

# GLOBAL LINK



Giving  
Hope  
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD MISSIONS DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

FALL 2017



Project manager Ibrahim Thawani drops off farming inputs

## CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN MALAWI

By Manjita Biswas

In Malawi, farmers are struggling to produce enough food due to several consecutive years of drought and flood. The farmers' landholdings are small so the agricultural land can quickly become over-used causing soil erosion and nutrient depletion. Although the forecast appears gloomy, these small-scale farmers in Malawi believe conservation agriculture is the answer to their prayers.

Conservation agriculture, a farming technique that focuses on preserving soil quality, helps small-scale farmers to increase crop yields and become food secure. It is in harmony with nature and known by our local partner and other faith-based organizations as "Farming God's Way." This technique has three basic principles:

1. Reducing soil disturbance
2. Managing top soil
3. Rotating crops

Thanks to your support, we were able to fund a project that provided more than 200 Malawian farmers with training and support in conservation farming. As a result, many of the farmers doubled their harvests and were able to sell better quality produce at a higher price. Because Henry and his wife are rotating their crops, they get a harvest of cabbage and peas from the same land. The use of mulch helps retain moisture on the field, enabling Martha and many others to plant more crops than before.

We were privileged to attend the conservation agriculture workshop in Tanzania in February 2017 organized by Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). It coincided with ECHO East Africa symposium and over 150 participants attended from 65 different organizations. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to join with

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## A TAPESTRY

Fall is my favourite season. The cool crisp evenings cause the foliage to change from its myriad greens to vibrant oranges, yellows and deep reds. Rich colour enhances and inspires the senses and delights the eyes. Each leaf and every tree blends and provides a kaleidoscope of colour not found in any other season of the year.

As I think of the variety of ministry that exists within our global ministry, I see it as a beautiful tapestry. Different countries, special people and varying programs all aimed at meeting the needs of vulnerable individuals and families around the world. We come together, united to support one another.

As you read this issue of *Global Link*, consider this tapestry. You will learn about children in Pakistan and how your contributions are making a difference in their lives. You will read the results of our Brighter Futures sponsorship survey and hear representative comments from donors, along with some of our plans to further enhance this meaningful ministry. The other articles throughout the newsletter speak to the diversity of our programs, which exist because of your kindness and generous financial support.

The poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou once said, "We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour."

This season, as you see the changing colours around you, be reminded of the impact you are making in the lives of individuals around the globe.

Thank you for your ongoing support and may God bless you!

Major Brenda Murray  
World Missions Director

## Conservation Agriculture continued...

Salvation Army members from Malawi and Tanzania to learn and share agricultural best practices. Following the success of this project, we are working with CFGB and our local partners to develop it on a larger scale in Africa.

As a global community, your prayers and support are crucial for the success of this project as small-scale farmers adopt conservation farming not just to survive, but to thrive.



## FINDING HOPE IN PAKISTAN

By Major Donna Barthau and Ruth Hobbis



The Salvation Army regularly conducts reviews of our projects to ensure we continually meet the ever-changing needs of the communities we serve. Following a recent review of our sponsored institutions in Pakistan, the Corps Based Community Development (CBCD) strategy was established. The plans outlined by the CBCD strategy are predicted to save money while simultaneously increasing the number of beneficiaries.

Moving forward, our children's homes in Pakistan will focus on orphans and children whose families are unable to care for them. In order to provide the greatest level of care to as many children as possible, the children's homes are being consolidated into two 'new' homes: Shiloh Boy's Home and Joyland Girl's Home. Funds received from the sale of the other properties will be used to refurbish the two homes.

Thanks to sponsors from Canada and Bermuda, the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship program continues to help vulnerable children succeed. Thirteen-year-old Anosh Abid and her sister came to live at Joyland Girl's Home in 2013 after the death of their father. Anosh wrote to us

and said, "I am very happy to be part of this home, and I am very happy and secure here. I have an opportunity to continue my studies. I love painting and I want to be a teacher, and serve other poor children. I am very thankful for The Salvation Army providing us shelter and safety. I pray for my sponsors and for The Salvation Army. May God bless you all." With your support, young people like Anosh have hope for a brighter future in which they break free from the cycle of poverty.





