



A Social Justice E-Publication

RE-THINKING COMMUNITY

by Sean D. Krausert



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I heard two things recently that really got me thinking about community and our roles within community.

The first thing I heard was the desire to “*build* a strong and caring community.” The second, in response to the first, someone stated that the key was to “*empower and educate people so that they can be responsible for themselves.*” Hmm . . . community is something we have to *build* . . . people should be *responsible for themselves*. The more I think about it, the more I believe that these two quite common ideas, while good intentioned, have it completely backwards . . . just as people once thought that the earth was the center of the universe.

What if our natural state as human beings is to exist as part of the whole? In other words, we are community first and individuals second. And, what if our overwhelming sense of individuality is actually man-made? To put it another way - what if our sense of being responsible for ourselves is actually the reason that we have strayed from our natural state of community?

Don't worry . . . I'm not advocating irresponsibility or laziness or becoming a ward of the state. We should all be responsible and contributing members of society, but I believe that responsibility is misplaced in focussing on our individual selves. If our natural state is community then our natural state of being is responsibility for *others*.

Just look at how we are created. We are empathetic creatures relating to

each other through that empathy. Further, we are not all created with identical skills and abilities that make us each self-sufficient on our own. On the contrary, we each have different gifts that only approach self sufficiency when combined with the gifts of others. Like one body, we each are specific parts and yet naturally fit intricately with one another.

How do we get back to our natural state? First, we must recognize that we *are* created as community. And, by its very nature, true community *is* strong and caring. Second, it is not a matter of building as much as it is of *breaking down the barriers* we have created between ourselves and community. Third, we must look at our individual strengths, skills, and passions to see the best role that we can play to the benefit of the whole.

Just as Galileo showed us that the Sun does not rotate around the Earth, we must recognize that community does not rotate around the individual. It's natural, as ego driven beings, that we believe we can create community, but in reality we each simply have to get out of OUR way.

Food for thought.

COMPASSION FATIGUE? ME, TOO.

Written by Steve Bell
singer/songwriter/storyteller

I don't know how the recent disaster in Pakistan has hit you – but the first response I had on hearing about it was . . . well, weariness. I deliberately didn't pay much attention at first because, frankly, like for so many others, it has been a bit of a tough year. The changing economy has meant that Signpost Music has had to dramatically downsize, letting go of two valuable employees and putting significant dreams on hold or to rest.

In past years, Nanci and I have been privileged to travel with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to visit areas of the world where prosperity is more difficult to come by, and we've learned some of the complexities of chronic poverty and need. Yet, as of late it seems that crisis is becoming relentless and one is tempted to insulate against some of the harsher realities of human existence. But I couldn't, for long anyway, simply ignore the fact that millions are newly cast into misery while I can still afford to go out for the occasional dinner and movie with my beloved wife of 28 years.

Eventually I went on-line to do some quick research of the situation. When disaster first struck, the UN was saying they needed about 426 million as a first response. Some quick mathematics revealed that if Canadian citizens decided to pick up that bill, it would cost us about \$12 each. That's 24 bucks for Nance and me to do our share. So far, so good – we can certainly spare \$24. But our son Jesse is a student and has no money. Our other son Micah is a musician and he *definitely* has no money. We could easily pay their share. But if we pay their share we might offer to pay our daughter and her family's as well (they are a young family with young family burdens.) Also, our elderly friend, Rose, is barely surviving on her pension so we could help with her share. Now we're up to a hundred bucks or so. No sweat. And



“Catastrophes can be times of great suffering and isolation for many. But they can also be occasions to re-member and recall our common humanity created in the image of the unity of God.”

Steve Bell

when I consider that there really are whole families in Canada who honestly can't come up with excess resources, given the incredible benefit we have received by virtue of geography, ethnicity and good luck, why wouldn't we double the amount and pick up another family's share?

