

Living Matthew 25 MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR WORLD

A Social Justice E-Publication

TRIAGE

by Sean D. Krausert



Do you remember the television show *M*A*S*H*? In almost every episode we would see company clerk, Radar O’Reilly, bolting up from whatever he was doing and yelling, “Choppers!” Then, we’d witness everyone in the hospital unit running helter-skelter to prepare for the arriving wounded. The doctors, Hawkeye and Trapper (and later BJ), would go from injured soldier to injured soldier deciding who went first, who could wait, and who wasn’t able to be helped. That’s triage.

Sometimes meeting the needs of the world is not unlike the pandemonium one would find in a mobile surgical hospital in the midst of war. Sometimes the needs seem too many and so great that we risk being overwhelmed. Sometimes we just feel like throwing our hands up in the air because we can’t possibly do it all.

However, like the doctors in *M*A*S*H*, we shouldn’t be thinking in terms of doing it all. Instead, we should be thinking . . . what’s the next most important thing that I can do? In meeting the needs of the world we must first perform triage.

Each of us should survey the needs around us, and choose the most crucial need that we are able to address. Granted, as each of us has different priorities and skill sets, we may have to temporarily turn our back on one need in order to satisfy another. Just as some doctors are heart surgeons and others general practitioners, we must focus on what we do best. It’s not about doing it all, it’s about doing what we can.

Ironically, if everyone took this approach to meeting the needs in the world, there would be no needs in the world. By each of us doing our individual part in accordance with our means and opportunities, *WE would* do it all. I absolutely believe this to be true.

A word of warning though . . . be careful not to sell yourself short. Too often, people underestimate their abilities and, in doing so, aim too low with respect to the good they are able to accomplish. To continue with the medical analogy, if you are a heart surgeon then you shouldn’t be treating rashes when there are hearts in need of repair.

Whether you know it or not, you have an incredible skill set at your disposal to help others. Starting with compassion and empathy, there are numerous ways you can make a difference in the lives of others. You have God given gifts that are aching to be used . . . ready to be put to good use.

So, doctor, what’s next?

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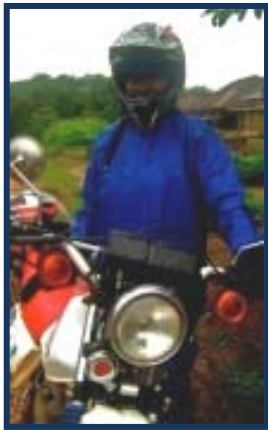
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WATERPROOF

Written by Melissa Smith
(CAUSE Canada Intern in
Sierra Leone, West Africa)

I would like to introduce you to my friend Aminata Dusuba.



Aminata Dusuba, a tireless CAUSE Canada worker . . . with her motorcycle!

We work together at CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone Partnership. Aminata teaches our adult literacy classes. But, she also gets up at 6:00 in the morning to take me to a remote village on the back of her motorcycle in a torrential downpour. Why? To find out if Feremusu Marah has indeed purchased a

sheep, of course! Allow me to explain.

CAUSE Canada's *Women's Integral Empowerment Program* in Sierra Leone, West Africa teaches adult literacy and includes a component on business skills training. The women who take our classes learn to read as well as how to budget. They practice saving money throughout the year. About half way through the class, teachers like Aminata sit down with participants and help them to make a plan for how they want to invest their savings. The following year, we follow up with them to see how their plans are going. That's my job . . . and how I end up on the back of Aminata's motorcycle in a torrential downpour.

The process of following up with these women is always inspiring. Many of them have invested in productive activities like trading or animal husbandry, which provide their families with regular income. Others have made wise one-time investments, such as paying their children's school fees or repairing the roof of their family home. It's a joy to meet with them and their families and to see what they have accomplished.

The difficult part is . . . finding them! There are 499 women who made investment plans last year and they are scattered throughout the Koinadugu district in northern Sierra Leone. Every Thursday, Aminata arrives at my house in full rain gear and we set out before the sun comes up. We travel from village to village asking neighbours and friends until we find them. There are no addresses like you would find in Canada. Then, if for example the participants are engaged in animal husbandry, we may wander even further afield to meet their goat or their cow. This process is complicated by rain, mud . . . and the fact that about 20 women in the program last year were named "Marie Koroma."

Despite the challenges, we remain quite content in our work as we are a dedicated team, Aminata is indefatigable and, of course, it's worth it!

