

# Living Matthew 25 MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR WORLD

A Social Justice E-Publication

## PONDERING EARTH

by Sean D. Krausert

With the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day fast approaching on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, it's time to reflect on the Earth in all her glory.

**The Earth is . . .** the third of eight planets in our solar system (sorry, Pluto). Our solar system is located in the Milky Way, along with 100 billion other star systems. The Milky Way is one of 30 galaxies in the "Local Group", which lies near the outskirts of the "Local Supercluster". And, there are many Superclusters forming the structure of the Universe. At least, that's what I'm told.

**The Earth is . . .** a culmination of various elements in solid, liquid, and gas form. These elements combine to form land mass, bodies of water, and an environment that provides for all of life's necessities. Of course, by "life" I mean *all* living things.

**The Earth is . . .** an eco-system, "a system involving the interactions between a community of living organisms in a particular area and its nonliving environment." (*Collins English Dictionary, 2003*) I would suggest, therefore, that it is itself akin to a living thing. It breathes, it replenishes, it changes and adapts.

**The Earth is . . .** home to a variety of life forms. There are literally millions of animal species, the exact number being highly dependent upon the number of insects (which is currently estimated at between 1 and 30 million species . . . many of which are still to be discovered). And, we cannot forget the estimated 400,000 species of plants. Of course, many species of life are currently endangered due to



stress being placed on the planet from a variety of sources.

**The Earth is . . .** a delicate balancing act between the diverse needs of the various life forms living on the planet and the laws of nature. The interconnectedness between all living organisms, resources, and natural forces cannot be understated.

**The Earth is . . .** to be treasured, respected, and most of all embraced.

**The Earth is . . .** truly a miracle!

**Editor's Note** – Since 1970, Earth Day has been celebrated every April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and is the most celebrated environmental event worldwide. For more information about Earth Day and events, check out – [www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca) and [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org).

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Have a comment? Go to <http://meetingtheneedsofourworld.blogspot.com/>.

# IT TAKES A WHOLE VILLAGE

Written by Sean D. Krausert

There are people among us – family, friends, co-workers – who are in dire need at this very moment. Perhaps unforeseen misfortune has struck . . . a loss of a job or severe illness. Are they alone?

The following true story clearly demonstrates that no one need be alone when facing a crisis. (*Real names have not been used in order to respect the privacy of the individuals involved.*)

\*\*\*\*\*

At almost two years of age, little Princess had a great life. She had a brand new baby sister, Lil' Sis, who was a couple of months old. Mom and Dad loved her to bits, and provided a good home for her. While Dad works to provide income for the family, Mom (a teacher by profession) stays at home to look after the girls. But everything changed for the worse shortly before her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Sadly, Princess was diagnosed with a rare and severe form of leukemia.

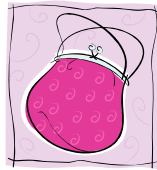
Treatment was immediate. At incredible financial and personal expense, Princess' family endured five rounds of chemotherapy on the wee girl over the course of seven months. However, all the sacrifice and having their worlds turned upside down looked like as though it would have a happy ending. Doctors concluded that the cancer had gone into remission. Unfortunately, the relief was short lived. Soon after Princess' 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, the cancer returned with a vengeance.

This time there would be even more intense chemotherapy, and no breaks between each round of treatment. Princess would have to stay in the hospital, and needed Mom or Dad with her at all times. Of course, Lil' Sis needed care from her parents, too. As a result, neither Mom nor Dad could work.

To make matters even more stressful, Princess would also need a bone marrow transplant. This meant the family would have to relocate for 6 months in order to be near the Children's Hospital. With their savings at the point

of being exhausted and no income, Mom and Dad were overloaded . . . and getting awfully close to the end of their rope.

A good friend of Mom's, Friend, couldn't sit idly by and watch this happen to Princess and her family. So Friend and a few others took immediate action to plan a quick and easy fundraising event to help the family in the short term, and hopefully buy some time in order to bring about some real relief for the family.



## Purses for Princess

"Purses for Princess" was amazingly simple. Friend and her friends sent out invitations to women they knew for a special party. Each attendee was to bring an "unloved" purse from their closet and their cheque book. Then, the ladies held a silent auction for the purses so that each would return home with a new treasure, while having had some fun in raising money for the family of a sick little girl. This little gathering, along with a few additional donations, resulted in \$2,200 being raised!

