insider nor outsider, invited nor shunned, accepted nor rejected.
- P: We, too, are called to see beyond outdated categories and to offer living water to the thirsty.**
- L: It is those who have been rejected who most need to know acceptance.
- P: Let our gatherings be a place for those who have been told they don't belong.**



Education Helps Make Dreams Possible

Education is vital to overcome poverty, reduce gender and economic inequality, and foster a peaceful society.

In a poor neighborhood of Guatemala City, where many families struggle to get by through scavenging in a waste disposal site, PWS&D supports an education program with the Francisco Coll School. This provides not only primary school education, but also includes continuing education scholarships for graduating students so that they may find a better livelihood. This presents the opportunity to break cycles of poverty by opening doors to the job market.

Ingrid was one of six students to receive this scholarship, which enabled her to continue her studies. Today she proudly holds the title of an accountant.

"I want to thank God for the blessings and opportunities that God has given me through the support received from the Francisco Coll Educational Center, an establishment in which I took my first steps in the process of my education. I appreciate the financial support that has helped me to achieve an important stage in my life," she expresses with gratitude.

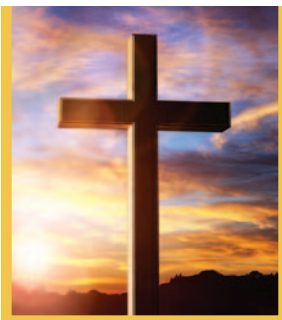
**This Lenten season,
help make sure children
have access to quality
education so that they
can build bright futures.**

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Presbyterian
World Service
& Development

*The development and relief agency
of The Presbyterian Church in Canada*



Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Written by Jim Goring and
the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)*

- L:** Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,
- P:** the Spirit leads us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.
- L:** Here we are taught to pay attention to those whom others ignore.
- P:** Jesus insists that God's grace is revealed in unlikely people.
- L:** God's realm is a place where all are welcome, regardless of their state or position. In a world of disparity, we recognize that some receive what is denied to others.
- P:** Let us break through barriers that keep many from receiving the grace that they need.



Rabin Smiles Again

In Nepal, 22-year-old Rabin Budha kept finding dry red patches all over his body. He ignored the issue for weeks and when he could no longer do so, he mentioned it to a health outreach worker in his village who recommended Rabin go for a check-up. After an initial test, a dermatologist suspected that Rabin had leprosy and sent him to hospital for further testing.

Rabin began treatment at the Shining Hospital, where doctors admitted him after finding his blood pressure very low. Upon receiving medication and close supervision, his condition improved and treatment is ongoing.

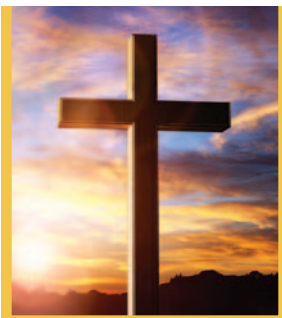
Today, Rabin is grateful for the support, care and love he received at the Shining Hospital and is optimistic about a full recovery.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to provide care and hope to those who are suffering. Through PWS&D, we help people build healthy lives.

In Nepal, PWS&D supports the Shining Hospital, which provides health outreach in remote villages, and care and treatment for those experiencing illness, in particular leprosy and tuberculosis.

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

*Written by Jim Goring and
the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)*

- L: Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,
- P: the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.**
- L: Here we are taught to pay attention to those calling out for care.
- P: Jesus knew that God is revealed at unlikely times.**
- L: Like him, sometimes we arrive too late, when tragedy has already occurred:
- P: after the war has torn lives apart, after the earthquake has crumbled homes, after the drought has killed crops.**
- L: With Lazarus already in a tomb, Jesus cared for the grieving before turning his attention to his dead friend.
- P: Let us pray for and support the medics as well as the injured, the aid workers as well as the homeless, the food providers as well as the hungry.**
- L: Tragedies may show us the worst of humanity, when greed and malice flourish.
- P: Yet, we celebrate those who respond with love and compassion, bringing Christ to the places where death has brought devastation.**



Responding to Drought in Somalia

“The weather is harsh; life is more difficult for the children, they are very thin and sick due to lack of food,” says Siman Sokorow.

In Somalia, the general humanitarian situation is worsening, with famine alerts being declared in some parts of the country—needs are extremely high.

Siman’s eight-month-old son, Farhan, is one of the many Somali children under five who has been admitted to hospital for treatment this year. Farhan was dehydrated due to vomiting and diarrhea. At hospital, he was admitted for severe malnutrition and started medication and rehydration treatment.

Farhan is now receiving the treatment he needs to recover, including therapeutic milk, antibiotics and anti-malarial drugs.

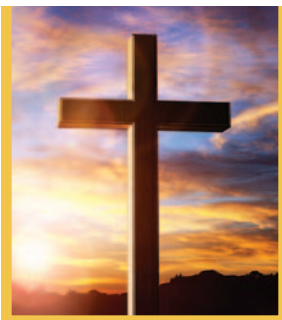
“He had been sick and weak, but after the treatment he has improved, he can now play and run around. Thanks to all those involved for the invaluable support,” shares Siman.

This life-saving project, which PWS&D supports through Canadian Foodgrains Bank, is helping treat severely malnourished children under the age of five, and lactating women.