Editor's Note – Northern Sierra Leone is one of the poorest regions in a country ranked near the bottom of the Human Development Index. Thanks to people like Aminata, the situation in Sierra Leone continues to improve.



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

People need to talk about mental health.

Why? Because of the math.

1 out of every 5 Canadians will suffer from mental illness in their lifetime.
Yet, due to the stigma, only 1 in 3 of those suffering will seek help.

500,000 Canadians are absent from work every day due to psychiatric reasons.
Depression alone is the leading cause of disability worldwide . . . affecting
120 million people around the world at any given time.

As of 2008, it is estimated that the total cost of mental illness to the
Canadian economy in terms of health care and lost productivity is
\$51,000,000,000 (\$51 BILLION).

How about *this* math?



To find out what in the world is going on . . .

www.dirtylaundrytheatre.ca

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Written by Tanya Power
(Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids)

I woke up this morning to the smell of bacon and eggs coming through my open bedroom window. I got out of bed, brushed my teeth and put yesterday's clothes back on. I went downstairs and my mom gave me a hug and said, "Good morning." I grabbed my backpack and put my art homework in it, put my running shoes on, and headed out the door.

As I walked the three blocks to school I could see Sam in the distance getting out of his van in front of our school. Sam is one of my best buddies! He was heading towards the playground and I walked a bit faster so we would have a few minutes to play before the bell rang. As I got closer I could hear Sam's mom yelling, "Sammy, you forgot your lunch!" Sam stopped in his tracks, turned towards his mom and ran back to the van to get his lunch from her. I met up with Sam and we ran off to the playground together.

Lunchtime came - we were super hungry today because we had run hard

and played dodge ball all recess. Sam pulled out his lunch, which he had almost forgotten, and started to eat. I had no lunch to bring. My mom tries really hard to get food for us, but says right now the best she can do is make us dinner. As I shuffled my feet to the back of the classroom, I was overjoyed to find, like I do every day, that Mr. Adams had put a lunch in my backpack. I am not entirely sure where this food comes from, but it is the best food I have ever had and makes me feel so good. The hole in my stomach fills and the hunger pains fade away, because after all, I haven't eaten since yesterday's dinner . . .

Surprisingly, this is the story for well over 2,500 kids in Calgary every day. Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids has been very active at feeding most of these kids for the last 20 years.

"How?" you might ask. We have been privileged to be part of a community that cares and gives. Calgarians have stepped forward and have found ways to contribute and make child hunger their problem. There are

kids that give portions of their allowance, companies that volunteer and find creative ways to fundraise, families that give of their time and money instead of exchanging their own gifts, and people that are simply making one or more extra lunches a day. Impressive indeed, although, there is still more help needed.

What are your resources? Do you have time, good leadership skills, creative ideas, a love of lunch making, space, finances, or more? It isn't supernatural magic; it's a natural action that will help these kids to see their potential. It only takes the caring action of a few people to impact the life of a child.

Ask yourself, "If your brother's child was hungry, what would you do?"

Editor's Note – To discuss possibilities, and help do something for the kids in your neighbourhood, please contact Tanya Power at 403-264-7979 or tanya@brownbaggingit.org. For more information, you can also go to www.brownbaggingit.org.

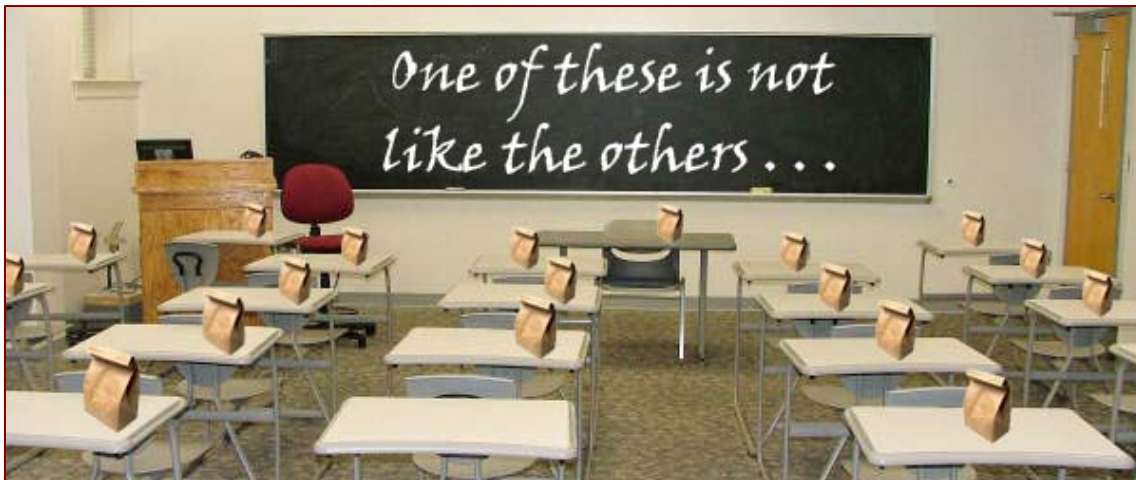


Brown Bagging
for Calgary's Kids
Society

Healthy Kids. Healthy Minds.

