

END HUNGER



Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian church-based agencies working to end hunger in developing countries by increasing and deepening the involvement of Canadians in efforts to end hunger; supporting partnerships and activities to reduce hunger on both an immediate and sustainable basis; and influencing changes in public policies necessary to end hunger:

Member Agencies

Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada
www.adra.ca

Canadian Baptist Ministries
www.cbmin.org

**Canadian Catholic Organization for
Development & Peace**
www.devp.org

Canadian Lutheran World Relief
www.clwr.org

Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada
www.cmacan.org

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
www.cwrwc.org

**Emergency Relief & Development Overseas
(Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada)**
www.erdo.ca

Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
www.emcc.ca

Mennonite Central Committee Canada
www.mcc.org

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada
www.ncmc.ca

Presbyterian World Service & Development
www.pwservice.ca

**Primate's World Relief & Development Fund
(Anglican Church of Canada)**
www.pwrdf.org

The Salvation Army
www.salvationarmy.ca

The United Church of Canada
www.united-church.ca

World Relief Canada
www.wrcanada.org



Hunger in Ethiopia— Mary Shwol tells her story

During a recent visit to Ethiopia, I observed a food distribution on the edge of Gambella town in the western part of Ethiopia near the border with Sudan. As I talked with various beneficiaries, my eye was drawn to this striking woman who carried herself with a great deal of dignity. I introduced myself and she introduced herself as Mary Shwol. She was there to receive 75 kilograms of Canadian wheat for people that had been affected by flooding. This Foodgrains Bank supported relief program was being implemented by Food for the Hungry Ethiopia in cooperation with Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

As we talked, Mary told me her story. You could see in her eyes a deep sense of sadness. She was a widow with four children. Ten years earlier, she and her husband had fled tribal conflict in her village 100 kilometres away and settled near Gambella town to find safety. The conflict was linked to the civil war in neighbouring Sudan and the thousands of refugees that had fled into the Gambella region. The government had allocated them a small piece of land on the outskirts of the town along the river. They began to grow maize, sorghum and peanuts on the land. It did not provide them with enough to live on, so her husband would also find temporary work to help the family.

A few years later, Mary's husband got sick and died. Since then she has been the sole breadwinner for the family. She continues to farm her land. However, even in good years, it does not yield enough to support the family. She supplements her livelihood by gathering wood from the bush and selling it in town. At times her land is flooded, as happened in 2007, and she loses much of her crop. During these bad years, she also gathers wild foods to survive.

The year 2008 has been particularly bad. She had lost much of her crop from flooding in 2007 and staple food prices had more than doubled during the last two years. With the rising cost of food, more people were trying to collect firewood to sell, causing the cost of firewood to fall so she was not earning as much money. As a result, she and her family were eating fewer meals a day and the diversity and quality of their diet was much worse. The food relief she was receiving was making a big difference for her family.

As we met with many other people with similar stories to Mary, it was clear that the problem of flooding was a recurrent problem, and that the livelihoods of people in the Gambella region are very precarious. This part of Ethiopia has been largely



Hunger in Ethiopia continued...

forgotten and its economy and social structure undermined by the civil war in neighbouring Sudan and the influx of refugees. Our conversations with Food for the Hungry Ethiopia and local government officials quickly turned to what steps could be taken to help local communities develop more resilient food production and livelihood systems to complement the relief being provided. A two track strategy combining food distributions in the short-term with programs to strengthen livelihoods is essential if people like Mary are to be able to feed their families in the longer-term. We have begun to talk about what it would take to develop such a program. —*Jim Cornelius*

What is the “Right to Food” all about?

One approach to addressing world hunger is called the “right to food” approach. It is based on the idea that the United Nations (and almost all national governments) recognize that every person has certain rights, including the right to food. Specifically, this means that a government must ensure that people can produce or buy food for themselves, or provide food for those who can’t. The benefit of this approach is that it focuses attention on the people who are most vulnerable in society, which is crucial if the world is to achieve the first Millennium Development Goal of halving world poverty and hunger by 2015.

While the right to food has been recognized for decades, it has gained much more attention in the past year. Here’s why:

- The rapid rise in food prices early in 2008 hit poor people the hardest—only with a right to food approach will the solutions to the food crisis meet their needs.
- Climate change poses a huge threat to the livelihoods of small scale farmers, those on small islands, and those in flood-prone countries. If we view this as a violation of their right to food (and right to life, health, etc) there is a greater urgency to act.
- The Food Aid Convention (an international treaty on provision of food aid) is currently being re-negotiated, and the Foodgrains Bank (together with other NGOs) is trying to bring a right to food lens to the negotiations.

