



News from

PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada

under the
SUN

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WORKING TOWARDS A TRULY JUST, HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL WORLD

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

LOUD AND CLEAR

TAKING CLIMATE ACTION ON THE RADIO

Voces y susurros de los Páramos
Radios Comunitarias en la Onda de los Páramos de Colombia

GRUPO COMUNICARTE PHOTO

Grupo Comunicarte in Colombia is one of three partners participating in a World Association of Christian Communication project to protect the Amazon region.

BY JANICE BIEHN

PWRDF Communications and Marketing Coordinator

The voices, knowledge and ideas from people most affected by the effects of climate change are rarely heard in the media. The urban poor, farmers, Indigenous communities, and vulnerable women in the Global South tend to be absent from most climate policy conversations at national or international levels, partly due to lack of access to information and platforms to express their views.

As a result, for the most part, people at the forefront of the climate crisis do not have real opportunities to help shape the policy responses promoted by their governments. This is the situation in the Amazon, a massive region that spans nine countries, contains extensive forest reserves, Indigenous reservations, national parks, and is home to an impressive diversity of cultures, languages, geography and nature.

Yet it is under threat. Deforestation, the expansion of agriculture, along with economies linked to drug trafficking, mining and cattle ranching imperil the land and the people who inhabit it.

The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), a fellow member of the ACT Alliance, is the lead partner of a new project being funded by PWRDF called Voices of the Amazon: Community Radio Networks Enabling Grassroots Participation

in Environmental Policy.

WACC will work with the Latin American Network of Radio Education (ALER), a regional organization at the forefront of the community radio movement for more than 50 years producing content about the Amazon.

PWRDF will contribute \$55,000 a year for three years. WACC will support local capacity building and equipment by investing EUR 30,000 in Colombia (with PWRDF partner Grupo Comunicarte), the Ecuadorean Network of Community Radio Broadcasters and its network of six radio stations in the Amazon region; and the Amazon Radio Network, a Catholic broadcasting network in Brazil.

Communication in the Amazon is hampered by distance, weather that affects electronic devices, the centrality of rivers as communication routes and insufficient infrastructure. Internet and cell phone service quality is low and cost-prohibitive for many. Print media is rarely received outside of urban areas and television is too expensive to produce. Furthermore, there are very few journalism-training opportunities in the region.

The project will strengthen local communication and advocacy capacities among grassroots communities in Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil, with the long-term objective of establishing a network of grassroots communicators capable of employing radio and digital platforms to

PWRDF is also supporting Grupo Comunicarte's community radio program with \$141,400 over three years to train citizen-journalists across 15 radio stations. Their reporting will promote awareness and protection of the Páramos – an at-risk ecosystem that is the source of 70% of Colombia's water.

support local organizing and participation in policy-making for the protection of their ecosystems.

This network will play a key role in informing local communities, producing content in local languages, and highlighting local knowledge and culture as vital elements central to climate policies. A local needs assessment in the first year will identify key advocacy opportunities and allies looking to avoid duplication of efforts or missed opportunities. This includes looking at opportunities to engage with ecumenical and Anglican organizations throughout the project. WACC has already connected with the Anglican Church in Pará State, Brazil, and explored the possibility of their participation in the project by joining the broadcasting network and receiving training.

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?

BY JANICE BIEHN

In ancient Egypt, Pharaoh was vexed by his vivid dreams. He sought the help of Joseph, who was known to be gifted with an ability to interpret dreams. Joseph saw clearly that Pharaoh's visions of seven fat cows and seven scorched stalks of grain foretold seven years of abundance, followed by seven years of famine. He urged Pharaoh to plan for this disaster:

"Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined" (Genesis 41:34-36)

The P in PWRDF could well stand for Planning, given how much of it we do around here. As I write this, my colleagues are busy planning events with Mary Obiero of Church World Service, set to take place in Winnipeg in April; we have just finished planning our annual resources (which you can read about on page 3); and others are working on PWRDF's strategic plan for 2024-2029.

Our partners also know a thing or two about planning. They plan what seeds to sow and when, where to dig the next well, when to schedule training sessions, or how to find new ways to earn an income. Our partners research, study and sometimes consult us to figure out their next steps. For indeed, as Robbie Burns, the Scottish bard said, "the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." In other words, expect the unexpected, whether it be a cyclone, an earthquake or even, say, a global pandemic.

In this issue of *Under the Sun* we dive into forward planning. Read about our partners in El Salvador, the Amazon region and Sri Lanka investing in the future of their communities; learn about planning your legacy, and check out our annual resources, which support our planners in churches across Canada.

