



A Social Justice E-Publication

## ON THE EDGE OF THE PROMISED LAND

by Sean D. Krausert

### What's Inside?

#### Editorials

On the Edge of the Promised Land	1
One Billion, Eh?	9
Ya Know What's Weird?	15

#### Features

Remembering the Girl Child	2
Global WE Presents	3
Lest We Forget?	4
Make Poverty History	6
The Forgotten Ones	7

#### Regular Features

10 Easy Things You Can Do	5
Quotable Quotes	8
Around the World	10
Did You Know . . . ?	12
Environmental Facts, Figures, and Fascinating Stuff	12
Mark Your Calendars!!	13
PWRDF	14

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<b>Publisher &amp; Contact Information</b>	<b>15</b>
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Thousands of years ago Moses led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt. It was a momentous occasion . . . after 430 years of being slaves, they were on their way to the Promised Land! At least that is what they thought . . . but it wasn't to be so quick and easy.

It's really not that far from Egypt to the Israelites homeland. In fact, if one were to take a direct route, even with 600,000 people in tow, the trip could be done in as little as a few weeks. Maybe a few months with some sightseeing.

But God had other plans for the Israelites. They were lead on a circuitous route to avoid enemies. This seems quite reasonable . . . safety first. But on this route they had trouble feeding themselves, living in freedom, and functioning as a society. And so they travelled and camped for 40 years before being able to step foot into the Promised Land.

Why did it take so long? Why couldn't they simply make a beeline for their homeland and get on with their lives? As mentioned, the Old Testament has many stories of the Israelites complaining about their conditions, their lack of food and water, and their learning to live with each other in freedom. However, the long and the short of it is that it took 40 years for the Israelites to fully drop the slave mentality and be able to live together as a society worthy of inhabiting the Promised Land. It took about two generations for this mind shift to take place.

The Israelites had to learn to fend for themselves after hundreds of years of



being "kept". And, more than simply looking after themselves as individuals, they had to build a structure in which the whole could prosper, and which recognized the rights of others. They had to learn to have faith in God and trust that they would be fine where they were being lead.

Are we in a similar situation today? Are we beginning to recognize that there is abundance in our world sufficient to meet the needs of everyone, and that everyone has basic inalienable rights? Are we in transition from an old way of thinking about the world – separate, survival of the fittest, "us" and "them" – to a new paradigm – global, interconnected, being part of "we"? Are we on the edge of the Promised Land?

I think we are. I think that we are a mind shift away from entering the Promised Land. I think we just need to dare to trust that we will be fine if we focus on the needs of others. I think we will find it is heaven on earth.

# REMEMBERING THE GIRL CHILD

Written by Stephen Lewis  
Chair of the Board,  
Stephen Lewis Foundation

The struggle to get girls into school has become the educational centerpiece of sub-Saharan Africa.

In fact, so vital is the exercise that the Millennium Development Goal to reach gender equality by 2015 is defined by achieving an equal number of girls and boys in primary and secondary school! Coincidentally, a report just issued by UNESCO shows that the target of equality in the classroom will not be reached in a majority of African countries . . . few will reach the target for primary school; virtually none will make it for secondary school.

It's tough enough to overcome boy preference in many countries, but the prejudice heaped on girls infected or affected by AIDS knows no bounds.

Not only are they kept out of school simply because that's so often the norm, but the presence of the AIDS virus adds an additional and powerful dimension of exclusion. The girls are required to stay home and look after sick and dying parents; they become the primary caregivers for their siblings; they're required to do all the household chores; they find themselves working in the fields to provide minimum food security; all

the disposable income has been consumed by illness, so there's no money left to pay school fees; the possibility of sexual violence looms large as girls are left largely undefended, and the stigma to which they're subjected often shuts the final door on the possibility of education. They're ostracized, isolated, rejected.

And yet, school is a kind of panacea for these same young girls. All the studies show that even a few years of primary school gives girls a much greater chance of earning a better income as an adult, staying healthy, and above all, becoming good mothers.

But the greatest boon for a girl coping with AIDS in the family is to learn about prevention for herself, to learn how to prevent infection, to learn how the virus is transmitted. School is the best possible place to grasp the details of safe sex.

