

A Personal Commitment to Creation Discipleship

Bishop Jane Alexander

Holy week to Easter

Monday April 11

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Reflection

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said, “Christians are called by God to show to the world what the divine image looks like – the image of a divine creator who brought the world to birth, called it good, and summoned human beings to reflect this divine care and delight through their own work in the world, animated by the gift of Christ’s Spirit. Christian Climate Action seeks to respond to that summons; in the face of impending environmental crisis, we need to encourage one another to grow more fully into the joyful responsibility we are made for.” (From Living in the Light)

I love Rowan Williams’ writings, as those of you who have met me know. This piece though, I adore. Did you notice, “Christians are called....” Not ‘some’ as if that task of reflecting the divine image falls to her and not to him, or this family but not that one, or this country but not mine, you get my drift. I am pushed into considering how my work in the world reflects divine care for the world – of people but also of all creation. My whole life has been a journey of trying to get better at it, by the grace of God. My garden and vegetable plot say one thing, my garbage something different. There needs to be more congruity between the two. I freely admit it’s hard, not impossible of course, but hard nevertheless.

Since March 2020 when we were made fully aware of the global COVID-19 pandemic I think I began to make some clearer decisions to simplify life and also to see the incredible potential for a greater way of living in love and charity with all our neighbours. Director of Global Advocacy at Tearfund, Dr. Ruth Valerio, author of *Saying Yes to Life: (The Archbishop of Canterbury’s 2020 Lent Book)* said: “The current crisis has changed the way we see the world. It has reminded us of the fragility of life, exposed the gap between rich and poor, and revealed the damage we’ve done to the wider creation. But it has also helped us love our neighbours and brought communities together.”

I think that is very true. It is one full year later and there is still an outpouring of love and aid. We have heard from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent that in 2020 more than 50 million people were doubly hit by climate-related disasters (floods, droughts, and storms) and the COVID-19 pandemic. In many of the countries affected, PWRDF and its partners were there. Loving, restoring, helping us change how we view our resources and perhaps releasing our hold on things that were needed by others, because we are one body with many members. Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Lord God

You gather up the pieces so that nothing is lost

Alert us to our carelessness and wastefulness

And teach us to share from the abundance in our midst

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Season of Creation resources from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Covid-19 support for partners continued in 2020

PWRDF continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting our partners in Canada and around the world. Thanks to our generous donors, PWRDF is allocating an additional \$111,000 to support partners' initiatives.

Kenya

A gift of \$70,000 from Calgaryian Richard Bird, through the Ptarmigan Foundation, will fund PWRDF partner the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) as it supports people living in the Kakuma refugee camp. NCCCK is using this grant to purchase much needed equipment such as pulse oximeters, digital blood pressure machines, electric suction machines, non-contact thermometer guns, oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders, oxygen gauges and personal protective equipment (PPE) such as N95 masks, reusable face shields and disposable gowns. In partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and other partners, the equipment will be shared with local Kenyan health partners serving the refugee and host communities in Kakuma. The program will run until October 2020.

Bangladesh

Long-time PWRDF partner UBINIG has been monitoring the situation in Bangladesh at the national level and with those in its program area. Health protection supports and food support for families who have lost their sources of income are paramount. Farmers, traditional birth attendants, garment workers, domestic workers and weavers have all been affected. UBINIG is responding to the needs of these community members and to pregnant and breastfeeding women, and students. A grant of \$11,000 was used to support 965 families who received soap, masks, food items and seeds that will be given to Nayakrishi farmers who have expressed the need. As well, farmers who are experiencing problems in selling their crops will receive support. The distribution began May 1 and continued through the end of June. A volunteer group of farmers, women's organization members and Dai Mas distributed the equipment through UBINIG centres. "I take this opportunity to thank PWRDF on behalf of UBINIG and all the community members receiving the support of food, seeds and health protection items at the time of their need," writes UBINIG Executive Director Farida Akhter. "We know it is never enough but it is always very important to show our solidarity with them when they are in need."

Edmonton

The Diocese of Edmonton is supplementing its outreach programming to local Indigenous communities, specifically to ensure support and accompaniment to Indigenous women, many of whom are leaving abusive relationships and are trying to get off of the streets. Rev. Lori Inkster plans to continue the implementation of a birth and doula service, work that is critical at this time. Those in the Diocese have heard and witnessed many heart-rending stories from the front lines in recent weeks. A PWRDF grant

of \$5,000, combined with funds from the Diocese of Edmonton, will address some of the identified needs. Says Bishop of Edmonton Jane Alexander, “There are some very desperate people here in need of help.”Jane Alexander

South Sudan

PWRDF is also providing COVID-19 support for displaced people in Unity State, South Sudan. This project aims to support the 500 families who have been receiving monthly food distributions from SSUDRA (The Episcopal Church of South Sudan), PWRDF and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. From June 1, 2020 until October 31, 2020, this project will increase access to WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) services as well as other disease preparedness and prevention for better health. The project will focus on 522 internally displaced households in Rubkona and Bentiu, South Sudan. Community health promoters will reach displaced community members with hygiene and sanitation awareness through radio, promotion materials and megaphones, and 522 households will receive soap each month, plus containers for water collection and storage, and a bucket with taps for hand washing. PWRDF is contributing \$15,000 to this \$40,000-project, with the remaining funds coming from the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada.

Read the whole story on our website at

<https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-allocates-additional-111000-to-support-five-more-covid-19-responses/>