With the immediate needs of the family satisfied, Friend and her friends (now six of them in total) moved onto the next stage of their plan. It was time to go bigger, while still keeping things relatively quick and simple.

## PARTY FOR PRINCESS



Within two months of the earlier event, "Party for Princess" was staged as a larger fundraiser for the family. It was held in a community hall, and billed as a *Pub Night & Silent Auction*. Friend and the other organizers arranged for donations of silent auction items worth \$23,000 as well as the necessary food and beverages to be served at the event.

In total, 170 people attended - paying \$5 each to enter (which included food), buying 50/50 tickets, buying drinks for \$4 each and water for \$1, and bidding on silent auction items. The evening saw incredible acts of generosity – one man encouraged people to buy 50/50 tickets by pledging to double the total amount collected; the 50/50 winner donated all of his winnings to the cause; and person after person made generous bids on the silent auction. When everything was tallied, the event raised an incredible \$21,000 for Princess' family!

\*\*\*\*\*

There is so much that we can learn from this wonderful example of compassion. First, while life can be stressful, particularly in times of crisis, help from others can at least relieve the significant stress associated with meeting our basic physical needs. Second, being able to make a huge difference in the life of someone (maybe an entire family!) is well within our grasp, especially if several hands work together. Third, helping others can be fun and worthwhile for all involved – not just those benefitting from the support.

This story encourages me to keep my eyes open for those opportunities where I may be able to do my part to help others. It's the least I can do as I can only imagine how grateful I would be if others offered to help me and my family in a time of crisis.

You may be interested in knowing the rest of the story . . .

- Princess went into remission again, which allowed her to have the bone marrow transplant. She is just over half way through the 100 day bone marrow transplant procedure, which is going well so far;
- The funds raised for the family allowed them to get through the bleakest times and cover their extra costs; and
- Mom, Dad, Lil' Sis and Princess are doing well.

It just goes to show that **TOGETHER** we can get through anything!

Have a comment? Go to <http://meetingtheneedsfourworld.blogspot.com/>.



*The Mustard Seed is a non-profit Christian humanitarian organization that has been caring for Calgary's homeless for 25 years. Through its four ministry centres across Alberta, it cares for the essential needs of the less fortunate through food, clothing, and shelter provisions, along with education and employment programs, supported housing, health and wellness services, and personalized mentoring.*

**Some people don't have a place to hang  
their hats and coats . . .**



**. . . and some people don't have hats and coats.**

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# IDENTITY CRISIS

*Written by Greg Powell  
Alberta Acts on Climate Change*

I left a talk by Gwynn Dyer last month feeling hopeless, afraid and powerless. Despite the increasing evidence that human-caused global warming may cause major international conflict in the not-so-distant future, Canadians seem increasingly inclined to ignore the science. I wondered how ignoring climate science could be in our best interest but soon realized that we don't act according to our best interest; we act according to our identities.

The same answer applies to three other seemingly unrelated, but equally perplexing, questions:

1. Why did the people choose to kill Jesus instead of Barnabas?
2. Why do people vote against their own interests (e.g., low-wage earners advocating against a single-payer health system in the U.S.)?
3. Why do Albertans repeatedly elect a government that doesn't actually represent their new values?

The common answer is about identity. People behave according to how they identify themselves, not according to what is in their best interest. If I see

myself as a member of a certain community or as someone who behaves or votes a certain way, I will choose behaviours based on that identity over behaviours that benefit society and myself.

Students of the Christian tradition might ask a similar question about Good Friday: why would a group of people choose to free a murderer to kill one who stood up for their rights as an oppressed minority under Roman rule? One aspect of the answer, I believe, is because Jesus was forcing them to question their identity. We don't deal well with having our identity challenged.

The campaign against passing the health bill in the U.S. demonstrated the pros and cons of a public health care system are largely irrelevant; whether someone saw him or herself as the *kind of person* who would support a single-payer system determined whether he or she would support the idea. I assume that Republicans get sick equally as often as Democrats and incomes are generally comparable. However, those who identify as Republican are far less likely to support U.S. health care reform than those who identify as Democrat. Toeing

partisan lines is similarly dangerous in Canada.

