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OPEN DOORS

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. -2 CORINTHIANS 1:3,4

Perhaps a common conversation around your dinner table starts with a question like, "So, what did you do at school today?" and ends with the response, "Nothing." However, in the near future the response could be more like, "We took turns throwing balls of paper into the trash can!" Inevitably, your concern over this new teaching methodology will lead to some follow-up questions, at which point you may find yourself immersed in a story of how that activity demonstrated concepts of poverty and privilege, and how Christian NGOs are meeting needs around the world.

Through the collaborative work of the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies, the CARE (Curriculum Assistance for Reformed Education) Committee, and CRWRF, Grade 8 teachers across Ontario found a new geography curriculum unit called *Open Doors* on their desks this September. Using this curriculum, students will learn about four projects where CRWRF has been and in some cases continues to be involved - Faithworks in Kentucky, Relief and Rehabilitation in Nepal, AIDS response and community development in South Africa, and Disaster Relief in Syria. They will be faced with accounts of students their own age who are living in desperate situations. They will discover how geographical facts contribute to those poverties and how they can be addressed. The NGO is an open door through which they can walk and come alongside others in compassion and with hope.



MUFU RESCUE HOME



CHILDREN AT SCHOOL



PREPARING BEANS FOR STORAGE



OPEN DOOR IN KENYA: FARM TO TABLE – THE STRUGGLE IS REAL!

In North America’s urban centres, in pursuit of healthier living, there are recent trends to eat only food that is grown within 100 miles (The “100-mile diet”) or provide whole foods to children through the Farm to Table Program. At the **Mufu Rescue Home**, the children know that the struggle is real...if they want to have food on their table for dinner, they need to help grow and harvest it in their own backyard! Regular rainfall is an essential need, and chores in the garden are just a part of the daily routine.

TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY:

- 5:30 A.M. Wake up and shower
- 6:00 A.M. Breakfast
- 6:30 A.M. Leave for school
- 12:30 P.M. Lunch at Mufu
- 1:30-6:30 P.M. Grades 1-3 stay at Mufu and do homework, play and shower
- 1:30-4:30 P.M. Grades 4-8 go back to school
- 4:30-6:30 P.M. Grades 4-8 have evening devotions, help with cleaning, cooking, watering crops in the kitchen garden, and then shower
- 6:30 P.M. Dinner
- 7:30-8:00 P.M. Pre-school and lower primary students do fun activities like drawing and coloring, then go to bed
- 7:30-9:00 P.M. Upper primary students do their homework, then go to bed

The letters received from families and school children in Canada form their understanding of what life is like for their Canadian peers. Child sponsorship through CRWRF is a wonderful opportunity to link the children of God in the body of Christ across the globe!

OPEN DOOR IN INDIA: THANKFUL HEART: THREE MEALS A DAY!

Measure your bedroom – is it 10x10? That means your room is 100 sq ft – not too big but certainly adequate for your closet, dresser and bed. At the **Jan Peter Children’s Home** in India, 35 girls share a dorm that is 1000 sq ft; that would be like having 3 or 4 girls in your bedroom! M. Shivani is one of those girls and she thanks God every day for the opportunity she has been given. When she was 3 years old, her father passed away and her mother was trying to raise her and her siblings on a meager daily wage. Because of the family’s desperate situation, she was given the opportunity to come and live at the Home at the age of 5 ; she is now completing Grade 10 at the top of her class. Although it was difficult to live away from her family, the other 340 children and the house parents, teachers and staff all made her feel welcome and loved. She was so thankful for clean clothing, safety, and 3 meals a day! CRWRF partners with Oikonomos Ministry to supply funding for those 3 meals a day!

TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY:

- 5:00 A.M. Wakeup call and exercises
- 6:30-7:30 A.M. Review yesterday’s lessons
- 7:30 A.M. Breakfast
- 9:00-4:00 P.M. School
- 5:00 P.M. Tea and snacks
- 5:30-7:30 P.M. Extra lessons and special needs teaching
- 7:30 P.M. Dinner
- 8:15-9:15 P.M. Extra writing period
- SATURDAYS Extra project work and sports



M. SHIVANI

OPEN DOOR IN MEXICO: SCIENCE LESSON: CONSERVING ENERGY!

At the **Pan de Vida Home** in Mexico, there are 80 children who need water to brush their teeth and flush their toilets, propane to cook their meals and hydro to turn on their bedroom lights. Have you ever considered how much it costs to pay for water, heat and electricity for one household – now multiply that by at least 10! The directors of this Home have

done their math, and problem-solved by harnessing a local resource given by God – the sun! They have installed 14 solar water heaters to reduce their propane consumption by 50%; 120 solar panels to reduce their electricity bill between 50-80%, an irrigation system so that they can maintain pasture land for 19 sheep and for their fruit trees. An agroponic system

was also built to house fish tanks and vegetable gardens. Faithworks (a sub-committee of CRWRF) sends a team each year to Mexico to encourage and assist our brothers and sisters in faith as they provide a safe and loving home for these rescued children.

