

# A Personal Commitment to Creation Discipleship

Bishop Jane Alexander

*Holy week to Easter  
Maundy Thursday April 14*

## Scripture

### **John 13:34-35**

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

## Reflection

Jesus tells those gathered with him to love one another and by this all will know that you are my disciples. As we reflect on this day so close to the sorrow of Good Friday and the glory yet to come of Easter these words are surely a commandment for us in our time. Around the world riches and poverty, comfort and homelessness, voices heard and those with no voice at all, busyness and loneliness are all part of our experience and sit uncomfortably side by side. In such a world can we show love as followers of Christ today? Around the world the impact of our carelessness with creation is making life near to impossible for our brothers and sisters. It is time to show that we believe with all our hearts that the salvation God promised in Christ is for all of creation.

Jesus knew at his very core that his purpose is to reconcile earth and heaven with God. He helped the disciples along this difficult road by reminding them to love one another — human to human. But this is only the beginning of a task that stretches out before us in 2021. To love the whole of creation. The anthropologist Margaret Mead said it was not until we saw the picture of the earth, from the moon, that we realized how small and how helpless this planet is — something that we must hold in our arms and care for. Is this how people will also know that we are Jesus' disciples, if we have love for all creation?

## Prayer

*You have called us to live and share a Jesus-shaped life  
in a Jesus-shaped church  
for a Jesus-shaped world.*

*Empower us with your Holy Spirit  
to live as disciples who make disciples  
of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen.*

*Jesus Shaped Life (Anglican Communion Intentional Discipleship initiative)*

*Four-year AMCC program comes to a close*

I N 2016, PWRDF received its largest grant to date from Global Affairs Canada. All Mothers and Children Count was launched to improve maternal, newborn and child health in Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Mozambique. The budget for the program was \$20 million, with approximately \$3 million coming from PWRDF donors, and the rest from the Government of Canada marking our highest ever six to one funding match.

On March 31, 2020, AMCC will come to a close. Over the past four years the participating communities have achieved many milestones. Across all four countries, AMCC led to:

- People are food secure for more months of the year from 6.1 months to 8.4 months
- More pregnant women attended at least four antenatal care visits with a trained health care provider, from 45% to 70%
- More live births were attended by a skilled health professional, from 64% to 89%
- More moms and babies received post-natal care within two days of birth, from 24% to 92%
- More women are using modern contraceptive, from 38% to 53%

Our four partners worked tirelessly to bring change to their communities. Partners in Health (Rwanda), Village Health Works (Burundi), EHALE (Mozambique) and Tanzania (Diocese of Masasi) all have countless individual successes.

“PWRDF has been a really strong and transparent partner in the implementation of this project,” says Emily Royal, Development Officer in the Social Empowerment Unit, Partnerships for Development Innovation Branch at Global Affairs Canada. “We really appreciate the close monitoring that PWRDF does in the field, the local partnership model and also the adaptability of the program when required.” Royal noted specifically how, when it was discovered in year one that the program overlook the vulnerable adolescent demographic, PWRDF was able to course correct. “PWRDF is very nimble as an organization,” she added.

**Read the whole story on our website at**

<https://pwrdf.org/four-year-amcc-program-comes-to-a-close/>