The Climate Action Network's Graham Saul recently rightfully blasted the Harper administration for gutting climate research and muzzling government staff who speak about climate change. If Canadians do not hold the government to account for banning science from the public realm, it is only because of our identity as nice people who don't interfere in others' business.

Worse, a growing Canadian identity aligns itself with the economy before the environment, and with privacy before community — despite the fallacy behind both of these dichotomies. This identity blinds us to our moral obligations to eliminate our contribution of heat-trapping gases and support communities that are already suffering from climate change.

I fear that Albertans vote against their own interests because of an antiquated identity that no longer aligns with our values. We need a renewed, genuine identity that reflects our values and priorities for a sustainable future. Only with that new identity will we ultimately prove Gwynn Dyer wrong.

Have a comment? Go to <http://meetingtheneedsofourworld.blogspot.com/>.

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## Since you asked . . .

- (i) **There is no requirement that organizations featured in *LM 25 – Meeting the Needs of OUR World* provide any financial support to the publication.**

Some featured organizations are able to provide a portion of the support needed by *Living Matthew 25* (which is extremely appreciated!). However, there's truly only one requirement of organizations featured in the publication (as chosen by the editor) . . . doing good work with respect to meeting needs in our world.

- (ii) **YES, individuals can make charitable donations to support the work of *LM 25 – Meeting the Needs of OUR World*.**

This publication is an initiative based upon faith . . . faithfully creating awareness of needs in the world . . . and trusting that this ministry will be supported.

If you would like to make a donation to support *Living Matthew 25*, you may do so by sending a cheque made payable to “St. Michael’s Anglican Church” with the memo section clearly stating “re Living Matthew 25”. Cheques can be mailed to *Living Matthew 25* at:

176 Moraine Road  
Canmore AB  
T1W 1J7

A charitable tax receipt will be issued in due course for donations of more than \$20.

# THANKS!

## 10 EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE OUR WORLD

Each month a list of 10 relatively easy-to-do things is provided for your consideration. This month, in keeping with Earth Day, the focus is on things we can easily do to improve our environment at home, in our community and globally.

- **Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle . . . and Re-Think.** Most everybody is aware of the first three (and, hopefully, are putting them into practice), but let’s not forget to re-visit our practices from time to time in order to see if we can do things even more effectively.
- **Pack a “litterless” lunch.** See if you can take only reusable containers for lunch while avoiding wrappers and other waste.
- **Family Energy Challenge.** Get the whole household working together to use less electricity (or gas . . . or water . . . or all of the above) as compared to the month before. Plan a special treat for everyone when you achieve the goal!
- **Turn off your car when waiting at a railway crossing.** I like to turn off the engine, and take a few moments of deep, centering breaths. Now, I really enjoy waiting for the train to pass.
- **No Drive Day.** Speaking of your car, why not choose one day every week when you’ll just admire it in your driveway and not drive anywhere?
- **Save “grey water” for your plants.** Instead of letting the rinse water in the sink go down the drain, scoop it up and give your plants a drink.
- **Be environmentally prepared for the upcoming lawn care season.** Do a little internet surfing and find out the best lawn care practices. For example, find out the most environmentally friendly fertilizers. Also, decide to practice a conservative watering regime – fewer watering times and less water each time.
- **Don’t pass the trash!** We have all walked down the street, saw trash lying on the ground, and walked right on by. Let’s not do that anymore . . . it takes only a second to pick it up.
- **Full loads only, please.** Make sure you get the most from every drop of water used in the washing machine. After all, it uses the same water for lesser loads.
- **Let your voice be heard.** Exercising our democratic rights only begins with voting. We should also take opportunities to tell our elected officials what is important to us. Let them know we care about the environment!

Share how one of these ideas helped you to improve our world. Go to <http://meetingtheneedsofourworld.blogspot.com/>.

# COMPASSION'S CIRCULAR NATURE

Written by Sean D. Krausert

As part of building compassion in my life I have embarked on a regular practice of meditation. To this end, I have found wonderful guidance in the writings of Jon Kabat-Zinn, author of *Wherever You Go There You Are*.