—*Paul Hagerman*



Give the gift of hope

Are you looking for a Christmas gift for a person who’s hard to buy for? Do you want to spend a little less time in busy shopping malls and a little more time with people you care about? Make a donation to Canadian Foodgrains Bank in the name of a friend or family member, and we’ll send them a beautiful Christmas card with your name on it. Make a donation at www.foodgrainsbank.ca or call 1-800-665-0377.



New video tells the story of Canadian Foodgrains Bank

A newly released video tells the story of five families who have lived with hunger and have seen their lives changed with support from Canadian Foodgrains Bank programs. “We are All Connected” follows singer/songwriter Steve Bell and his wife Nanci on a recent trip to India and Bangladesh. The film helps viewers gain a deeper understanding of hunger and shows some of the work being done by Canadian Foodgrains Bank through their member agencies and partners in the region. Call 1-800-665-0377 for a free DVD, or visit www.foodgrainsbank.ca to see the video online.

Voices from the South



I am Soudaluck Phanthmixay.

My family calls me Bee. I was born in Vientiane, the capital city of Lao P.D.R. I am 25 years old and am a graduate of the Bachelor's degree program in Mathematics and Computer from National University of Laos. Christian life is still new for my culture. All of my family is Buddhist but God opened the door for me to touch his amazing love and I have been a Christian for 4 years now.

Lao is a mountainous, land locked country between Thailand, Vietnam, China, Cambodia and Myanmar. It is a developing country with an average daily income of \$2 per day. Less than 10% of the land is suitable for agriculture and most of the country is inaccessible by road. Approximately 80% of the population relies on agriculture for survival, compared to Canada where less than 2% of the people rely on farming for food. As many as 40% of children under 5 years of age suffer from malnutrition. Two thirds of the country is still contaminated with unexploded ordnances (UXO's) which continue to cause death and injury and restrict the use of land for growing food or raising livestock.

I am a participant in the International Volunteer Exchange Program with Mennonite Central Committee for a year in Canada. I believe in making peace with people around the world and am happy to have joined Canadian Foodgrains Bank in their work of ending hunger in developing countries. I will spend the year working with the public engagement team, telling stories of my culture and talking about the root causes of hunger with young people across Canada. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to learn about a new culture and to see the love of God through people in Canada. When I finish this program, I would like to continue doing the same thing as I am doing here; telling stories about people in Canada, and encouraging youth in schools to get involved in developing our community.

To invite Soudaluck to your church or school, contact your regional coordinator listed on the back of this newsletter.





Honduras Youth Study Tour

For several years the Honduras Discovery Tour has been a time for young people to leap into an exciting world of intense learning. To travel is to learn, and this tour is an opportunity for young people to go deeper into issues of food justice. Where does our food come from? How are farmers affected by markets and trade rules? Does buying fair trade make a difference? This is the place where the joy and excitement of meeting people from another culture is combined with the learning that truly makes a difference in the way we live our lives, as one returnee confirmed: “After my trip, I realized that I did not want to be responsible for contributing to the further impoverishment of these nations.” Learn to make a difference.



Farmers among the most generous people in Canada

An Ipsos Forward Research poll reveals that nearly half of all Canadian farmers (46%) have donated a portion of their farm production to local or international food banks in the past. In addition, one in five of those who can donate (20%) give a portion of their production every year. According to the report, farmers are among the most generous people in Canada. We at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank are happy to serve as a conduit for all of those generous farmers (and other Canadians) who want to make a difference for someone in this world!



Many Fasted for Change on World Food Day!

Of the four hundred or so people registered for Fast for Change, many registered on behalf of churches or groups, mobilizing congregations and other individuals on World Food Day to fast, pray and imagine making small but significant changes. With approximately 4,000 prayer plates and 5,000 booklets distributed—and many more viewed online—Christians in Canada demonstrated an awareness and willingness to consider how our own way of life and the choices we make daily are part of a Christian response to hunger in the world. World Food Day may be over, but this is really only the beginning of a movement...for change.

New Faces

We have recently welcomed three new staff members to the Foodgrains Bank team. **Jenny Steinke** is our new Administration Assistant. Jenny recently graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a degree in Linguistics, majoring in English and French. Jenny will most likely be the friendly voice at the other end of phone when you call the Foodgrains Bank office. **Alden Brail** joined us in the newly created Capacity Development Manager position. Alden is an agriculturalist with 10 years international field experience. He has served as the MCC Country Representative in Bolivia and most recently as a Foodgrains Bank consultant on various projects. **Siggi Holzhaeuer** also joined staff as the fourth program officer for the program team. Siggi is a horticulturalist with 13 years of international field experience. He has worked in Congo and most recently served as MCC Country Representative in Angola and then Zambia where he helped coordinate several Foodgrains Bank responses.

A chicken and a picnic table

A chicken changed Lorne Underwood's life. Five years after he held that chicken, it still brings tears to his eyes.

