

GOD'S GOOD GIFTS

CRWRF NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2025

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." – 1 PETER 4:10



PHOTO OF JOY! FROM CRWRF ARCHIVES, DATE ~1990.

What a humbling thought that for many generations now, members of our reformed community have been faithfully supporting the work of CRWRF, as an expression of thankfulness to the Lord for his good gifts to his people. As mentioned in the Winter 2024 newsletter, our theme for the 60th anniversary celebration is *God's Good Gifts*. We reflected then on how he has given so many gifts to our supporting community, and to the Board and subcommittees over the last six decades. Another 'group' that God has given good gifts to is our partner organizations and their communities. Even before CRWRF came to walk alongside them, God had already given the community members many gifts.

Sadly, the fall into sin has distorted and damaged all that is good. Communities have pressing needs, lives are broken, and organizations, businesses, individuals and governments often pursue power or self rather than communal good. And yet, God in his grace continues to grant communities around the world capabilities, skills, and resources that can be built on and further developed. The CRWRF Board tries to keep this in mind as we do our work.

Even though we might live in a context of relative wealth, we are not therefore superior to those whom we help and work with. We need to do our work with humility, realizing that we can learn much from our partners. As much as possible, we look for solutions and resources to come from within the community and seek to build and rebuild relationships among local individuals, associations, churches, businesses, schools, and government. The way our Education Bursary Fund (EBF) operates is a great example of this. With the guarantee of financial support from CRWRF to qualifying secondary students, the overseas EBF committees try to secure additional financial support from other local parties, including churches, businesses, individual sponsors, and government grants. The program has been very successful and demonstrates how various parties can work together to support the education, development and growth of the next generation in their community.

We thank the Lord for the way he has given good gifts to the communities that CRWRF is involved in, and we pray that he may receive all the praise and glory through the work that we support!

Project Updates

Kenya

The Good Gift of Multiplying Support

The Education Bursary Fund (EBF) is focused on increasing access to secondary education for students who are vulnerable and poor. The recipients are chosen and supported by local committees that have been established at the four AICCAD-operated rescue centres that CRWRF supports.

Bilha is one of over 30 children currently supported by the EBF. Bilha, who lives with her elderly grandmother who cannot afford tuition fees, was selected for an EBF bursary by the local committee at the Mufu rescue home. Given her good academic perfor-

mance, they helped her apply for a state funded scholarship. The EBF committee members liaise with the school on her behalf and provide emotional, social, and spiritual support in place of her parents, who ran away. With these supports in place, and because her school fees are paid, Bilha can focus on her academics.

The Fund enables AICCAD to ensure that children have access to education once they are re-integrated into their communities. The unique feature of the EBF being an endowment fund means that contributions are invested and only the interest earned is used to fund bursaries. The benefit for donors is that their gifts are multiplied to continue to support students every year. What a meaningful way to distribute gifts bestowed by God!

To learn more about our sponsorship opportunities please contact us at:

FAMILYSPONSORSHIP@CRWRF.CA

FOUR STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARDS THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION VIA THE EBF - PRISCILLA, VELMA, MERCY AND BARRACK.



FAITHWORKS UPDATE



The Good Gift of Relationships

Faithworks was able to organize and send three service and learning teams this past winter, two to Mexico and one to West Timor. We are thankful for the work that team members could accomplish, and perhaps more importantly, for the mutual encouragement and strengthening of faith-based relationships that could occur between participants and the host communities.

Check out our Facebook and Instagram for many more Faithworks trip photos!



FAITHWORKS TRIP TO WEST TIMOR IN DECEMBER 2024



FAITHWORKS MEXICO TRIPS, NOV 2024 AND JAN 2025





West Timor



SMILING STUDENTS CURRENTLY LIVING AT NEW HOPE ORPHANAGE AND RECEIVING HOLISTIC SUPPORT.

The Good Gift of Holistic Care

The New Hope Foundation continues to provide educational, nutritional, spiritual, and emotional care to the children within their community. In a country that suffers from ongoing poverty, this organization aims to support children through holistic care, with the mission of bringing hope to abandoned, orphaned, and vulnerable children.

Take Tommy, for example, a young man whose family could not afford to send him to high school. In the Lord's providence, and much to his and his parents' joy, he was connected to the home at New Hope and was able to move in last year to complete his

studies. When Tommy had to be rushed to a nearby clinic after falling unconscious during a friendly soccer match, it was discovered that he suffered from severe anemia. He received appropriate care and continues to have check-ups via the nurse who visits New Hope every week. This health care, combined with a hearty and nutritious meal plan at the orphanage, is allowing Tommy to regain his strength and energy, which will also benefit him in his studies. We thank the Lord for the work done at New Hope and pray that the Lord will continue to equip the staff so that they may continue providing holistic care to the children in their care.

India

The Good Gift of Daily Care and Stability



CLOCKWISE, STARTING AT TOP: CHILDREN LEARNING A SONG AT THE SUPPORT CENTRE; STUDENTS IN SEWING COURSE; CHILDREN SINGING; DRIVING SCHOOL IN ACTION.

Over the last year, the churches in Manipur, India have experienced a rise in violent attacks due to ethnic clashes. These attacks have resulted in over 200 deaths and the burning of churches and homes. Community tension and the loss of income have also resulted in the lack of food supplies and the displacement of over 60,000 individuals living in that region.

CRWRF has partnered with a local church in Manipur providing food supplies and educational support to those who have fled from the violence and are now living in relief camps. As a result of the increased violence, several services – including schools – have closed, leaving many children unattended during the day and at risk of getting involved in the local clashes.

With our financial support, the churches have established Child Support Centres to provide care for those without daily supervision, continue to give study guidance to bridge the children's academic gaps, and provide spiritual and moral development from pastors and elders.

With the restriction of education, many teenagers living in relief camps have also been left without daily routine and risk being pulled into the ethnic clashes. Recognizing the need not only to give purpose to these young people's lives but also to provide training for them to find work and gain an income, the church further established a sewing school and a driving school. These skill training courses have provided stability and hope for many of these individuals while also sharing the light of the gospel in these times of conflict.



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West Timor

RELIEF UPDATE

The Good Gift of Necessary Relief and Nourishment

Due to extreme drought in the Barate area, families who previously had the means to provide for themselves through farming were suddenly in dire need. Our partners at New Hope were able to distribute rice and powdered milk to 400 vulnerable and affected families. Pastors and evangelists of the reformed congregations worked with the local government to identify the families with most pressing needs. A few months later, they were able to distribute corn and powdered milk to 200 additional families in need.

Save the date

CRWRF is thankful for
GOD'S GOOD GIFTS FOR OVER



YEARS!

CRWRF began by asking people to donate the cost of a loaf of bread each week to help those in need. Now, many loaves later, we rejoice with deep gratitude for God's abundant blessings. Thank you for your generous financial and spiritual support throughout the years!



Stay tuned for our celebration events to come, D.V. in the

FALL OF 2025

FLAMBOROUGH, ONTARIO
ST. ALBERT, ALBERTA
ALDERGROVE, BRITISH COLUMBIA