I recently read the following passage from this book (at page 162):

*"We resonate with one another's sorrows because we are interconnected. Being whole and simultaneously part of a larger whole, we can change the world simply by changing ourselves. If I become a center of love and kindness in this*

*moment, then in a perhaps small but hardly insignificant way, the world now has a nucleus of love and kindness it lacked the moment before. This benefits me and it benefits others."*

I instantly gravitated towards the truth in this statement. At the same time, I felt a pull to go a little further.

Because we are interconnected, each a part of the whole, I believe that pain anywhere is our pain. Consequently, every act of compassion committed to reduce pain in the world by meeting the needs of another goes to reduce our own pain. To borrow the phrasing above, it benefits others and it benefits me.

There is something poetic and beautiful in manifesting compassion within ourselves and in the world. Whether we start within or we start in the world, there is a circular nature to compassion that is not complete until it touches both.

I suggest that to truly "love our neighbour as our self" or to "do unto others as you would want done unto to you" . . . we must take the time to nurture compassion within ourselves as well as devoting energies to being compassionate to all those around us.

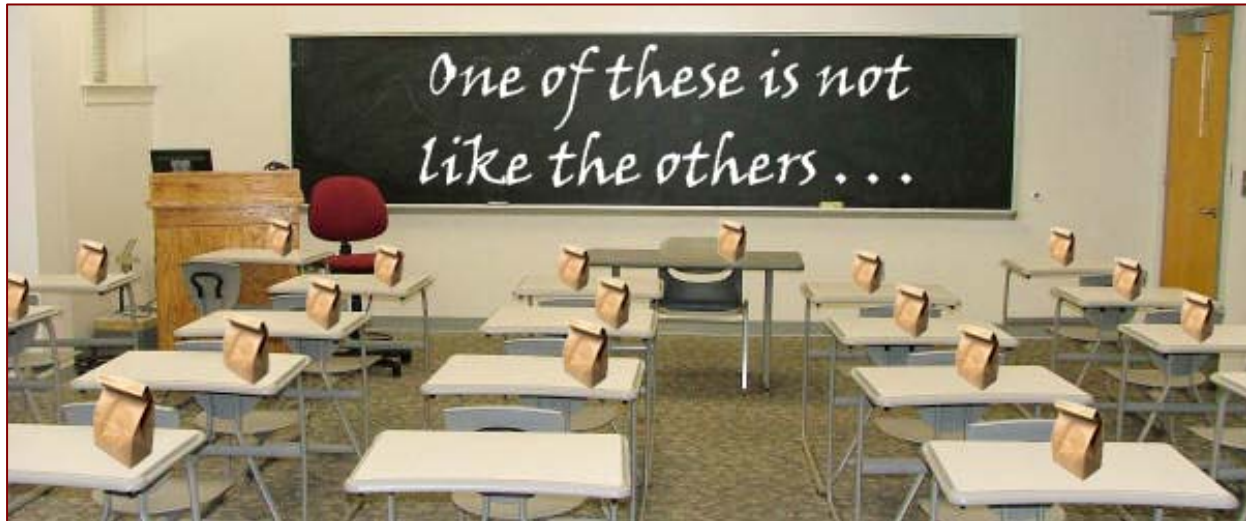
And, when we do so, bit by bit we will each be the author of extraordinary change in the world.

Have a comment? Go to <http://meetingtheneedssofourworld.blogspot.com/>.



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# LESSONS FROM A FORK

Written by Jason Krausert  
Co-Founder of Inner Sync Systems Inc.

Donna has a favourite fork. It actually is a really nice fork. It's heavy and sturdy. It has a wide base and long tongs. It always seems to be shiny, as if just polished. It feels really nice in the hand. It's a good fork, and it's Donna's favourite.

I know it's Donna's favourite fork because she told me. Somewhere along the line she mentioned it to me in passing. A couple times when I happened to give Donna that fork at supper, and she was feeling playful, she would say, "Ah, my favourite fork. Thanks Jason." Now I often find myself rummaging through our cutlery drawer at supper time looking for that fork. I'll dig to the bottom of the fork section of our cutlery tray just to get it. I know Donna likes it, and it makes me feel good doing things for her that I know she likes.

Now, obviously I'm not writing this to simply tell you about a fork. It really has nothing to do with the fork itself. But it can teach us about relationships between men and women.

## 1) "I know it's Donna's favourite fork because she told me."

Donna tells me what she likes. She knows I can't read her mind, so she doesn't set me up to lose by having to guess what she wants. If a guy has guessed in the past, was wrong and was zinged for it by the girl he is with, he will be reluctant to guess again because the potential loss is too big. Make it easy for him to give you what you want by telling him.