I remember sitting through a grade five class at David Livingstone Primary School in Harare, Zimbabwe, as the teacher used a 'Life Skills' course to teach



the kids about HIV/AIDS. The boys snickered from time to time, uncomfortably. The girls listened with unbridled intensity. As we all know, girls are hugely, disproportionately infected . . . often by a ratio of two to one or three to one compared to boys. I was persuaded that the girls in that grade five class had a far greater chance of withstanding infection.

At the Foundation we're obviously convinced of the right of every child to an education. But for the girls infected or affected by AIDS, education assumes a far greater place in life.

In fact, it could be seen as the arbiter of life or death.

**Editor's Note** – This article has been reprinted with expressed permission from *Grassroots (Fall 2010 Issue)* published by the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

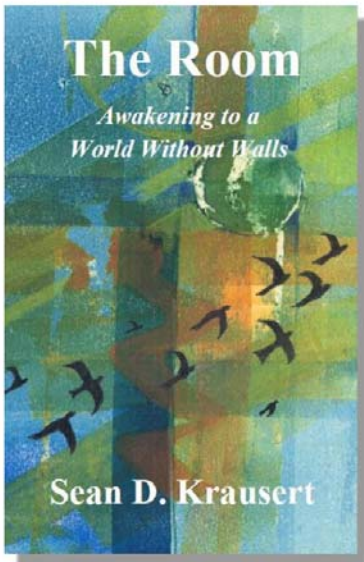
[www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)

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# GLOBAL WE INITIATIVES CORP. PROUDLY PRESENTS TWO NEW BOOK RELEASES



**Genre:** Social Justice  
**Target Age:** Adult/Youth

*A thought experiment exploring global issues in the absence of dividing walls. More of a "what if" book than a "how to" book, The Room bolsters appreciation for all human beings while inspiring us to improve OUR world.*

**Published at First Choice Books, Victoria BC**

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**Target Age:** Children

*A fresh telling of the Christmas story from the perspective of a little stable mouse. Meet new characters while re-discovering the meaning of Christmas. Readers of all ages agree that it's simply mouse-tonishing!*

**Published at First Choice Books, Victoria BC**



To find out more or to purchase these books, go to:  
<http://www.globalwe.ca/publications.html>

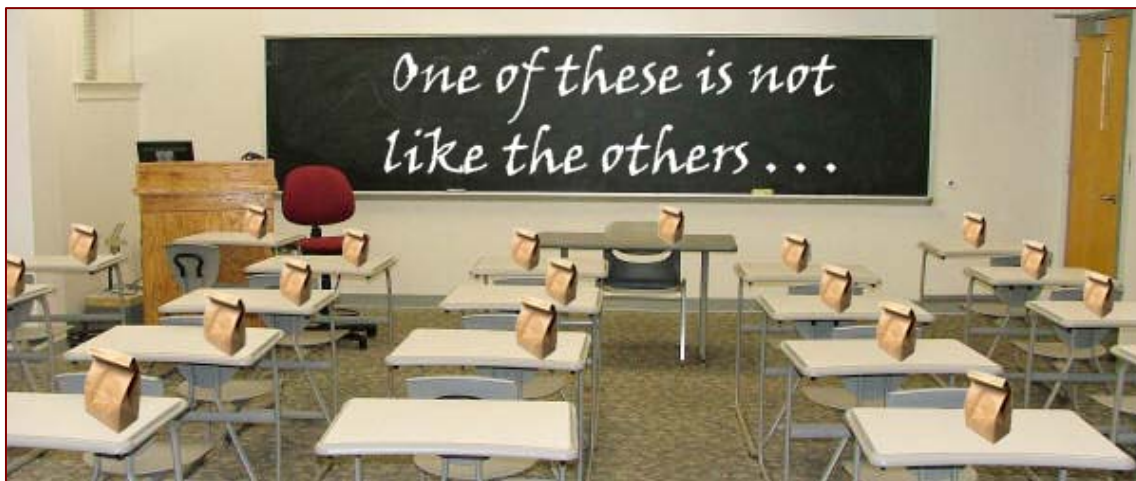


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you  
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# THE MUSTARD SEED

*The Mustard Seed is a non-profit Christian humanitarian organization that has been caring for Calgary's homeless for over 25 years. Through its three 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.*