So I took \$200 to the office at Canadian Foodgrains Bank and asked them to put it toward relief in Pakistan. It seemed like such a paltry sum, and I was tempted to explain to the receptionist that I was really covering much more than my share, but that somehow seemed pathetic. Yet the fact remains that it really wasn't a lot of money, it certainly didn't hurt me to make the donation – **if we all simply did a little something, a lot could be done.**

I've just finished reading Rodney Stark's *The Rise of Christianity*. Starks is a sociologist who started researching the question *Why did Christianity get the traction it did in the first century?* What was it about Christianity that not only set it apart, but that sustained growth enough to become the engine behind a radical ethical shift in the direction of western civilization? His conclusion is that the phrase “For God so loved the world...” changed everything. In a pagan society where the gods were capricious, self - aggrandizing, manipulative and manipulatable, the concept of a God of unassailable character, who loves the

world, would have been almost incomprehensible. But that Christianity understood God as such, and also understood that it was impossible to please God without loving what God loves, caused a social revolution and eventually undermined an empire that kept millions of lives in abject misery for the benefit of a few hundred elite families.

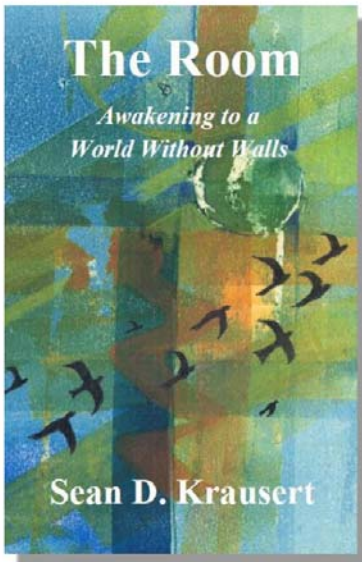
Perhaps, given the acceleration of environmental and human tragedy that seems to be upon us, this is a good time for Christians to reflect on the qualities that won them their favour in the first place: Who is God? Who and what does God love? What does it look like for us to *image* the one whose self-donation won us freedom from our own destructive impulses; whose empathy for our miseries is unquenchable?

When I stop long enough to reflect on these questions, I find that gratitude swells in my soul, weariness recedes and energetic empathy re-emerges.

Editor's Note – Steve Bell's ministry combines his incredible musical talents with a deep sense of compassion for others. To find out more please check out his website - www.stevebell.com.

This article has been reprinted and modified (for length) from Steve's website blog (Sept. 22 '10) with permission from Steve.

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

Genre: Christmas
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>

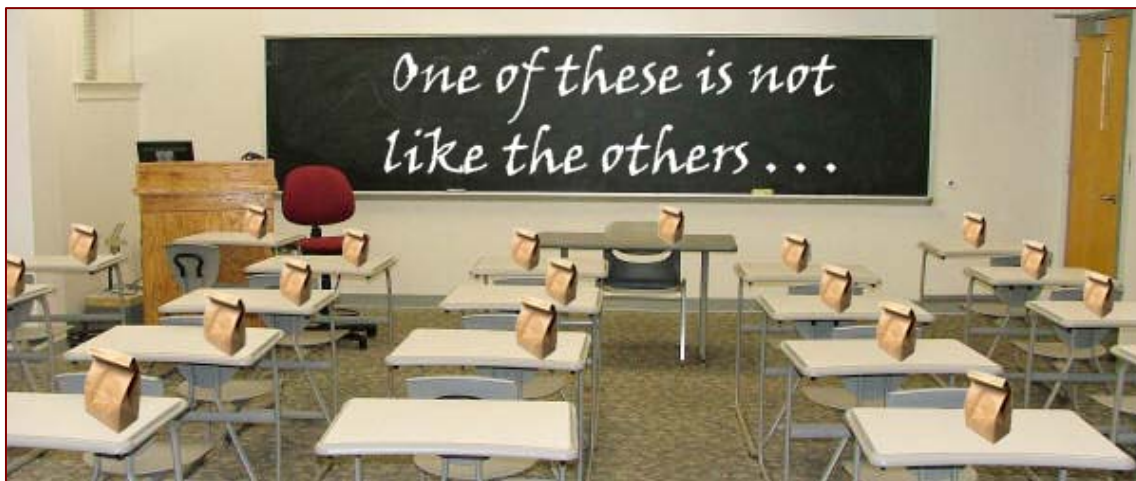


**Brown Bagging
for Calgary's Kids
Society**

Healthy Kids. Healthy Minds.

www.brownbaggingit.org

403.264.7979



**“Can
you
help?”**



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

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.

The Mustard Seed:

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

Main Phone: 403-269-1319

Email: info@theseed.ca

ONE BIG FAMILY

Over 400 Meals Served to Hungry, Thankful Guests this Thanksgiving

Written by Lindsay Schonfelder
The Mustard Seed

On Thanksgiving Monday, The Mustard Seed Shelter was a flurry of activity as volunteers and staff prepared a special holiday meal for hundreds of Calgary's homeless men and women.