## 2) "Ah, my favourite fork. Thanks Jason."

Donna is constantly thanking me for things I do for her. Whether it be "little" things like taking the garbage out or "big" things like a trip to Florida, Donna always lets me know how much she appreciated it. If this sounds like she's "buttering up" my ego, it is! Men are motivated by appreciation.

## 3) "Now I often find myself rummaging through our cutlery drawer at supper time looking for that fork."

Guys, my giving Donna her favourite fork isn't going to make her day. I know that. But it shows I'm paying attention and that I care about how she feels. Women love it when you cherish her and pay attention to what's going on with her energy. And, it completes the energy circuit, if you will, between you both (her appreciation motivates you to pay attention to her, which gives her more to appreciate, so you offer more attention, and so on).

## 4) As a woman, what you appreciate him for is your choice.

It's so easy to fall into the rut of waiting for the big things to happen before expressing appreciation to your man - trips, gifts, having a good time, etc. What about all the little things he does in between the big things? The more time that goes by without his being appreciated the less motivated he will be to produce for you and your family. What's awesome is that how often he is appreciated, and for what, is completely within a woman's control.

**Now, go appreciate a man and cherish a woman!**

**Editor's Note** – Compassion in the world starts at home!

Have a comment? Go to <http://meetingtheneedsofourworld.blogspot.com/>.

## The "Divine Dance of the Sexes"<sup>©</sup> Couples Weekend Retreat...

### What are YOU up to creating in life?

**"Before the workshop I was concerned that starting our business together as a couple may not work given our past patterns of conflict. I now see that we can have an amazing business together even just by being clear on what I want and recognizing that he is willing to give me what I want. I highly recommend this workshop to anyone who is up to creating awesome relationships with the opposite sex."**

Marie Oliver, Real Estate Associate (Lethbridge, AB)

#### In the Divine Dance participants discover:

- \* How to go from "relationship" to "partnership"
- \* How to inject fresh purpose into their partnership
- \* The power of Appreciating Him & Cherishing Her

#### Specifically, Women will get:

- ♀ Comfortable with your desire & having it fulfilled
- ♀ Essential awareness of your impact on men
- ♀ Freedom, knowing you're perfect just as you are

#### Men will understand:

- ♂ A woman's "motion" and why to celebrate it
- ♂ What makes women happy
- ♂ How to get behind her goals & why

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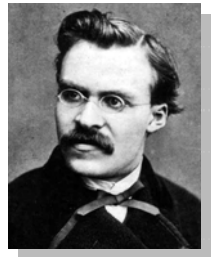
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## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*"He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how."*

**Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 – 1900)**  
Philosopher



*"Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you."*

**Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850 – 1919)**  
Author & Poet



*"There should be less talk. What do you do then? Take a broom and clean someone's house. That says enough."*

**Mother Theresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)**  
Nun & Servant to the Poor



*"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."*

**Leo Buscaglia (1924 – 1998)**  
Author, Motivational Speaker, Professor



*"Pain nourishes courage. You can't be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you."*

**Mary Tyler Moore (1936 – Present)**  
Actress



*"Love ennobles us to maintain a steadfast commitment to the well-being of someone or some cause greater than our own petty ego. Yet there is no love without the courage to surrender to something more priceless than yourself."*

**Cornel West (1953 – Present)**  
Philosopher, Author, Civil Rights Activist



# MIND THE GAP

Written by Sean D. Krausert

Anyone who has travelled on the London “tube” is quite familiar with the announcement made as one gets on or off the train – “Mind the gap!” Travellers are being warned about the danger of falling into the crack between the train and the platform. This warning came to mind as I read the recent Kairos Canada report comparing the lives of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada (Ed Bianchi, January 2010). However, to call the difference a “gap” is to understate it dramatically.

The following highlights from the Kairos’ report are quite disturbing to say the least:

## Life Expectancy

- Non-Indigenous men and women live 5.5 and 8.1 years longer respectively than their Indigenous counterparts.
- The premature mortality rate (i.e. dying before the age of 75 due to suicide or unintentional injury) is 4.5 times higher amongst Indigenous people.
- Infant mortality rate of the First Nations’ people is 1.5 times higher than the overall Canadian rate.