Pharaoh did follow Joseph's advice to plan for the future. It paved the way for reconciliation between Joseph and his family, thus ensuring the future of Israel. It is a powerful illustration that we, like Joseph, are part of God's divine plan. May we all learn to interpret the signs of God's presence in our lives.



2 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



OPPURAVILLAM PHOTO

PWRDF will support New Oppuravillam's training centre for local women's groups.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR PEACE IN SRI LANKA

BY CHRISTINE HILLS

PWRDF Public Engagement Program Officer

PWRDF has allocated \$14,000 to support the restoration and ongoing work of the New Oppuravillam in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka where education, community and awareness building and skills development were key components of its founder's vision.

In 1981, Rev. Dr. Donald Jeyapalan Kanagaratnam, principal of the Theological College of Lanka, established "Oppuravillam," a house of peace, on land owned by his family near Vavuniya, known during the Sri Lankan Civil War as 'the border town'. His vision was to build good relationships between the Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim communities and to demonstrate that the communities could live in harmony jointly contributing to the development of their lives and their communities.

Following his death in 1995, Oppuravillam was taken over by the Sri Lankan army. After the conflict ended in 2009, it was gifted to the Diocese of Colombo by his family where a Management Committee (OPMC), headed by

the Archdeacon of Jaffna, oversees its management with support from the Reconciliation and Peace Desk of the Diocese of Colombo. With funding from Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and other partners, repairs and additions began and two resident counsellors were installed.

The vision for the New Oppuravillam is in keeping with the Church's calling to embody Peace and Reconciliation:

- To create opportunities for alienated communities to come together, to enter into dialogue, to learn, understand, appreciate and accept the 'otherness' of all and recognize the 'oneness' of all;
- To 'Be Present', offering a place of hope and comfort to those in need, the poor, the deprived, the traumatized, the vulnerable, the aged, the abandoned, the lonely;
- To establish a residential 'Centre for Dialogue' to be used by parishes, diocesan organizations and groups to meet, learn and share, and to offer exposure visits and retreats.

Alcoholism, drug use, domestic violence and family breakups are common issues in the villages. Oppuravillam's counselling services have been extremely helpful, especially for women. The Centre has been steadily growing in its

inter-faith work, developing excellent relations with the Buddhist and Hindu temples in the village. Its presence in these communities has become a beacon of hope for the villagers, many of whom underwent several displacements during the war years and returned to situations of poverty, starting off with nothing.

Oppuravillam has also become a centre for the ERD-funded 'Savings with Learning' women's groups, four of which have been formed in the surrounding villages. A computer training class for children has also taken off, while two vocational trainings for women in tailoring, funded locally, have been completed. PWRDF funding will support this work and help provide a brighter future through:

- A community drinking water project that encompasses the installation of a mini water purification system for use by those in the village and the Oppuravillam Centre;
- The further development of the organic vegetable and fruit demonstration farm and its training centre for local women's groups;
- The completion of the furnishing of the residential and multipurpose building, used as a retreat centre.

EDUCATION FORMS FOUNDATION FOR EQUALITY IN EL SALVADOR

BY DUNCAN CHALMERS

PWRDF Youth Council

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of joining a number of PWRDF staff and a few other Canadian youth in a project development process with long-time PWRDF partner, CoCoSI. CoCoSI (Committee Against AIDS), is a community-based organization in El Salvador that promotes gender equality through education.

Led by CoCoSI staff and program participants (primarily LGBTQIA+ youth), this involved a series of four participatory Zoom sessions that helped to create a platform for the sharing of ideas and the elicitation of constructive feedback on the proposed project.

Above all, this process – a new approach for PWRDF – served as an amazing mechanism to connect the voices, perspectives, and experiences of youth in El Salvador with those of young people here in Canada. As such, in addition to strengthening CoCoSI's case for project



PWRDF staff and Youth Council members meet on Zoom with staff from CoCoSI.

funding, this intentional creation of space for connection, dialogue, and cross-cultural engagement was an amazing learning experience for all parties involved. While we as Canadians were very interested to hear about the stories of youth in El Salvador,

they were equally excited to learn about our lives as well. From my perspective, this is really cool and highlights the potential (and perhaps even need) for further youth-to-youth connection initiatives down the road; ones that stand to further strengthen

PWRDF's partnership model.