Festive decorations adorned walls, counters and tables. Placemats signed with encouraging messages from supporters were on every table. Good will was evident in every corner of the building.

The holiday season can be difficult for anyone, but guests of The Mustard Seed are often far from home or estranged from family, and that can make things even tougher. Our supporters, staff and volunteers know this and go out of their way to spread the joy and hope most of us take for granted during the season. During this time of year the spirit of family is especially strong, as everyone at The Mustard Seed comes together to celebrate.

Thanksgiving dinner is a big part of the holiday for any family; our family is just a little bit bigger. In one night, about 450 Thanksgiving meals were served to thankful guests at The Mustard Seed Shelter. All together approximately 290 lbs. of ham, 200 lbs. of potatoes and 120 lbs. of broccoli and carrots were prepared by a dedicated team of volunteers. For good measure, the meal ended with pie and ice cream.

The "Y Knots" from Calgary Girl Guides Trefoil were some of the more than 100 volunteers who took time out from their own celebrations to help serve meals at The Mustard Seed over the Thanksgiving weekend. "We like to give back," says group member Wanda, in between dishing up plates.



All year round, but during the holidays in particular, our volunteers and supporters have the opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of men and women who are hurting and in need. To find out how you can make a real difference in the lives of Calgary's less fortunate, please call 403.269.1319 or visit www.theseed.ca.



A Social Justice E-Publication

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 the many possibilities created by \$30 are explored . . . and how that relatively small sum can do so much to better OUR world.



- **Purchase 5 Fruit Trees.** In the developing world, fruit trees do not only mean food . . . but much needed income.
- **Cover the Costs of a Safe Birthing Process.** The gift of life! So many mothers die needlessly giving birth simply for lack of proper medicine and procedure.
- **Buy 2 Mosquito Nets.** Such a simple precaution prevents vast sickness and death from malaria.
- **Feed a Hungry Canadian Family.** Hunger and poverty is not only an issue elsewhere . . . it's in Canada, too.
- **Purchase 3 Soccer Balls.** Play is one of the greatest gifts a child can receive!
- **Cover the Cost of Uniform, Shoes, and School Supplies for a Child.** So many children lack access to school due to the inability to afford the basic school necessities.
- **Buy Seeds for an Entire School Garden for One Year.** Feeding children in climates where they can grow their own food can be done on a massive scale for very little.
- **Cover the Cost of 3 Warm Blankets.** Have you ever tried to sleep when you are cold?
- **Purchase School Furniture for 3 Children.** Did you know . . . some kids don't go out to play at recess because they don't want to give up their classroom chair? This is what happens when there are not enough chairs.
- **Buy Antibiotics for 10 Children.** In this day and age, no child should have to die from a preventable disease.

Editor's Note – All of the above ideas can be found on-line with reputable organizations. For example, check out – www.cause.ca or www.worldvision.ca.



MAKE POVERTY HISTORY



Canada needs secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing. Write your MP to pass Bill C-304.

You can find out more at -

<http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/act/help-pass-bill-c-304>

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>



PAYING IT FORWARD

Written by Sean D. Krausert

An amazing thing happens when someone is empowered to be the best that they can be. They start becoming the best that they can be! And, often, that results in them empowering someone else.

Back in 2001, I had the opportunity to meet, then 15 years old, Tamba. Tamba lived in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Like many Canadian teenage boys . . . Tamba could eat endless supplies of fried chicken, was moody at times, and liked to check out passing girls. However, Tamba had some massive hurdles to overcome to even get a small portion of the opportunity that most Canadian teenagers have. If it wasn't hard enough hailing from one of the poorest countries in the world . . . Tamba was also a former child soldier.

During the incredibly volatile troubles experienced in Sierra Leone in the 1990's, rebel forces often resorted to taking children from villages to fill their ranks. They would do so by forcibly coercing the children to commit atrocities against their families and communities, and then keep them captive through a

combination of fear and drugs. Tamba was one of those children whose young life was completely destroyed when he was taken into "the bush".

Fortunately, Tamba's story doesn't end there. His natural drive plus a little help changed the course of his life.