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

**Your donations provide hope and comfort to those who have none.**

**Please visit us online to make a donation and learn more about our ministry.**

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**The Mustard Seed:**

102-11 Ave. SE Calgary, AB T2G 0X5

**Main Phone:** 403-269-1319

**Email:** [info@theseed.ca](mailto:info@theseed.ca)

## LEST WE FORGET?

*They fought to protect us . . . but have we forgotten to fight for them?*



**Written by Lindsay Schonfelder  
The Mustard Seed**

On Remembrance Day we remember those who fought for the peace and freedom we enjoy today, but many of those who experienced the horror of war are still wishing they could forget. The unfortunate reality is that many of these heroes are today living in shelters and on the streets of the country they fought to protect.

In the words of one Veteran, currently living in supported housing at Calgary's Mustard Seed, "Remembrance Day is about freedom and what you're willing to give up for it." And these men and women have given up a lot. Over decades of war, Veterans have returned home to find their support structures shaken. Many of them are unable to return to their former jobs, due to either physical or mental trauma. Worse, the wartime experience sets them apart from civilian peers and family members.

"You can't understand what it's like to be asked to take the life of another human — not emotionally or philosophically," says the Veteran, who asked not to be identified by name.

According to Veterans' Affairs Canada (VAC), there is no research about how many of Canada's Veterans are homeless, but the estimated number figures in the thousands.

Veterans Affairs Ombudsman Col. Pat Stogran says that although case management and emergency funding for Veterans is available, war survivors are used to being self sufficient and don't often go looking for help. "You have to self-identify. You have to know that the program exists. Then you have to cross the thresholds to get there."

To get a better read on the situation, Veterans Affairs staff have visited homeless shelters and other agencies that provide support to the homeless. VAC is also exploring how it can partner with government departments and non-governmental agencies to prevent, reduce or mitigate homelessness among Veterans.

The Veteran living at The Mustard Seed looks back with regret at what he has lost, but with gratitude for what he does have. "I can walk today. I can talk today. There are many that can't."



A Social Justice E-Publication

## Since you asked . . .

- (i) **YES, Sean Krausert, Executive Director of Global WE Initiatives Corp. is available for Keynote Presentations and other speaking engagements with respect to social justice issues.**

Programs include *Awakening to a World Without Walls* and *On the Edge of the Promised Land*, as well as special customized programs for clients.



To enquire about booking Sean to speak at your church, next conference, or gathering . . . call (403) 609-1762 or e-mail [seankrausert@globalwe.ca](mailto:seankrausert@globalwe.ca).

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

To make a donation to support *Living Matthew 25*, simply send 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 we remember things that will result in us improving OUR world.



### Please REMEMBER . . .

- **Everything that you do to help another is something that someone else doesn’t have to do.** If we all do just a little more than we currently are, the combined effort would be massive change.
- **The world has the resources, know-how, and creativity to solve all global challenges.** Often the only thing we lack is the political will . . . let our leaders know what is important to us.
- **While the needs of the world may be out of sight, they should not be out of mind.** Just because we cannot see the person in need, we know they are still there.
- **The hungry, the sick, the homeless, the oppressed . . . they are people just like you and me.** How would you feel? What would you need to happen?
- **Keep role models in mind.** Whose example inspires you . . . Jesus, Mother Theresa, Gandhi, your parents?
- **Learn about others.** Through knowledge and understanding we overcome barriers and fears created by ignorance.
- **Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.** How you treat the world gives explicit permission for the world to treat you in the same manner.
- **We are ONE on this shared planet.** The well being and actions of individuals affect the whole.
- **Making a difference in one person’s life changes the whole world for that person.** You can change the world!
- **Helping can be easy . . . and FUN!** Too often we think important things have to be hard, but that is not so.



# MAKE POVERTY HISTORY



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



**Canada needs to increase the amount of aid we give to poorer nations.**

We are giving only 0.32% of our national income in development aid. That's less than half of the point seven per cent (0.7%) we keep promising to give and failing to deliver. Point seven per cent (0.7%) of our national income is the level agreed upon by donor nations and the UN as necessary to make serious progress towards alleviating extreme poverty in the world.