www.brownbaggingit.org

403.264.7979



**"Can
you
help?"**



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. As we move into Fall and start to prepare for Winter, there are things we can easily do to meet the needs of OUR world.

- **Choose your Cause.** Where do your skills and interests intersect with the needs of the world? *That* is where you should devote some time and energy. You and OUR world will be happier for it.
- **An End of Summer Garage Sale for Charity.** We all have “stuff” we don’t need anymore . . . maybe it’s time to get rid of it? And, give some thought to donating the proceeds to a cause close to your heart.
- **Old Coats, Old Toques, Old Gloves? No Problem.** When you’re changing over the summer coats to the fall and winter coats, put aside any of the old winter clothing you don’t wear anymore. Organizations working with the homeless, such as The Mustard Seed, will gladly take them off your hands.
- **Off the Bike and Into the Pool.** Car pool that is. Whenever possible share rides with people to reduce your environmental footprint.
- **School’s In . . . How About Volunteering?** You would be pleasantly surprised as to how rewarding it is for you and the kids when you volunteer at schools reading or helping teachers prepare materials for classes.
- **Stock-Up on Books for the Winter.** In addition to those books for pure entertainment, don’t forget to pick up reading material that helps you learn more about the world and becoming a better you.
- **Winter-Proof Your House.** Nobody wants to throw money away, so make sure you insulate your doors and windows and watch your use of water, gas, and electrical resources. Good for the wallet . . . great for the environment!
- **Develop a Healthy New Mantra.** OUR world needs the best you that you can be. Maybe a new mantra is just the ticket to helping you feel good about yourself, and empower you to do good for others.
- **Put Aside 34¢ Per Day for International Aid.** If everyone in the top 20 richest countries committed to this easy practice, we would DOUBLE our foreign aid.
- **Shop Around for a Christmas Charity.** Christmas is just around the corner, and there are a lot of great initiatives out there to help people. Find the one you like, and direct some of your Christmas giving to those less fortunate than ourselves.



MAKE POVERTY HISTORY



STANDUP

TAKE ACTION ON POVERTY AT HOME AND ABROAD
SEPTEMBER 17-19

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>





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

CALGARY PUTS HOUSING FIRST

Written by Lindsay Schonfelder, The Mustard Seed

The Calgary Homeless Foundation recently reported that 350 Calgarians have received affordable housing and support services this year under Calgary's "10 Year Plan to End Homelessness". If agencies are able to continue providing *Housing First* services at this rate, a staggering 1,300 individuals will be housed in 2010.

The *Housing First* model accepts housing as a basic human right that must be accessible to all. It calls for individuals to be rapidly housed in sustainable, independent housing rather than circulating endlessly through the shelter system.

The Mustard Seed's unique approach, called *Housing Plus*, prioritizes helping formerly homeless individuals to reintegrate into the wider community. It provides accountability and follow up, ensuring that former guests have support overcoming barriers to long-term independence.

Martin was on the streets for four years before arriving at The Mustard Seed Shelter. Through The Mustard Seed's *Housing Plus* program, he was able to quickly move out into his own apartment.



"When you're homeless, it is so hard trying to get out of that rut," says Martin. "Once you're in it, you will not get out of it if nobody puts a hand out to pull you out, and that's what The Mustard Seed has done. They throw you a lifeline."