Upon first escaping the bush, Tamba found his way to a halfway house, and then to the safety of The Family Homes Movement ("FHM"). FHM provided shelter and food to children, both boys and girls, who were either orphans or were no longer welcome in their communities. Unfortunately, once a child is taken into the bush, it is very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to reunite them with their family. Tamba was able to be safe and get back to school under FHM's protection.

Then, CAUSE Canada, an international relief and development organization based in Canmore, Alberta, provided support for FHM, and in particular Tamba. Tamba is a very bright young man, and with CAUSE Canada's support he was able to pursue post-secondary education. At present, Tamba is finishing a Diploma in Business Administration. Without this assistance,

he would never have had an opportunity to even glimpse his true potential.

However, that also is not the end of Tamba's story. Much more than being empowered to be the best that he can be, he also very much has a heart to assist other children in need.

In a recent communication, Tamba told me that he and some of his university friends have recently started the *St. Paul's Foundation*. Tamba is the Founder and President. The goal of the organization is to help kids get off of the street and into school. This would be remarkable enough on its own, but Tamba also has to support his brothers and sisters (he eventually reconciled with his family, but his father passed away 7 years ago). Tamba has certainly come a long way since the horrors of the bush.

The next challenge for the young *St. Paul's Foundation* is to secure a place of operations to legitimize their activities. That said, like all challenges he has faced in the past, Tamba is working diligently to overcome this obstacle, too.

Editor's Note – If you wish to support Tamba's activities, please contact info@globalwe.ca to discuss.



CAUSE KIDS!
CANADIANS CHALLENGING GLOBAL POVERTY
... ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Make a world of difference in the lives of these children.



CAUSE Kids provides assistance to entire school communities through food and health programs, purchasing school uniforms, planting school gardens, and making school supplies accessible.

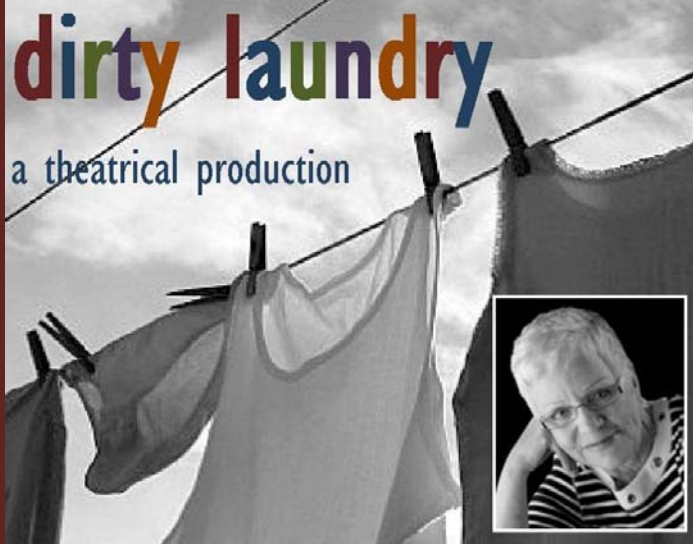
PLEASE Sponsor a Child Today!



www.causekids.ca



CAUSE Kids
P.O. Box 8100
Canmore, AB T1W 2T8
(403) 678-3332



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!!

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

- Jane Kuzik, Canmore AB -

NEXT SHOW

DECEMBER 4th @ 7:30 PM

MALASPINA THEATRE, NANAIMO BC

WATCH THE TRAILER

by going to

www.dirtylaundrytheatre.ca

If your group wants to bring *Dirty Laundry* to town, e-mail the Producer – producer@dirtylaundrytheatre.ca



QUOTABLE QUOTES

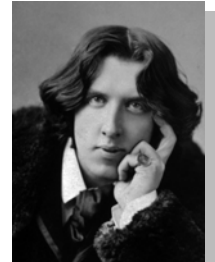
“He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help.”

Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)
16th President of the United States of America



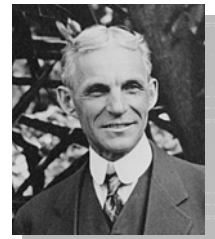
“A visionary is one who can find his way by moonlight, and see the dawn before the rest of the world.”

Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)
Irish Writer & Poet



“Failure is the only opportunity to more intelligently begin again.”

Henry Ford (1863 - 1947)
American Industrialist



“Work joyfully and peacefully, knowing that right thoughts and right efforts will inevitably bring about right results.”