**watch 'click: 2010'**

Make Poverty History's updated campaign video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCeJNNipg9o>

YouTube



# THE FORGOTTEN ONES

Written by Marilyn Avient

If you can afford to have a family and a home . . . a job . . . a car . . . kids in extra-curricular activities . . . no one cares if you have trouble getting out of bed in the morning. So what if you are so sad and anxious that you seriously believe that dying would be easier.

But you do get up. You do drive in rush-hour traffic. You do go through the day with a smile on your face doing everything your boss expects you to do. So what if you hide in a washroom stall and cry into your sleeve to muffle your tears of panic . . . emerging in a few moments looking like nothing is wrong. The thought of answering that incessantly ringing phone is enough to cause an anxiety attack because you know that someone will be expecting something of you. Only you know that you have very little left to give. You wonder if the day will ever end . . . and then you know you have to go home and appear to be . . . fine.

Your weariness at the never ending cycle of your life is enough to break you down but you can't let it . . . you just can't. What would your colleagues think? What if you were passed over for that raise? What if your spouse was to find out how desperate you feel?

What if you are a homemaker and once the children have left for school, you sit down at the table with a cup of coffee staring out the window wondering why today can't be your last? The dishes need to be done, but you haven't got the energy to even walk over to the sink. Supper needs to be planned so that things will look normal when "they" come home. That package of hamburger on the counter becomes the focus of your day because somehow you have to remember how to make it into something edible. That task feels impossible.

Getting up from the table becomes a painful "maybe" because you used up all your energy pretending to be



okay for the morning rush. You know you have to go grocery shopping but when you get to the car, you panic and you rush back into the house. After the third attempt to get out the door, you give up and pray that tomorrow will be better. Oh, if only they knew that you would rather die than have to live one more day like this. BUT they don't know so you just have to keep putting one foot in front of the other . . . somehow.

Those lives may belong to you, a family member, a work-mate, a friend, a neighbour, the man at the dry cleaner. It could describe the secret life of someone, anyone or even everyone you know. It is the middle-class best kept secret . . . depression.

It's 2010 . . . we hold amazing technology in our hands . . . we view distant galaxies in breathtaking detail . . . yet we still find it hard to **really** talk about depression or mental illness. The stigma is still too great . . . and the doubting of that is just plain naivety. How do I know that? Because I was one of those people. Is there hope? Yes, because I am no longer one of them. Is there any way that I can help others to get to where I am? Yes, by sharing the story of my illness and how it affected me and my family. I encourage others to do the same.

There are many programs intended to help people who are down and out and suffering from all manner of mental illness, and I applaud them because they are so very needed. Years

ago many of those people would not have been homeless because they were situated in government institutions. But then it was decided it would be a way of saving public money so they closed those facilities and literally sent the patients out into society with no safety net.

How they expected them to cope is still a mystery to me. Some of those places should have closed earlier for sanitary reasons but new and improved ones should have taken their place. I don't care how much money it saved the government then because now it has gone full-circle . . . the government is being plagued with requests for financial help. I have the greatest sympathy for these afflicted persons but they have a number of advocates fighting for them. As for people like me . . . perhaps people like you . . . we have none.

I used to like to sit in restaurants and do acts of kindness by paying the bill for one or two of the patrons. I would sit and watch and then choose who would be my "prey." At first I started paying for the lunch of the person who looked the most impoverished, but then I had a revelation. I started looking at the other customers . . . the "working stiffs". I remember one fellow who was reading a newspaper as he ate. He looked tired. He had on a suit that hadn't seen a drycleaner in quite a while; his tie was sloppily undone in the way a man does when he has come to the end of a hard day. This man was just there . . . he had a

(cont'd from page 7) job . . . but there was no sense of happiness about him at all. His was the lunch I paid for that day. Why? Because he was one of **the forgotten ones**.