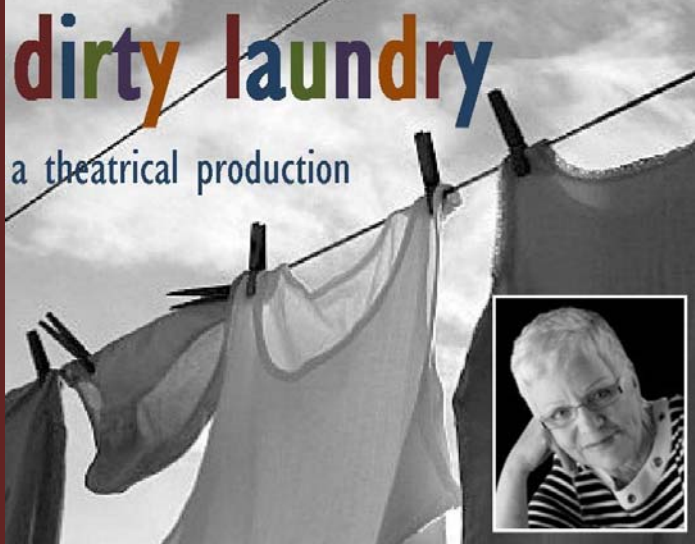
Although Martin was thrilled to be back in the privacy of his own place, he soon found himself at loose ends and fell back into old habits. Enter The Mustard Seed's *Leisure AfterCare* program.

"I could tell right away that Martin would benefit from Leisure support," says Kristy Ferguson, a *Leisure AfterCare* worker at The Mustard Seed. **"The benefit of the Leisure Aftercare Support program is it helps guests fill their spare time with things they enjoy, look forward to and find satisfaction in."**

Kristy met with Martin to get an idea of his interests, and he mentioned getting back into Aboriginal beadwork. The Leisure program was able to provide him with enough basic materials for him to get started making beaded gloves, moccasins and hangings. "It's a lot of work! It's beautiful though," Martin says of his handiwork.

Martin is truly appreciative of the help he has received in getting off the street for good. **"The Mustard Seed actually did something. They helped me out. I'm in my own place. When I first got here it was almost like waking up from a nightmare."**

Martin's is just one of the 350 individual stories of those already re-housed through *Housing First* strategies. One more person now has a safe place to go home to, and we are well on our way to helping more people realize the dream of having a place to call home.



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
SEPTEMBER 25th @ 7:30 PM
CCHS THEATRE, CANMORE AB

WATCH THE TRAILER
 by going to
www.dirtylaundrytheatre.ca

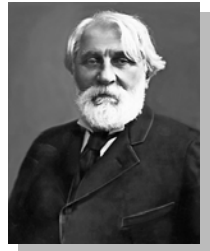
If your group wants to bring *Dirty Laundry* to town, e-mail the Producer – producer@dirtylaundrytheatre.ca



QUOTABLE QUOTES

“ . . . if we wait for the moment when everything, absolutely everything is ready, we shall never begin.”

Ivan Turgenev (1818 - 1883)
 Russian Novelist & Playwright



“The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.”

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



“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 - 1968)
 American Clergyman & Civil Rights Activist



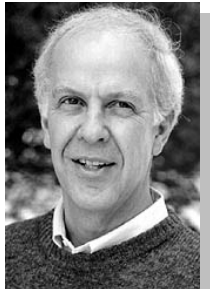
“The time has come to stop talking and start taking action. If everyone who wants to see an end to poverty, hunger and suffering speaks out then the noise will be deafening. Politicians will have to listen.”

Desmond Tutu (1931 - Present)
 South African Anglican Archbishop



“We need ground rules for dialogue that allow us to be present to another person's problems in a quiet, receptive way that encourages the soul to come forth, a way that does not presume to know what is right for the other but allows the other's soul to find its own answers at its own level and pace.”

Parker J. Palmer (1939 - Present)
 American Author, Educator & Activist



“The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. The most you can do is live inside that hope, running down its hallways, touching the walls on both sides.”

Barbara Kingsolver (1955 - Present)
 American Writer



EXCEPTIONAL EXCERPTS

From the United States' *Declaration of Independence* . . .

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

From the Bible – *Letter to the Hebrews 13: 1-3, 16* . . .

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. . . . Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

From the Qu'ran – *Chapter 90, Verses 12 to 17* . . .

And what will explain to you what the steep path is? It is the freeing of a (slave) from bondage; or the giving of food in a day of famine to an orphan relative, or to a needy in distress. Then will he be of those who believe, enjoin fortitude and encourage kindness and compassion.

From the *Spiderman* movie script . . .

Peter Parker: Whatever life holds in store for me, I will never forget these words: "With great power comes great responsibility."



FREE
Rice

www.freerice.com*

A game that, for every correct answer, donates 10 grains of rice through the World Food Programme to help end hunger.

*FreeRice is a non-profit website run by the United Nations World Food Programme partnered with the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University.

WARNING: This game may make you smarter.