## Education & Employment

- About 70% of First Nations students on reserve will NOT complete high school. Only 27% of the Indigenous population between 15 and 44 years old hold a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree compared with 46% of the Canadian population in the same age group.
- Unemployment rates for all Aboriginal groups are at least double that of the non-Aboriginal population.

## Quality of Life

- Applying the UN Human Development Index criteria to Indigenous people in Canada, the First Nations would rank 63<sup>rd</sup>, i.e. “Third World” conditions (whereas Canada as a whole has consistently been in the top 5 in the world).
- Diabetes rates among First Nations are at least 3 times the national average; tuberculosis for First Nations on reserve is 8 to 10 times the Canadian average.

## Suicide & Prison

- The suicide rate amongst Indigenous people is more than double the Canadian rate. Suicide is now the leading cause of death of First Nations between the ages of 10 and 14 (5 to 6 times higher than non-Aboriginal youth).
- While only 4.4% of the total population in Canada, First Nations make up 19% of federal prison inmates.

**If the above speaks to you as something that is not right, and you wish to get involved please address these issues with your elected officials as well as contacting Kairos Canada as to how you may assist in bringing about positive change.**

**Editor’s Note** – To read the full report and citations for the above statistics, please see the March Issue of the Kairos Times at <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/what-we-say/times-archive/>. Many of the concerns listed in the report were originally detailed in the United Nation’s publication, *State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples*, which was released in January 2010.

Have a comment? Go to <http://meetingtheneedsofourworld.blogspot.com/>.



## Native Counselling Services of Alberta

Our mission is to contribute to the holistic development and wellness of the Aboriginal individual, family and community.

### Programs

- Court Workers
- Family Wellness
- Homelessness & Housing
- Residential Schools & Healing
- Corrections & Restorative Justice
- Community Wellness
- Employment
- Youth

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**[www.ncsa.ca](http://www.ncsa.ca)**

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Lethbridge	(403) 329-6140 lethbridge@ncsa.ca
Brockton	(403) 965-3933 brocket@ncsa.ca

## UN AGENCIES LAUNCH LATEST FACTBOOK FOR TAKING CARE OF CHILDREN

7 April 2010 – Six United Nations agencies and the World Bank launched today a revised book that provides life-saving information in 215 languages to families and communities on how to prevent child and maternal deaths, diseases, injuries and violence.

“Through simple messages, *Facts for Life* aims to bring vital knowledge to parents and caregivers, who are the first line of defence in protecting children from illness and harm,” said Ann Veneman, Executive Director of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), which co-published the book.

... “Pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, measles and AIDS, together account for half of all deaths of children under age five,” said Ms. Veneman. “These diseases are largely preventable and sometimes it is a simple lack of knowledge that causes these deaths. *Facts for Life* helps bridge that information gap,” she added.

*Read more . . . [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)*

## TOWARDS AN AID QUALITY INDEX

OXFORD, 6 April 2010 (IRIN) - Donors regularly make grandiose claims and promises, but measuring whether or not they live up to them requires clear aid quality measurement indicators.

... Indices measuring different aspects of development aid already exist but are not yet purely focused on analyzing accountability, say analysts. The commitment of the Center for Global Development (CGD) to a development index created by mathematician David Roodman is a good start, rating 22 countries on how much they help recipients build wealth, good government and security.

In 2009 Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and New Zealand ranked highest; while South Korea, Japan, Switzerland and Greece ranked lowest. (*Editor Note – Canada is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 22 donor countries.*)

*Read more . . . [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)*

*More “Around the World” on page 11 . . .*



## Southern Alberta Land Trust Society

The Southern Alberta Land Trust Society (SALTS) is a locally-based, rancher-driven, non-profit organization with registered charity status, dedicated to preserving the ecological, productive, scenic and cultural values of Alberta's Eastern Slopes, prairie and foothill regions.

[www.salts-landtrust.org](http://www.salts-landtrust.org)

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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**TENS OF MILLIONS TO BENEFIT FROM INDIA'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT**

3 April 2010 – Three United Nations agencies are hailing what they described as a “ground-breaking” new act that legalizes the right to free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6 and 14 in India.

The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates there are eight million children in this age group, mostly girls, who are out-of-school in India.