Following this proposal design process, CoCoSI submitted their application to PWRDF, which was subsequently approved! The project, Educating and Fostering Youth and LGBTQIA+ Leadership for Gender Justice in Cabañas, will centre primarily around the strengthening and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ individuals in one of the most impoverished and underserved parts of El Salvador. Through a range of workshops, public advocacy activities, and communication campaigns, the project will ultimately work to strengthen the ability of LGBTQIA+ youth and allies to advocate for their human rights, in turn fostering a culture of peace and societal inclusion. PWRDF is supporting the project with a \$30,000 grant.

CoCoSI is a community-based organization of professionals and youth who develop educational workshops for women, children, adolescents, teens, people living with HIV, prison populations and the public at large. Made up of young people – many of whom were born in refugee camps in Honduras during El Salvador's bloody civil war of the 1980s and '90s – CoCoSI is part of a national network of AIDS organizations; the only one based in and working in rural communities.

PLAN FOR THE CHARITIES CLOSE TO YOUR HEART

BY MANITA SWATI

PWRDF Senior Advisor of Planned Giving

When the Rev. Roslyn Macgregor was planning her Will, it was an opportunity to ensure the people and work she loves will be taken care of after she's gone. She has been supporting PWRDF for a long time, as both a donor and the PWRDF Diocesan Representative for the Diocese of Montreal, so the organization and its many partners are near and dear to her heart.

"I love that we work in partnership with individuals, communities, and organizations in emergency earthquakes, fires, and floods and for refugees from the War in Ukraine," says Macgregor. "I love that all is done with great respect and the training of local people to continue the work...I will continue to support the inspiring work of PWRDF by leaving a legacy in my will. The work of PWRDF is essential."

Planning for the future can be daunting, however generous supporters like

Macgregor understand the importance of planning a will and leaving a legacy. A gift or bequest in your will has the potential to make a big impact in the lives of vulnerable communities around the world.

The Very Rev'd Sharon Murdoch, the former Dean of the Diocese of Moosonee, knew the importance of leaving a legacy that aligned with her faith and values. After her death in 2021, her family and community were saddened by the loss of such a large and loving presence in their lives. But they were also inspired by the gifts she left in her will to support PWRDF's Indigenous programs, as well as other charities. A year later, her brother Neil Murdoch gave a gift to PWRDF's Indigenous programs in her memory.

"That's what she wanted," Neil says. Approximately half of the Anglicans in Moosonee are Indigenous, and Sharon enjoyed ministering to them, especially in the Cree language. "She took lessons and picked it up, with the specific intention that it would be part of her ministry," says Neil.

"[While she was alive] we held an event in Kingston for her former parishioners and quite a few came from up north, from Cochrane and Timmins. Many were Cree."

Murdoch saw PWRDF as an important vehicle for outreach and actively promoted its programs and partnerships, says the Rt. Rev. Caleb Lawrence, Bishop of Moosonee during Murdoch's time there. "She would talk about it at any parish she was in." Her bequest will continue to bring communities together.

In a world in which isolation, tensions and disaster are increasingly prevalent, legacy gifts can help to ensure a future in which human beings work together with respect for one another and a willingness to find solutions to community problems.

We all want to help those around us and leave the world a better place. Leaving



The Very Rev. Sharon Murdoch

a charitable gift to PWRDF in your Will is another way to plan for the future.

For more information, visit pwrdf.org/leave-a-legacy or contact Manita at mswati@pwrdf.org or (437) 833-6358.

PWRDF recommends seeking the services of a lawyer, accountant or financial advisor to consider your financial goals, review your tax situation and tailor your gift to best fit your circumstances.

PWRDF PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

What is one word that describes the PWRDF you would be proud to support in five years? As part of the process of creating our Strategic Plan for 2024-2029, PWRDF staff have been leading focus groups with volunteers, supporters and other stakeholders. This word cloud is comprised of the words that people attach to the future of PWRDF. The bigger the word, the more often it was offered.

What words would you use?



NEW RESOURCES INVITE US TO MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

BY CHRISTINE HILLS

PWRDF Public Engagement Program Officer

PWRDF's 2023 annual resources enliven the overall work of PWRDF and partners around the world and extend an invitation: "Let's Make a World of Difference."

These colourful resources feature stories of PWRDF partners and reflect the progress made over more than 60 years, promoting sustainable development and providing humanitarian relief.

Many churches across Canada designate a day to hold a PWRDF Sunday and pieces have been produced to assemble a PWRDF Sunday Kit. PWRDF's Super Friends return with a 10th edition for children and young people. PWRDF resources are a welcome addition to display tables, bulletin boards, synods, fundraising dinners, worship services; anywhere else that Anglicans gather.