BANGING A DRUM FOR THE MDG SUMMIT

NEW YORK, 7 September 2010 (IRIN) - Activists are pulling out all the stops ahead of a development summit at UN headquarters on 20-22 September. Pro-aid and anti-poverty lobbyists are trying everything from giant letters to banging pans to raise awareness of the high-level event.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) suffer from a lack of widespread public recognition, not least in the summit's host country, the US. Mobilizing popular support and influencing delegates will demand a range of online and offline techniques, according to advocacy specialists, some more quirky than others.

Read more . . . www.irinnews.org

YOUNG AFGHANS GO DOOR-TO-DOOR RAISING HIV AWARENESS

9 September 2010 – Young people in eastern Afghanistan have gone door-to-door to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS as part of a United Nations-backed campaign.

Nearly 400 awareness-raising sessions have been carried out across six districts in the province of Nangarhar.

In the Kampoona neighbourhood in the provincial capital, Jalalabad, youth educators met people in the streets, sharing information about HIV and AIDS, as well as handing out flyers and poster on walls.

Low levels of surveillance and testing, combined with the stigma attached to HIV, have made it almost impossible to document the reality of the epidemic in Afghanistan, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Read more . . . www.un.org

More "Around the World" on page 11 . . .



FIND OUT MORE . . .

www.adaretoremember.com

LITERACY HAS EMPOWERING EFFECT ON WOMEN, UN OFFICIALS SAY

8 September 2010 – Top United Nations officials called today for more funding and advocacy to improve literacy rates among the world’s women, who comprise two out of every three adults who cannot read or write.

In a message marking International Literacy Day, which is observed today, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed the transformative effect on both a family and the wider community when a woman is literate.

“Literate women are more likely to send their children, especially their girls, to school,” he said. “By acquiring literacy, women become more economically self-reliant and more actively engaged in their country’s social, political and cultural life. All evidence shows that investment in literacy for women yields high development dividends.”

... “Every literate woman marks a victory over poverty,” he noted, calling for “increasing funding and sustained advocacy for quality literacy programmes that empower women and ensure that girls and boys at primary and secondary level do not become a new generation of young illiterates.” While global illiteracy rates are falling, it is estimated that about one in every six adults still cannot read or write.

Read more . . . www.un.org

MOZAMBIQUE – URBAN POOR IGNORED

MAPUTO, 7 September 2010 (IRIN) - Carlos Matos, who has worked as a policeman in the Mozambican capital, Maputo, for the past 12 years, has to borrow a few dollars each month to supplement his US\$52 wage.

... "The government doesn't want to talk to the poor ... [when prices go up] the ones who suffer are the poor," Matos told IRIN. "If the national minimum wage was 5,000 meticaís (\$142) - then fine, put the prices up, but it [government] doesn't adjust it [minimum wage] when the prices go up."

Mozambique introduced a minimum monthly wage of \$24 in 1996; in 2008, 11 different minimum wages were introduced, which are recalibrated each year on 1 April. In May 2010, Joseph Hanlon, of the Development Policy and Practice department at Britain's Open University, published the latest minimum wage across all sectors and observed that "Except for the financial sector, all minimum wages are lower, in dollar terms, than two years ago."

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



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 . . . ?

FACTS RE STANDING UP AGAINST POVERTY

In 2010, every 3 seconds, a child dies from extreme poverty. More than a billion people go to bed hungry every night.

In Canada, more than 3.5 million people live in poverty, including 1 in 10 children.

September 17 – 19 millions of people will literally stand-up to tell governments to keep its promises to end poverty at home and abroad.

Last year, over 173 MILLION people took part in this global campaign.

Source:

www.makepovertyhistory.ca/standup

STATISTICS RE VIOLENT CONFLICT

Since the beginning of recorded history, there have been over 14,500 major wars which have killed over 4 BILLION people.

In the 20th Century, war has killed about 200 million people. Since WWII there has been an average of 30 armed conflicts annually.

Civilian Casualties – 10% of the casualties in WWI; 50% of the casualties in WWII; and . . . 90% since WWII.

Source:

<http://filipsagnoli.wordpress.com/stats-on-human-rights/statistics-on-war-conflict/statistics-on-violent-conflict/>

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS, FIGURES, and FASCINATING STUFF

Brush your teeth.

How many litres of water can be saved on average if you turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or wash your face? 11 LITRES! (Picture 5 ½ two litre bottles of pop.) Turn of the tap when not needed.

Pack your lunch.