Even if he was depressed and/or suffering from some other mental condition such as bipolar disorder, no agency would be reaching out to help him. He is that “middle child” of society . . . again, one of the forgotten ones. He would have to go to his doctor who would most likely prescribe him some pills; if he was really in dire straits he might be referred to a psychiatrist for the purpose of getting his medications worked out. His family physician may also suggest that he go to see a psychologist for some counselling. However, psychologists are not cheap and what if he just earns enough money to make ends meet? If the person is lucky he will have a health plan through work which will pay for a couple of sessions but if not, he’s on his own and that’s usually when he decides he can’t afford to get help. The pills will help him physically, no doubt, but what about the mental and emotional side of his illness? Those are often the overlooked elements in the hell that **the forgotten ones** are living through every day. Those who are exhausted . . . who can’t tolerate the smothering, painful, black sadness any longer, take their own lives. Just like that. First they are forgotten by society; then they are something their families are ashamed to talk about. Sad. Sad. Sad.

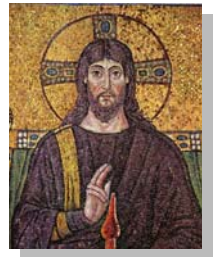
While I am trying to be an advocate for all those middle class people who feel like they are all alone in their individual versions of hell, I need your help. I was one of **the forgotten ones** and you are the people I am reaching out to. It is my story but I will bet that, in some way, it’s also yours. It’s my voice, but I am speaking for you . . . for them . . . until you all feel visible enough and safe enough to speak for yourselves. Then, together, we can be there for each other and all of the other forgotten ones. God bless you all.

**Editor’s Note** – Marilyn Avient is the author of “Free At Last – My Journey Into, Through, and Out of Depression” as well as the playwright and performer of “Dirty Laundry” (below).

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

**Jesus (c. 5 BC – c. 30 AD)**



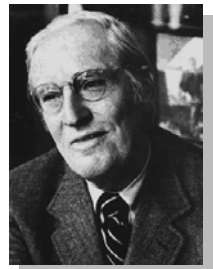
*“You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.”*

**Indira Gandhi (1917 - 1984)**  
Assassinated Prime Minister of India



*“The future is given shape by our faith, or condemned to drift and disaster by our indifference.”*

**Page Smith (1917 - 1995)**  
American Historian & Author



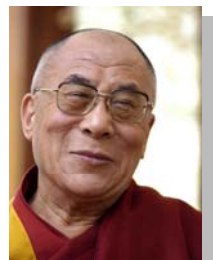
*“Just don’t give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don’t think you can go wrong.”*

**Ella Fitzgerald (1917 - 1996)**  
American Singer



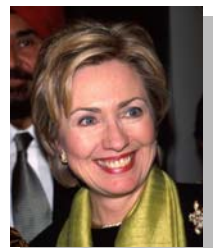
*“If you are content with everything in the world, there is no need to practice compassion.”*

**The Dalai Lama (1935 - Present)**  
Spiritual Leader of the Tibetan People



*“In too many instances, the march to globalization has also meant the marginalization of women and girls. And that must change.”*

**Hilary Rodham Clinton (1947 - Present)**  
American Statesperson



# ONE BILLION, EH?

Written by Sean D. Krausert

In 2009, for the first time in history the number of people in the world suffering from hunger surpassed 1 BILLION. Thankfully, in 2010 it is estimated that this number has dropped to 925 million people. Lower, yes. Acceptable, no.

I can't get my head around 1 BILLION . . . what does it look like?

**A line of 1 BILLION people standing sideways holding hands with the person on either side would be approximately 800,000,000 km long.**

Hmmm . . . I can't picture that either. How about we relate it to the size of the Earth?

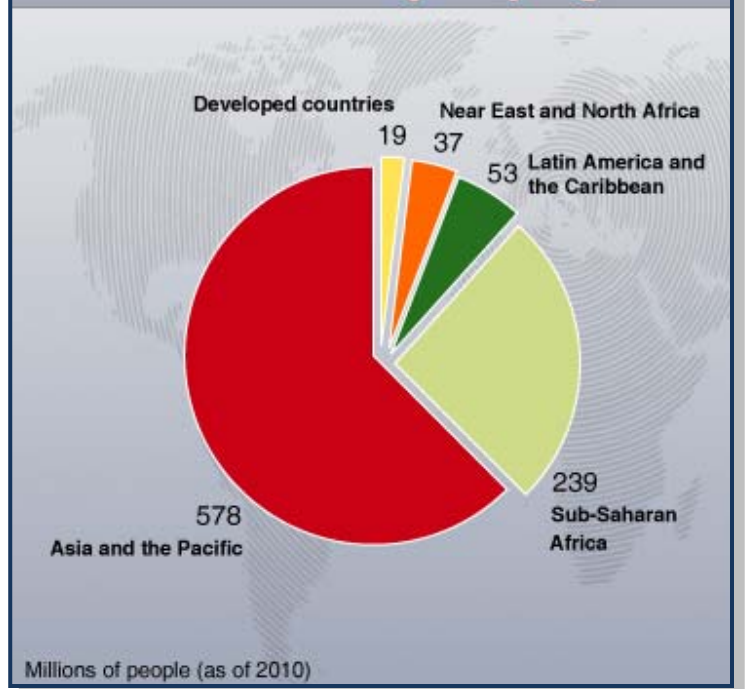
**That line of 1 BILLION people would circle the Earth 19,962 times at the equator. Or, if space is your preference, it is equivalent to making a return trip to the Moon 1,045 times . . . or a return trip to the Sun 2.67 times.**