In April 2024, PWRDF will embark on a five-year strategic plan that will carry us into the future as we build on the good work that has been done and the lasting partnerships that have been made and grown.



Bookmarks, placemats and bulletin covers are among the many colourful annual resources available for 2023.

THANKS TO YOU

Anglican parishes across Canada are supporting PWRDF and making a world of difference!

BY CHRISTINE HILLS
PWRDF Public Engagement Officer

PWRDF wants to hear from you!

Please share your fundraising success stories to inspire others and to spread the word about the good work you have done! Email Christine Hills at chills@pwrdf.org and tell us all about it. Many thanks to all of our donors.



CONFIRMING THEIR CHOICE

Confirmation students of St. James Church in Port aux Basques completed their Stewardship Project raising \$604 for PWRDF. After perusing the World of Gifts, they were interested in farming in six countries and decided to 'Buy the whole farm'. Goats, pigs, rabbits and dairy sheds were among the gifts included with this gift. But they weren't finished yet! The rest of the funds went towards three new baby kits for moms in Lesotho.



PRAYERS AND CHOCOLATE CAKE

On November 20 parishioners and friends of St. Anselm's in Vancouver celebrated the Reign of Christ Sunday, giving thanks for their partnership with PWRDF. The prayers of Intercessions were written in English and beautiful prayers were also offered in Hindi, Vietnamese, Cantonese, German and Korean, bringing languages of the world together in giving praise to God. Parish representative Shirin Theophilus and her husband Daniel provided a vegetarian Indian lunch, including her famous PWRDF chocolate cake. Lunch was \$25 and Shirin encouraged all those present to make additional donations if possible. Exceeding expectations, \$1,920 was raised.



JUST ASK

When it comes to fundraising, parish representative Heather Clarke of St. Andrew's Langley, B.C. uses her tried and true method – asking. This year she announced that the parish outreach event would support PWRDF's equity account in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. A PWRDF poster and other promotional materials were displayed next to the entrance. Each week during Lent, a glass jar was layered with grains and legumes. Heather stood outside the church door every Sunday after the service and rattled another glass jar decorated with the PWRDF logo, into which she cajoled people to donate. By Lent 5, they had reached Rev. Andrew Halladay's goal of \$1,000. In total, the campaign raised \$1,920, thanks to Heather and her team, and parishioners' generosity!

IN THE EYE OF FIONA

On December 18, Holy Trinity Guildwood in the Diocese of Toronto held a concert to enjoy the season and raise funds for PWRDF's Hurricane Fiona response. Guest musicians joined Holy Trinity's choir and other local talent to offer an afternoon of entertainment and giving, filled with music and Christmas celebration. PWRDF Executive Director Will Postma updated those gathered in person and online about the aftermath and destruction caused by Hurricane Fiona. Generous parishioners and friends raised \$1,940 to support those affected by Fiona.

OH BABY!

Last Christmas, the Church of Saint Andrew in Cole Harbour, N.S. selected a project from PWRDF's World of Gifts for their Advent fundraiser and created a display to promote it. They focused on the Special Delivery kits for new moms in Lesotho and called it their 'Oh Baby' campaign. Each time a parishioner donated \$25 for a new baby kit, they added a diaper in a bassinet that was placed in front of the altar. By Christmas the bassinet was full and the diapers were then donated to a local women's shelter. They raised more than \$2,000 for the New Baby initiative!



Mark your calendars for June 22, 1 p.m. EDT for the launch of this year's campaign, in support of PWRDF programs working with refugees and internally displaced people. Visit pwrdf.org/webinars for details.

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT PWRDF

YOUR GIFT CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. THANK YOU!

Donations can be made online at pwrdf.org/give-today or by filling out this form and mailing to the address below.

Name: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email address: _____

I have enclosed a one-time gift of

☐ \$40 ☐ \$80 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$500 ☐ other \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to PWRDF or provide credit card information.

Please circle credit card type: Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____



OR

☐ I would like to make a monthly gift of \$ _____ by credit card (info at left)

☐ I would like to make a monthly gift of \$ _____ by pre-authorized chequing to be withdrawn on

☐ 1st of month ☐ 16th of month

Please enclose a personal cheque marked "Void."

OR

To donate by phone, please call toll-free at 1-866-308-7973. (Do not leave credit card information in a voice message.)

Mail your gift to PWRDF
80 Hayden St., 3rd floor
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2



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