On average, each child that takes a disposable lunch to school generates 30 kg of garbage per school year. Pack your child's lunch in reusable containers and avoid purchasing individually wrapped items when you can use your own sealed reusable containers. You will save about 45% in expenses and produce 89% less waste when you avoid single use containers and bags.

Take the bus.

One busload of passengers takes the equivalent of 40 cars off the road during a typical rush hour. In a year, it conserves about 70,000 litres of fuel, and generates only about 1/3 of the greenhouse gas emissions that 40 cars produce.

Source – www.earthday.ca

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

SEPTEMBER 2010

12 – CAUSE Canada Rocky Mountain Half-Marathon. Funds raised will support women's empowerment and environmental sustainability. CAUSE Canada and the Canmore Rocky Mountain Half Marathon are committed to putting on the greenest race possible. Limited to 2,500 runners! To register, click on the following link - <http://www.cause.ca/2010halfmarathon>.

17 – 19 – Stand-Up. Take Action. Make Poverty History. Three days of global action where millions of people around the world “Stand Up and Take Action” to show their support for the fight against poverty at home and abroad. Last year over 173 million people took part in the three days of global action. For info – www.makepovertyhistory.ca/standup.

21 – International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982.

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>.



Across Africa, grassroots organizations are changing the course of the AIDS pandemic. In project after project, we have seen lives and hope restored. The Stephen Lewis Foundation funds in a way that avoids red tape, so that your money goes where it's needed most.

Help us turn the tide of AIDS in Africa.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation
260 Spadina Avenue, Suite 501
Toronto, ON M5T 2E4
Tel: 416-533-9292
Toll free: 1-888-203-9990

www.stephenlewisfoundation.org





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.

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50 YEARS

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80 Hayden Street

Toronto ON

M4T 3G2

THE WE VISION EVOLUTION

by Sean D. Krausert

I've always been interested in optometry. As one who is squeamish around blood and about as comfortable around germs as the next guy (if the next guy is Howard Hughes), optometry represents for me an attractive way of practicing medicine. You sit in your chair, I'll sit in mine. We'll turn down the lights and have a little conversation, "Which is clearer – this one . . . or this one?"

Actually, I think the thing that really intrigues me is how people see the world. Now, when I say this, I am moving out of the physical realm of optometry and eyeballs, and into the metaphysical realm of worldviews. A worldview is comprised of one's experiences, values, and attitudes and is the driving force behind our behaviour.

To be honest, I think there may be as many different worldviews as there are people. This is because each of us will see the world in accordance with our own unique combination of experiences, values, and attitudes. Thus, with nearly 7 billion worldviews on the planet, it's no wonder we occasionally don't get along

with each other!

However, I believe that all 7 billion worldviews fall into one of two categories. The first category sees the world as it impacts self . . . ME Vision. The second category sees self as it impacts the world . . . WE Vision. ME and WE – mirror images of one another.

ME Vision focuses on the preservation and strengthening of self. ME Vision . . . looks after self first and foremost; sees a world of scarcity and strives to get a piece of the pie before the other takes it; and hoards wealth. ME Vision starts wars and believes in survival of the fittest. ME Vision is fuelled by fear.



WE Vision focuses on preservation and strengthening of us, as opposed to self. WE Vision . . . looks to the welfare of everyone; sees a world of abundance with enough pie for all; and shares wealth. WE Vision ends wars and believes that we are only as strong as the weakest amongst us. WE Vision is driven by love.

The question for me becomes what is the relationship between these

two categories of worldviews. Are they polar opposites . . . like water and oil to one another? Or are they merely at different ends of a spectrum? I think it is the latter.

Taking a step back, I can clearly see an analogy between these two worldviews and the maturing of a person. ME Vision tends to correspond with how a person may act in the early part of life – perhaps as a youngster and even into early adulthood. WE Vision is then akin to the way that an elder may respond to the world. That said, I would not take the analogy so far as to say that those with a ME Vision are in any way immature, and those with WE Vision are superior. To do so, would be to misconstrue what I really think is happening.

I believe that society as a whole is in transformation, or evolution, from the historically predominant ME Vision into a more sustainable and healthier WE Vision. Like any evolution, as opposed to revolution, this transformation takes time . . . but we can see it happening as the voices and presence of those with WE Vision get louder. And, each of us being alive during this exciting time, at some point in our lives will consciously choose between ME Vision and WE Vision, asking ourselves, "Which is clearer – this one . . . or this one?"



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