James Allen (1864 - 1912)
British Philosophical Writer & Poet



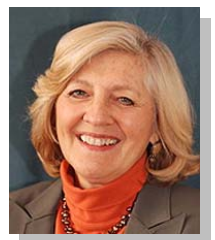
“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

Anne Frank (1929 - 1945)
Jewish Writer & Holocaust Victim



“We are told that people stay in love because of chemistry or because they remain intrigued with each other, because of many kindnesses, because of luck . . . but part of it has got to be forgiveness and gratefulness.”

Ellen Goodman (1941 - Present)
American Columnist & Social Commentator



ALL KINDS OF VIOLENCE

Written by Sean D. Krausert

I just received a telephone call, the caller asking me if I had ever heard of “misandry”. I had not (and neither has my spellcheck). Then she asked if I had ever heard of “family of men”. Once again, and now starting to feel ignorant, I had not.

It appears that I am not the only one. “Misandry” is hatred of men; and “Family of Men” is one of the few support societies for men suffering from abuse. Violence against men, whether it be physical, emotional, or psychological is something that most people do not know enough about.

This is the *Week Without Violence*. For the most part, activities and messages relate to violence against women. This is such an important issue and really deserves as much attention as we can give it. Violence, and any form of abuse against women, is absolutely reprehensible and cannot be condoned in any way.

However . . . violence against women is not the only violence from which our families suffer. Just this past week there is a story in the news of a baby being left in a dumpster by its mother. Both mothers and fathers have been known to commit abuse against their children. This, too, is completely



inexcusable and should not be tolerated.

And . . . there is one of the best kept secrets around . . . there are women that violently abuse men. That’s right – physical violence, emotional abuse, and psychological cruelty. It’s a secret because most of the time, the men who are victims of this violence do not say a word. To say anything would just compound the problem. Just like boys are taught “you never hit a girl”, they are also ridiculed if they are ever beat up by a girl. And, again, violence against men by women is equally reprehensible and worthy of condemnation as that of violence against women by men.

There will be those that say, statistically speaking, that violence against women is much more predominant, and therefore is rightly the focus of attention. I’m not so sure. First

of all, due to the natural reaction of men to keep the abuse to themselves, the statistics are incomplete. Secondly, I think the focus on violence against women is less about statistics and more the result of a societal belief that it is more wrong to commit violence against a woman than it is against a man. The cringe factor is higher to hear that a woman was struck across the face than the other way around.

Violence against anyone, anywhere, in any form must be stopped. We should be teaching our children “you never hit *anyone*”. We should be condemning whoever beats up another, and *never* ridiculing the victim regardless of sex. We should be seeking to provide protection and resources for women, children, and men who have suffered at the hands, words, or actions of another.

Until every woman, child, and man feels safe to leave their home . . . and feels safe to enter their home . . . we must continue to raise awareness about stopping violence in all its forms. While I support the importance of having a denoted time to reflect on this issue – i.e. a *Week Without Violence*, doesn’t it sound a bit insufficient? Shouldn’t it be the “Year” or “Decade” Without Violence? Better yet, I suggest *Until the End of Time Without Violence*.

Be good to each other.

Women

- Women’s Web Listing of Hotlines at:
www.womensweb.ca/violence/resources.php
- Local YWCA or Women’s Shelter, e.g.:
www.calgarywomensshelter.com/
www.ywcabanff.ab.ca/
<http://community.ywcaofcalgary.com/>

**Abused?
Need to
Talk to
Someone?**

Men

- It is very difficult to find information if you are a man suffering from abuse . . . but keep trying. Some possibilities to find help include:
- Local Organization, e.g.:
<http://familyofmen.com> (Calgary)
 - SAFE – Stop Abuse For Everyone:
<http://www.safe4all.org/>

Children

- Kid’s Help Phone:
1-800-668-6868

FEED THE WORLD – HOW HUNGER HAS CHANGED ACROSS THE DEVELOPING WORLD

October 12, 2010 - TWENTY-NINE countries suffer from “alarming” levels of hunger, most of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, according to a report published on Monday October 11th. The “Global Hunger Index” (GHI) gives developing countries scores based on three indicators: the proportion of people who are undernourished, the proportion of children under five who are underweight, and the child mortality rate. The worst possible score is 100, but in practice, anything over 25 is considered “alarming”. Scores under five, meanwhile, are indicative of “low hunger”. Since 1990 the overall level of the index has fallen by almost a quarter (though the data do not cover the period of the global recession beginning in 2008). Two-thirds of the 99 countries counted in 1990 have reduced their populations' hunger levels. Kuwait, Malaysia, Turkey and Mexico have been the most successful, cutting their scores by over 60%. Those where hunger has increased include North Korea, Comoros and Congo. Congo's GHI score fell by over 60%, the worst of any country.