I'm still not getting it . . . the numbers seem way too big and outside my experience. Can we put it in terms of sports? How about golf?

**If those 1 BILLION people were scratch golfers (i.e. always scored par) and took turns taking shots, it would take over 13.8 million rounds for everyone to take a shot. If these rounds were played consecutively non-stop with an average of 4 hours per round, it would take almost 6,342 years to complete these rounds.**

Well, that didn't help me visualize 1 BILLION. In fact, all I can think of is that they wouldn't be scratch golfers for long if they only take one shot every 6,000 years or so. How about a food analogy? After all, we're talking about hungry people.

## Global hunger declining, but still unacceptably high



**If 1 BILLION average pieces of toast (that's right . . . toast) were placed on the Calgary Saddledome's NHL ice surface, they would cover the entire surface and would be stacked over 103 m (approx. 340') high.**

Now *that* I can picture. WOW . . . that is a lot of toast . . . and a lot of people! What a tragedy!! The really maddening thing is that it is completely avoidable as there *is* enough food in the world, and a lot of it we waste.



**SIGN THE PETITION,  
AND TELL THE WORLD!**  
[www.1billionhungry.org](http://www.1billionhungry.org)

**1.000.000.000  
PEOPLE  
LIVE IN CHRONIC  
HUNGER AND  
I'M  
MAD  
AS HELL.**

**WITH STRONG GLOBAL SUPPORT, AFRICA CAN REACH DEVELOPMENT TARGETS - MIGIRO**

15 November 2010 – Africa, with its immense human and material wealth, can achieve the globally agreed development targets world leaders have pledged to achieve by 2015, Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro told United Nations agencies working on the continent, while also stressing the need for strong support from the international community.

“The continent’s people need neither pity nor charity, but rather the tools, institutions, stability and freedoms to create incomes and jobs,” Ms. Migiro stated in her **remarks** to the Regional Coordination Mechanism meeting held yesterday in Addis Ababa.

“International solidarity and a level playing field – especially in global trade – will go a long way toward helping the continent realize its noble objectives for its people, its prosperity and its stability,” she told the meeting, which seeks to ensure that various UN departments and agencies work more effectively together in the region.

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

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT KEY TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

DHAKA, 18 November 2010 (IRIN) - Working in one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, Bangladeshi aid groups have learned that well-intentioned disaster relief programmes without community participation do little to protect those communities in the long run.

“Communities have been living with disasters for much longer than we have been talking about disaster risk reduction,” said Dilruba Haider, a director of NGO Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC).

“Unless you involve communities and give them the feeling that this is their project, as soon as you withdraw, the whole thing collapses.”

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

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



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## SUPPORT FOR UN FUND FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING GROWS

18 November 2010 – The newly-created United Nations trust fund to support victims of human trafficking is gaining steady international support with pledges having been received from six governments and one private sector donor during the past two weeks, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said today.

Yury Fedotov, the UNODC Executive Director, stressed that the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking, Especially Women and Children would only be successful with broad financial support. He encouraged all governments, foundations, the private sector and individuals to contribute generously.

“Human beings are trafficked for a wide range of terrible purposes, not only for sexual exploitation – though that is certainly one of the worst forms of this disgraceful crime against human dignity,” Mr. Fedotov said.