**This Lenten season,
help ensure that
children have access
to critical food and
medical care.**

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Palm/Passion Sunday

*Written by Jim Goring and
the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)*

- L:** Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,
- P:** the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.
- L:** Sometimes the wilderness is the city.
- P:** In the city, life can be a struggle where the vulnerable are victimized by unfamiliar structures.
- L:** Jesus rode into Jerusalem to reclaim the city for God.
- P:** By entering on a donkey, Jesus showed that he would rule with humility and compassion.
- L:** As the Church, we too bring care to those whom the city too often forgets.
- P:** We remember that many are lost and alone: refugees, the unhoused, sex workers, those far from home.
- L:** We cannot put the burden on the destitute to find their way through the urban maze.
- P:** We come in humility to serve those whose resources are few and whose needs are many.



In the Words of a Teenage Entrepreneur

Osline Pauleus lives in Haiti, a country which experiences some of the world's highest levels of food insecurity, caused by climate change and civil unrest.

One day Osline decided to go and see what other kids her age were doing at a youth club in her community. Intrigued by their activities, Osline decided to join the club.

The youth club, run by PWS&D's partner in Haiti with support from Canadian Foodgrains Bank, helps young people develop skills for growing food crops that are more resilient in the face of increasingly unpredictable climate patterns.

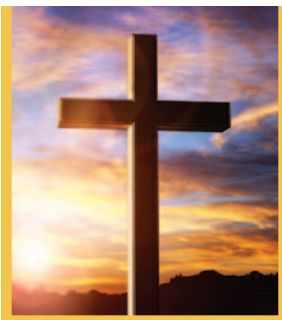
"From the club, I learned a lot of things, like how to plant my own garden and use natural resource management. After receiving some training in the club's demonstration garden, I decided to start my own kitchen garden, where I planted okra, peppers, tomatoes, jute leaves, eggplant and spinach," shares Osline.

Today, Osline's garden is fruitful. Not only does she earn an income from it, but her garden also provides healthy food for her family and inspiration to her community.

This Lenten season, help support projects that provide sustainable solutions to address food insecurity and climate change.

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Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday

*Written by Jim Goring and
the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)*

L: Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,

P: the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty
where we confront our weakness and insecurities.

L: On his last night,
Jesus showed us what love in action looks like.

P: It looks like kneeling and serving.

L: It looks like dealing with the dirt from our travels.

P: It looks like washing clean what we prefer to avoid.

L: Even knowing that death was near,
Jesus asked for no special favours.

P: He humbly served his friends in love.

L: When we are tempted
by privilege and entitlement,
believing we deserve more,

P: let us remember what love looks like:
kneeling, serving, caring.



Supportive Classmates Make a Difference in Malawi

Joseph* showed up to school one day, not quite himself. The 10-year-old's parents had been up fighting all night. When morning arrived, he hadn't wanted to disturb them in order to get ready for school.

Some of Joseph's classmates had been mentored in a Children's Corner, a program provided by the Livingstonia Synod AIDS Programme (LISAP) in northern Malawi. When they asked him what was going on, Joseph told them, "My father and mother shout at each other and fight almost every week. Sometimes my father calls us bad names and chases us out of the house at night for no reason."

Because the children had learned about their rights at the Children's Corner, and where to turn if something was wrong at home, Joseph's friends told him he should speak to a Child Protection Worker.

The Child Protection Worker met with Joseph's family and provided them with tools to resolve their challenges, including financial strain, which was at the root of frequent verbal and physical abuse. Working collaboratively has helped Joseph's parents begin building a more peaceful home.

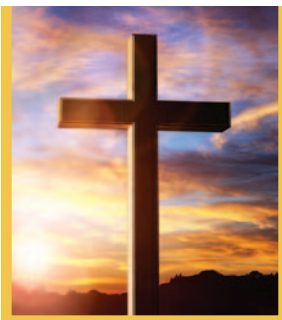
This Lenten season, help ensure access to services that advocate and educate children and adults about their rights.

*name changed

PWS&D works with LISAP in northern Malawi, which provides support and educational opportunities to young people.

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Easter

*Written by Jim Goring and
the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)*

L: Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed!

L: The tomb is empty.

P: Life has defeated death!

L: Rising from the grave, Jesus brings life to all the wrong places.

P: Christ lives where death has ruled.

L: Rising from the grave, Jesus brings life to all the wrong people.

P: Christ welcomes those who are often overlooked.

L: Christ's resurrection means
that we are no longer lost in the wilderness.

P: He provides us with a living hope and travels with us
to places where death had once prevailed.

L: The world has been turned
upside down.

P: Life has defeated death!
Hope has overwhelmed despair!
Joy has conquered gloom!



Christ is risen!

Every day that we respond to the poor, the hungry and the displaced, we discover God's resurrecting power. The poor are raised up, the vulnerable are cared for, and the sick are healed.

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life and rooted in the living hope of Jesus Christ, our church responds to the call to serve those in need with compassion, justice and love. Through PWS&D, we are working in some of the most vulnerable communities in our global village to restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation that benefits all.

Thanks to your support and faith in action, we are creating positive change—with life saving and life transforming actions.

In a world filled with need, we are responding with food assistance, medical care, sanitation services and emergency relief. We are responding with educational opportunities, sustainable agriculture practices and skills training. Together, we are promoting human rights and supporting refugees.

Faithful to our calling,
we respond together.

**This Easter, please
support PWS&D.**

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