“Tens of millions of children will benefit from this initiative ensuring quality education with equity,” said UNICEF Representative in India Karin Hulshof.

*Read more . . . [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)*

**PUTTING SCIENCE TO WORK FOR FOOD SECURITY**

JOHANNESBURG, 1 April 2010 (IRIN) - If farmers in Niger, West Africa, get poor yields in a dry year from a strain of pearl millet, the staple cereal, they can ask their representative organization to contact a research body to find a solution. The research body might consult a regional organization, and if the scientists then need funds to work on a solution, the farmers will have to approve the project before donors endorse funding.

This bottom-up approach to making Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) more effective, described as the way forward in helping the world become food secure in the next few years, was endorsed at a critical three-day meeting on agriculture in France which ended on 31 March.

*Read more . . . [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)*

**ON WORLD HEALTH DAY, BAN SPOTLIGHTS HEALTH BURDEN ON URBAN POPULATIONS**

7 April 2010 – As the world’s population becomes increasingly urbanized, so too is the poverty burden, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today on World Health Day, highlighting the need to address resulting public health challenges.

By mid-century, seven out of every 10 people will be city dwellers, up from just over 50 per cent of the global population currently. Developing countries will experience most of this growth, Mr. Ban said in his message for the Day. “Rapid, unplanned urbanization is expanding slums and informal settlements, and municipal authorities are struggling to cope.”

*Read more . . . [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)*

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[www.habitatcalgary.ca](http://www.habitatcalgary.ca)

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# DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

## Appliance Energy Hogs

Refrigerators use the most energy of all household appliances (about 11% of a household's total energy consumption). Clothes dryers use the second most amount of energy.

"Phantom carriers" are electronic devices that continue to consume electricity even when switched off (i.e. everything with a clock or programming displays). 75% of electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off, which can be avoided by unplugging them.

Source: [www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca)

## Wacky Water Facts

The weight of China's Three Gorges Reservoir will tilt the Earth's axis by nearly an inch.

The longest water tunnel supplying New York City is 85 miles and leaks up to 35 million gallons a day.

Source: *National Geographic* (April 2010)

## Waste Not Want Not

The average family of four people uses an average of 1,000 plastic bags per year.

The average Canadian household receives an average of 76 kg (~167 lbs) of unsolicited mail per year.

On average, households waste 14% of their food purchases (approx. \$590 per year in meat, fruit, vegetables and grain products).

Source: [www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca)

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS, FIGURES, and FASCINATING STUFF

### Earth Day – April 22, 2010

**#1** - The average Canadian uses 36,000 L of water each year for toilet flushing (the average toilet uses about 19 litres per flush). Replace your toilet with a low flush toilet or purchase a water displacement dam for your current toilet. Water dams can save up to five litres per flush.

**#2** – One tree can remove 26 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere annually. This is equal to the amount of car emissions produced if a car was driven 17,600 kilometres.

**#3** – About 70% of the waste in landfills could be recycled. Make sure you compost and recycle all appropriate items. Also, attempt to reduce the amount of packaged goods you purchase, which will help to divert 70% of household waste from the landfill.

Source – [www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca)

Environmental Factoids provided by:



Together, WE can build a better  
Canada for our children.  
[www.pembina.org](http://www.pembina.org)

READY . . . SET . . .  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

APRIL 2010

**7 - World Health Day.** World Health Day 2010 will focus on urbanization and health. For more information - [www.who.int/world-health-day/en/](http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/).

**14 & 15 – Donate Your Unused Fabric.** 10 AM – 8 PM at Woodcliff United Church, 5010 Spruce Dr SW, Calgary AB. Donations of unused fabric ½ m or longer only please (unless quilting or exceptional pieces). For more information contact Judith (403) 374-0622 or Alison (403) 243-5478.

**17 – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Unused Fabric Sale.** 9:30 AM – 2 PM at Woodcliff United Church, 5010 Spruce Dr SW, Calgary AB. All the proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support 1000's of Grandmothers in Africa who are raising their orphaned grandchildren! For more information contact Judith (403) 374-0622 or Alison (403) 243-5478.