... The UN estimates that more than 2.4 million people are currently being exploited after being trafficked by unscrupulous human smugglers.

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

## FOOD COULD COST MORE IN 2011

Johannesburg, 17 November 2010 (IRIN) - If wheat and maize production do not rise substantially in 2011, global food security could be uncertain for the next two years, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned.

Wheat and maize prices have shot past their 2009 highs, with FAO adding that international food import bills could surpass one trillion US dollars in 2010. Food imports last topped the trillion dollar mark during the 2007/08 food price crisis.

The organization anticipates that world cereals stocks will shrink by seven percent, with barley declining 35 percent, maize by 12 percent and wheat by 10 percent.

Cereal stocks are not as low as they were in 2007/08, "but we are being slightly alarmist in our outlook to get production figures up next year," said Abdolreza Abbassian, secretary of the Intergovernmental Group on Grains at FAO. "Stocks of yellow maize, which is used largely for animal feed, are getting to the low level they were in 2007/2008."

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

## GLOBAL ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION



[www.globalenrichmentfoundation.com](http://www.globalenrichmentfoundation.com)

The Global Enrichment Foundation believes in developing strengths already within women to assist them in changing their lives. We believe that building stronger communities, cultivating leadership and promoting peace through education are goals which can be achieved through proper support. With the right tools, women in even the most poverty-stricken and violent of countries can forge their own key roles in society, using gifts they naturally possess.

[info@globalenrichmentfoundation.com](mailto:info@globalenrichmentfoundation.com)

CHANGE A LIFE,  
A COMMUNITY,  
A COUNTRY

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YOUR DONATION  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

*Partners with The Mary A. Tidlund Charitable Foundation, Canadian Somali Congress, The Canadian International Peace Project, The Academy for Peace Development (Somalia), and Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (Somalia)*

# DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

## CANADIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY FACTS

\*The last Commonwealth soldier who died in WWI was a Canadian, Pte. George Lawrence Price. He was killed two minutes before Armistice was declared.

\*The last Canadian veteran of WWI, John Babcock, died in February 2010 at the age of 109.

\*A Canadian, Lt. Col. John McCrae, wrote the poem, *On Flanders Field*, which inspired adoption of the Poppy as the Flower of Remembrance in Canada, USA, France, UK, and Commonwealth countries.

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

## (cont'd)

\*Almost 117,000 Canadians have died in war since the birth of the country in 1867.

Source: [www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca)  
(Veteran Affairs Canada)

\*The Boer War in South Africa was the first war in which Canadian soldiers fought. On October 14, 1899 Sir Wilfred Laurier issued an Order in Council to commit soldiers to the conflict. 8,300 Canadians served in the Boer War, with 242 Canadians being killed.

Source:  
[http://carleton.ca/Capital\\_News/26031999/n5.htm](http://carleton.ca/Capital_News/26031999/n5.htm)

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS, FIGURES, and FASCINATING STUFF

### STOP THE PRESSES!!

In an unprecedented attack on both Canadian democracy and our environment, unelected Conservative senators have defeated the Climate Change Accountability Act without even a debate.



Passed by a majority of MPs in the House of Commons, Bill C-311 would have required the federal government to set regulations to bring greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2020, and to set a long-term target to bring emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

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



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**FOUNDATION**

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

### NOVEMBER 2010

11 – Remembrance Day.

16 – International Day for Tolerance. See <http://www.un.org/en/events/toleranceday/>.

19 – 21 – Marda Loop Justice Film Festival. NGO Village at River Park Church, Calgary AB. More info at [www.justicefilmfestival.ca](http://www.justicefilmfestival.ca).

### DECEMBER 2010

1 – World AIDS Day. For more information go to [www.worldaidscampaign.org](http://www.worldaidscampaign.org).

3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities. For more info - <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1540>.

9 – *Shine-a-thon*. 6 AM – 8 PM. Listen to 88.8 Shine FM as it raises \$250,000 for the Mustard Seed support for Calgary's homeless. For more information visit [www.theseed.ca](http://www.theseed.ca).

10 – Human Rights Days. The theme this year is "Speak Up End Discrimination." For more information please go to <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HRDay2010.aspx>.