"We'd travelled to Malawi and Mozambique on a food study tour visiting some of the projects supported by the Foodgrains Bank," Lorne recounts. "One of the villages we visited had received food aid and when they greeted us they offered us gifts to say thank you. On our way to lunch, a grandmother—who was the caregiver for her grandchildren because their parents died of AIDS—stepped onto the path in front of us. She reached out and pressed a live chicken into my hands. She wanted me to have it."

Lorne clears his throat as the tears begin to flow. "I said thank you. And she said 'No, thank YOU!' She was so grateful for the help she'd received that she gave the only thing she had to give."

Lorne tells this story while sitting on the end of a picnic table that stretches to the horizon. The picnic table is Lorne's most recent effort to make a difference for people like the African grandmother.

Lorne hails from Clifford, Ontario and has been part of the local growing project for more years than he can remember. This year, Lorne was looking for another way to contribute. "I'd heard about a group in Markdale who built the world's longest white cedar picnic table as a fundraiser," he says, "and I thought 'we could do that.'"

Together with a group of volunteers, Lorne began to build. Although it will take some time to make it official with the team at Guinness Book of World Records, Lorne is confident that they topped the record. At 126 feet 2 inches, it's almost 26 feet longer than the original. In the end, the table was cut into 6, 7, and 8 foot lengths and auctioned off, raising more than \$3000.

The picnic table won't be the last of Lorne's dedication to the Foodgrains Bank. When asked what's next, he chuckles. "I've got a few ideas, but I don't think I'll talk about them yet. When you're passionate about something," he says, "you just can't get around it. It drives you." — *Heather Plett*



Lorne Underwood on the picnic table

Jim Cornelius and Dave Meier meet with Zane and Brandt Ausmus



Young Ambassadors Working to End Hunger

Zane and Brandt Ausmus are young ambassadors who believe that ending hunger is something that they can contribute to. Recently, Dave Meier, Saskatchewan Regional Coordinator, got the following note from the Ausmus brothers: "We had a coffee, lemonade, and snack stand on June 14, 2008 and all the proceeds are going to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. We raised \$243.56 and we were so excited that we broke our goal of \$100 that we decided to ask all of our relatives if they wanted to give a donation. With all the donations we raised \$900."

Thank you Zane and Brandt!

We are moving!

After over 20 years on Smith Street, Canadian Foodgrains Bank is packing up its head office and moving to a new location just a few blocks away. As of the end of November, we'll be setting up shop on the fourth floor of Portage Place on Portage Avenue.

Our new address will be:

P.O. Box 767
400-393 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2L4

You're welcome to drop in and pay us a visit if you're in Winnipeg!

Food and Seed Supplied (April 1, 2008 to October 15, 2008)

COUNTRY	TONNES	COMMODITY
Afghanistan	189	Wheat Flour, Oil, Pulses, Salt
Bangladesh	1,326	Rice
Burkina Faso	215	Maize, Oil, Salt
Burundi	221	Maize, Seeds
Chad	1,041	Sorghum
DR Congo	255	Seeds
Ethiopia	9,085	Wheat, Maize, Oil, Pulses, Famix, Seeds
India	3,688	Wheat, Rice, Pulses, Seed, Other
Jordan	74	Rice, Oil, Pulses, Other
Kenya	1,035	Maize, Oil, Pulses
Laos	157	Rice
Liberia	476	Rice, Oil, Pulses, Seeds
Mexico	72	Rice, Maize, Oil, Pulses, Other
Mozambique	480	Maize, Pulses
Myanmar	236	Rice, Oil, Pulses, Other
Niger	142	Millet, Sorghum, Oil, Pulses, Other
Rwanda	27	Oil, Pulses, Maize Meal, Seeds
Sri Lanka	69	Rice, Wheat Flour, Oil, Pulses, Other
Sudan	734	Sorghum, Oil, Pulses, Other
Tanzania	453	Maize, Oil, Pulses, Seeds
Zambia	348	Maize, Oil, Pulses, Seeds
Zimbabwe	494	Wheat Soy Blend

Food Security and Nutrition Projects

COUNTRY	TOTAL	PROGRAM
Bangladesh	\$58,000	Food Security
Chad	\$26,000	Food Security
DR Congo	\$437,000	Food Security
India	\$123,000	Nutrition
Liberia	\$30,000	Food Security
Niger	\$93,000	Food Security, Nutrition
Sudan	\$2,920,000	Food Security, Nutrition



Donations to Canadian Foodgrains Bank can be made online at www.foodgrainsbank.ca or by calling 1-800-665-0377. To help you learn more about Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we'd be happy to provide you with additional resources such as brochures, videos, bulletin covers or inserts. To invite someone to speak at your church or community event, contact your local coordinator, or call our toll free number.

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Return undeliverable Canadian mail to: Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Box 767, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2L4



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