# PARTNERS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

By Major Donna Barthau



Each year, Salvation Army Thrift Stores, managed by National Recycling Operations (NRO), host a special fundraising campaign to support Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship. Last year we spoke to regional managers from across Canada at their annual meeting and shared how our vibrant sponsorship program is making a difference in children's lives around the world. Inspired and

informed, NRO staff gave their campaign a new name, Brighter Days, and a fresh look. Armed with appealing posters and information to share with the public, each member of staff took on the fundraising challenge and the result was phenomenal. NRO raised \$63,013, an increase of over \$20,000 compared to previous years!

"We try as much as possible to make a difference in the lives of others through our

NRO Thrift Stores," said NRO Operations Manager, Michele Walker. "This initiative has really become close to the hearts of our team members, some of whom are originally from these areas we provide support to. We are so grateful to our wonderful donors and team members who allow us to support the World Missions team each year."

"Many of our team members this year were very engaged with the campaign," said Eric Erazo, Retail District Manager for Toronto West. "A lot of that motivation came from getting a better understanding through the sharing of information on these projects; they could see what a difference they were making to children overseas."

Our World Missions team would like to congratulate and extend our deep appreciation to the whole team at NRO across Canada. Well done and may God bless you!



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM BRAZIL

By Ruth Hobbis

Providing healthy meals to children and youth is one of the core missions of the Integrated Centre in Pelotas, Brazil. Over the years, the condition of the dining room has deteriorated and damage to the roof has allowed birds and bats to leave droppings indoors. This is an obvious health concern for the staff and children.

Thanks to your generosity, funds were provided to renovate the dining room, including installing a new ceiling, light fixtures and repainting. "Thanks to your support, the space where the children have their meals has become much more pleasant, hygienic and illuminated," says Lieutenant Paula Mendes.

"Thank you for all the support and may God richly bless you."



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## BRIGHTER FUTURES DONOR SURVEY FEEDBACK

By Marilyn Kershaw

Thank you to our Brighter Futures donors who participated in the survey distributed in the spring. Over 80% of those who responded have been donors for over 10 years! Over 82% say they would recommend the program to others.

The following comments were received as to why our sponsors chose to support a children's sponsorship program through The Salvation Army:

- I know there are lower admin costs than with other charities and I know all money is being used wisely and with integrity.
- I prefer to sponsor through the Army and not just a single child.
- This program can sponsor more kids for less costs.
- I believe The Salvation Army has a good reputation.
- I made my decision after reviewing plans of other organizations.
- I always considered sponsorship by The Salvation Army to be well handled.

We are also very grateful for the following constructive comments that will be considered as we continue to enhance this program:

- Provide more information about the project we are sponsoring.
- Provide more video clips to use in meetings.
- Send annual reminders/invoices for the plan.
- Provide information cards to pass out to friends and family to start a conversation.
- Promote this program more at the corps level.
- Include on the annual donation receipt that the donation is for sponsorship.

Every comment is appreciated and is being considered as we move forward in this program. Thank you!





# VEHICLE ALLOWS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Ruth Hobbis

The Benin Rehabilitation Centre in southern Nigeria gives people living with disabilities a place to live, with access to nutritious meals, education and medical attention. Since it opened, the centre has provided rehabilitation to 2,000 people. Until recently the centre's lack of a vehicle has hindered its ministry to support the wider community in Benin City. Through your generous donations, The Salvation Army was able to purchase a used car for the centre. With mobility issues now resolved, staff are able to help a greater number of people directly in their homes through community outreach programs. We look forward to hearing more from the Benin Rehabilitation Centre as they continue to provide a much-needed service.



# A WORD OF THANKS

By Marilyn Kershaw

Your feedback is always welcome! We continue to be grateful to those who show their support of the World Missions Department through their feedback. While the *Global Link* is distributed to our donors, it is also distributed to International Headquarters (IHQ) in London, England, from where the following response was received in regard to our 2017 summer issue:

IHQ schools really value your support of education programs internationally, and here there are excellent articles on how you support programs in Kenya, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. What is clear from this and previous editions is that you look at child development in a holistic way, focusing not only on education, but also nutrition and family income.

Having an overview of Salvation Army (TSA) schools supported internationally, the fact that World Missions looks at education holistically does make a difference to the breadth of TSA child development programs. Nutrition is key to learning and brain development, particularly in the early years, so it is excellent that your Brighter Futures Sponsorship Program funds nutrition. All children have a right to nutrition, shelter and education in a safe and secure environment. Thanks for encouraging your supporters to recognize this.

Every blessing,

Howard Dalziel  
International Schools Coordinator

**Gifts of Hope**

Give the gift of farming and help communities in developing countries become food secure.

[SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope](http://SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope)



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