**22 – Earth Day.** For more information - [www.earthday.ca/pub/](http://www.earthday.ca/pub/).

**25 – World Malaria Day.** Approximately half of the world's population is at risk of malaria, particularly those living in lower-income countries. For more information - [www.rollbackmalaria.org/worldmalariaday/](http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/worldmalariaday/).

MAY 2010

**21 – World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.** For more information - [www.un.org/depts/dhl/cultural\\_diversity/index.html](http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/cultural_diversity/index.html).

# dirty laundry

a theatrical production



*Judy's life was unravelling . . . she was on the verge of losing everything – her husband, her kids, her job. She wanted to die. But was this to be her destiny? NO FRIGGIN' WAY!!*

[www.dirtylaundrytheatre.ca](http://www.dirtylaundrytheatre.ca)

**“Dirty Laundry is the most powerful performance I have ever seen.”**

- Jane Kuzik, Canmore AB -

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**CANMORE, AB - ENCORE PERFORMANCE**

**May 29, 2010 @ 7:30 PM**

**CCHS Theatre**

If your group wants to bring *Dirty Laundry* to town, e-mail the Producer – [producer@dirtylaundrytheatre.ca](mailto:producer@dirtylaundrytheatre.ca)

A Production of  
**GLOBAL**  
**WE**  
INITIATIVES



# The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

## The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees, and global justice. With the support of Anglican parishes across Canada, PWRDF makes financial and human resources available to support partners' initiatives and to promote knowledgeable actions of solidarity at home and around the world.

# PRAY.



# act.



# GIVE.

# www.pwrdf.org



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## “EXCUSE ME, DRIVER . . . CAN WE TURN ABOUT?”

Written by Sean D. Krausert

Have you ever been driving down the highway and realized you missed your exit? Then, for what seems forever, you drive in the wrong direction looking for a place to turn around. Where’s the U-Turn when you need it?

I’ve got an inkling that as a society we need a U-Turn. Let me explain.

Recently I saw a news release concerning Forbes having just released the 2010 Billionaires list. The world has a new richest man – Carlos Slim Helu of Mexico now tops the list at a net worth of \$53.5 Billion. This telecommunications giant edged out Bill Gates, whose fortune is only \$53 Billion. However, what really struck me is how this honour has taken on the aura being “the winner” or “the best”.

I dare say that most people in our society would be envious of this wealth, and dream of having likewise. Why not? To be rich means no money problems, having whatever you want,

doing whatever you want. Right? Just ask Tiger Woods what he thinks. *(By the way, Tiger is projected to be on the billionaire list in the next couple of years.)*

Actually, besides the myth that money can buy happiness, there is a greater evil for our society in yearning to be rich. Namely – it causes us, as a society, to value personal gain and horde our wealth. After all, we need it . . . we deserve it . . . we have to be prepared for a rainy day. Well, all of this may be true, but there are many others out there in the world who also have need, also are deserving, and who are having a rainy day right now.

I suggest we must re-connect with that part of ourselves that intrinsically knows when enough is enough, and which abhors greed and the accumulation of wealth in the face of dire need. WAIT!! *Please . . . before you stop reading . . . I’m not endorsing some sort of communist manifesto, nor am I suggesting that people cannot still be very, very financially comfortable. I’m simply looking for balance.*

There is a tonne of wealth in the world – enough to keep all of us living to the standards to which we have become accustomed and for the wealthy to retain

their prestigious places in society while being very comfortable.

Looking at the 1,011 billionaires in the world (that’s how many of them there are!), they have a total net worth exceeding \$3.5 TRILLION!!! If each of them were to keep \$500 Million to cover their basic necessities (albeit they may need to sell a house or two) and liberated the rest to meet needs in the world – that would result in over \$3.062 Trillion being injected towards bettering our world. Can you imagine how many jobs could be created with \$3 Trillion? Or how many shelters could be built . . . or how many children educated . . . or how many sick could be cared for???

And not to let the rest of us off the hook, what if we donated everything we have over \$500 Million? Oh, you don’t have over \$500 Million? Okay, for those of us who have less than \$500 Million, let’s increase our giving however much we can. Even if all of us in the richest nations gave an extra few cents a day, it would result in hundreds of millions in extra aid.

I say we find that U-Turn and go back to that exit we missed. By going another direction, I think we may just find . . . heaven on earth.

Have a comment? Go to <http://meetingtheneedsofourworld.blogspot.com/>.

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