Read more . . . www.economist.com

ARCTIC WARMING AT NEAR RECORD PACE

October 21, 2010 – The temperature is rising again in the Arctic, with the sea ice cover dropping to one of the lowest levels on record, climate scientists say.

The new Arctic Report Card, released Thursday, “tells a story of widespread, continued and even dramatic effects of a warming Arctic,” said Jackie Richter-Menge of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility.

“This isn't just a climatological effect. It impacts the people that live there,” she added.

Read more . . . www.cbc.ca

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



FIND OUT MORE . . .

www.adaretoremember.com

HAITI: UN EXPERT URGES CHANGED FOCUS FOR 1.3 MILLION QUAKE SURVIVORS STILL IN CAMPS

19 October 2010 – With 1.3 million people still living in spontaneously formed camps nine months after a massive earthquake devastated Haiti, a United Nations expert today called for a shift in the focus of humanitarian operations and more urgency in launching the reconstruction process.

“Haiti is still living through a profound humanitarian crisis that affects the human rights of those displaced by the disaster,” Secretary-General Ban Ki moon’s Representative on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Walter Kaelin said after a visit to the country, noting that camp residents include both those who lost their homes and others fleeing poverty exacerbated by the January quake, which killed more than 200,000 people.

“Visiting some of the capital’s worst slum areas, I also met many others outside camps, whose plight was less visible, but not less grave. People in the camps have specific needs, especially relating to shelter, which needs to be addressed at the camp level,” he added.

Read more . . . www.un.org

FOOD: RACE IS ON TO IMPLEMENT NUTRITION INITIATIVE

JOHANNESBURG/GRAND BASSAM, 14 October 2010 (IRIN) - A UN initiative will push countries to design nutrition policies based on new studies that show good quality food for mothers and children in the first 1,000 days, including pregnancy, would not only save millions of lives but raise literacy and economic growth rates.

The initiative - designed with input from UN agencies, NGOs, academics and think-tanks - known by its acronym SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) and led by David Nabarro, head of the UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, is only likely to come together in 2011.

. . . In 2009 the World Bank calculated it would cost at least US\$12 billion a year to implement nutrition-specific interventions, including an investment in agriculture in the 36 countries which account for 90 percent of the global under-nutrition statistics. That amount of funding is not available at present, so SUN will look to public-private-civil society partnerships.

Read more . . . www.irinnews.org

GLOBAL ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION



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

CHANGE A LIFE,
A COMMUNITY,
A COUNTRY

DONATE

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 . . . ?

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2010

While hunger percentages have dropped since the 1990 report, the overall number of people suffering from hunger has increased . . . surpassing 1 billion in 2009.

The 7 countries suffering most from hunger are:

Democratic Republic of Congo
Burundi
Eritrea
Chad
Ethiopia
Sierra Leone
Haiti

Source:

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/2010-global-hunger-index>



CANADIAN TURKEY CONSUMPTION FACTS (as of 2008)

- Canadians consumed 150 million kg of turkey in 2008 (i.e. 4.5 kg per capita).
- In 2008, Canadian households consumed 9.6 million whole turkeys.
- Thanksgiving and Christmas account for 71% of annual whole turkey sales.
- There are 548 turkey farmers in Canada.

Source:

<http://www.turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca/news/article/20008-Thanksgiving-Canadian-Turkey-Statistics/>

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS, FIGURES, and FASCINATING STUFF

Get Rid of the Rubbish!

London, England was the place to introduce a garbage collection system. It introduced the first “garbage carts” in the 15th century. By the way, it has recently been reported that cleaning up litter is 9 times more expensive than collecting it from trash receptacles.

Recycle Those Cans.

Recycling 1,000 kg of aluminum saves enough energy to heat a typical home for 10 years. In terms of gasoline consumption, recycling 1,000 kg of aluminum saves the equivalent of 10,000 L of gasoline.

It's Curtains for You.