15 – *Music for a Winter Evening*. 7:30 PM at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. A concert to benefit the Mustard Seed Affordable Housing Project. Featuring Corpus Christi Male Chorale and guest artist Steve Bell. Tickets \$25 Adults, \$10 Students and Children. For more information contact (403) 717-3385.



20 – International Human Solidarity Day. Check out <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-human-solidarity-day>.



# 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.

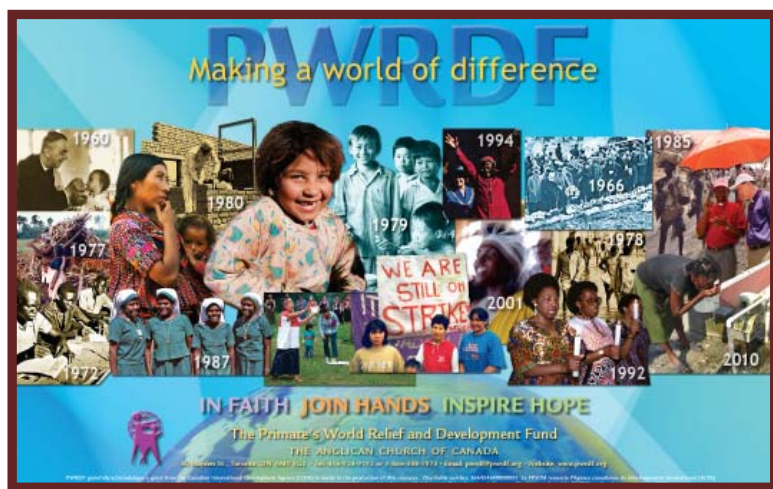
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# JUSTICE



## www.pwrdf.org

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Toll free: 1-866-308-7973

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## YA KNOW WHAT'S WEIRD?

by Sean D. Krausert

My kids will often broach a new discussion topic with a question. They'll say, "Hey Dad! Ya know what sucks?" Or, my personal favourite, they may ask – "Hey Dad! Ya know what's weird?"

My typical response is "YEAH! I know what sucks!" (. . . or is weird, as the case may be). Then, the onus shifts to me to come up with something funny that sucks (or is weird). For example, a vacuum cleaner stuck up an elephant's trunk *really* sucks. Or, a monkey wearing flippers and Chanel No. 5 perfume is *totally* weird. You get the picture.

Well, it's my turn dear reader . . .

## YA KNOW WHAT'S WEIRD?

*(I'll now leave you some space to say "YEAH!" and come up with something weird.)*

*(I'm waiting . . . just sitting here twiddling my thumbs and whistling the theme from "Jeopardy!" . . .)*

Okay, I'll tell you what I think is weird. It's weird when someone sticks his neck out, personally and professionally, to look out for the wellbeing of someone else and then gets attacked by that someone else. *That's* weird . . . quite sad . . . and shameful.

I'm specifically referring to the current situation involving Alberta Provincial Court Judge John Reilly. For many years, Judge Reilly has had a heart for the well being of people on the Stoney Nakoda Reserve. Sometimes this has taken the form of adapting punishment to take into account community circumstances of a First Nation offender. In other cases, it has involved public criticism of reserve administration where their actions threaten healthy development, such as adversely affecting education. Always it was to protect the best interests of the Stoney Nakoda people.

However, in response to a recent book published by Judge Reilly which criticizes band administration, the Stoney Nakoda reserve has now taken legal steps



against Judge Reilly. Mark Twain once wrote –

*"If you pick up a starving dog  
and make him prosperous,  
he will not bite you.*

*This is the principal difference  
between a dog and a man."*

Sadly, the truth of this saying has been demonstrated in the current circumstances.

As I see it, there are two ways that Judge Reilly (or anyone) could respond to this situation. On the one hand, he could throw up his hands, walk away, and stop helping since it is not appreciated by some. However, this makes a winner of those who complain, and many people will continue to suffer.

On the other hand, he can choose to persevere. The challenge can be seen as meaning that those who have been criticized are feeling threatened. This is the way he should go . . . stand by his principles and continue to fight for those in need. In this vein, Judge Reilly has indicated proceeds from his book will help with education for Stoney kids.

Thankfully, I'm sure the legal wrangling will cause lots of books to sell. Which, while good, is also weird in a way.



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