On average, 7 kilograms of textile waste (clothes, bedding, curtains, etc.) per person end up in landfills throughout Canada each year. Reduce the amount you throw out by giving old textiles to a charitable organization or friends and family, or re-use them as rags, painting sheets, and so on.

Source – www.earthday.ca

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

OCTOBER 2010

1 – “Chili In A Bowl” hosted by Mountain Grannies. 5:30 – 7:30 PM continuous seating at St. Michael’s Anglican Church in Canmore, AB. \$40 per ticket available at Kitchen Boutique at 721 Main Street. “EAT THE CHILI – KEEP THE BOWL!” Also featuring a dessert buffet and wine. All proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

3 – Mental Illness Awareness Week. For activities in Canada check out www.miaaw.ca.

15 & 16 – “Bags, Babies & Beyond”. 4 PM – 8 PM Friday; 9 AM – 2:30 PM Saturday at South Calgary Community Association 3130 – 16th St. SW Calgary AB. Handcrafted purses, baby and toddler items, jackets, pet accessories, and much more. All profits support Grandmothers of Africa who are raising AIDS Orphans. For more information call (403) 931-3539 or e-mail ujamaagrandmas@platinum.ca.

17 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. See <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/index.html>.

17 – 23 – Week Without Violence. YWCA across Canada, see <http://ywcacanada.ca/en/pages/wwv/introduction> for more information.

27 - 29 – Textile Art Collection Presentation. Art Point Galleries & Studio Society 1139-11th Street SE, Calgary AB. Admission by Donation. Proceeds are donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign supporting grandmothers in Africa caring for children orphaned by HIV and AIDS. For times and further information go to www.artpoint.ca or www.glaciergrannies.org.

NOVEMBER 2010

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



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TWO GLASSES?

by Sean D. Krausert

The old adage goes optimists are those that see a partial glass of water and cheerfully say – “It’s half FULL!” Conversely, pessimists are those that see the same glass and complain – “It’s half EMPTY!”

But what is it called if you look and see two glasses, not one? That’s what I see when I look at our world . . . two glasses. One full to the brim to the point of overflowing, and the other bone dry empty. Am I an optimistic pessimist? A pessimistic optimist? Neither of those ring true for me . . . I’m kind of thinking – a persevering idealist splashed with a bucket of ice cold realism.

The way I see it, it’s tough to compare the circumstances of the very rich and the very poor . . . and they’re certainly not in the same glass. By the way, if you are reading this then likely, despite how your bank account may look or whether it feels like it or not, you are part of the very rich. Our way of life and the resources all around us are completely foreign to a majority of the world.

However, we do live on the same planet, and we are all connected in

humanity. So, some would argue, it would be accurate to say that this world in which we live is a glass half full . . . or half empty whichever is your preference. Accurate, yes . . . but fair, no. To do so implies that the rich are not as rich as they are and the poor not as poor. To do so sweeps the issue that must be addressed completely under the rug.

What’s the issue? The disparity in the world . . . and not only with developing countries but also in our local communities. We live in a time when some people do not have their most basic necessities met. And by “some” I mean a couple of billion or so . . . and by “most basic necessities” I mean food, shelter, clean water. Basic rights – some have them met ten-fold and others not all.

This issue became front and centre for me recently when reading the news coming from preparation for the Commonwealth Games being held in

Delhi, India. I was flabbergasted to hear of the money being spent to house visiting athletes. While, granted, this housing will be part of the legacy enjoyed by India from having hosted the games; the same money could have housed and fed many times more of the impoverished in India than it will. AND . . . this is what flabbergasted me . . . THE LUXURY HOUSING (by India standards) WAS DEEMED INADEQUATE BY THE VISITING ATHLETES!! I’d like to ask a squatter in Delhi about the inadequacy of the accommodation.

So what can we do? I’d like to catch all the excess overflowing the first glass, and make sure that it goes to fill the second glass. The excess being all those monies spent on sporting spectacles (also known as commercial advertising opportunities) and global summits, which could be spent on those in need. Of course, I am not advocating doing away with sporting events and global summits – let’s just do them in a way that is more responsible to the whole. And, while we’re at it, maybe we could siphon a bit from the full glass to the empty one. Not enough to affect the lifestyle of those drinking from the full glass, but just to ensure there is no further needless spillage that goes to waste.



A Social Justice E-Publication

is published the
2nd Thursday of every month by

GLOBAL
WE
INITIATIVES

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