

GLOBALLINK



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Hope
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD MISSIONS DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

FALL 2020



The Rajagiriya Elders Home in Sri Lanka provides accommodation and care for seniors.



SERVING SENIORS IN SRI LANKA

By Kathy Nguyen

“Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone.”

— Psalm 71:9 (NIV)

Across the globe, the elderly are considered one of the world’s most vulnerable populations. With an ongoing health pandemic, they have become more vulnerable than ever. The Salvation Army has been instrumental in providing assisted-living and long-term care facilities in communities around the world. When children are unable to care for their elderly parents, when the elderly are unable to care for themselves, or when they simply have no one and nowhere to turn to, The Salvation Army responds with a *heart to God and hand to man*.

The Salvation Army Rajagiriya Elders Home in Sri Lanka provides accommodation and care for seniors who lack the

support and financial means to care for themselves.

“Most of the residents here have absolutely no family support, while others were found by the police begging on the streets,” says Sergeant Heidi Hjartnes, project and child sponsorship secretary in The Salvation Army Sri Lanka Territory. “This home is helping to serve the isolated and disempowered.”

The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda will assist this important ministry by providing essential food support through three healthy and nutritious meals for each resident, every day for the next three years. From Canada to Sri Lanka, our seniors’

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homes offer loving care to vulnerable seniors around the world, allowing them to live out their final days with peace, dignity and spiritual care.

Where there is need, there is The Salvation Army, and this is only made possible through the tireless support of our donors. Thank you!



In a recent Canadian Foodgrains Bank board meeting, a colleague shared a devotional exploring the impact of the current global pandemic. The question raised in the devotional was, “Is the pandemic an interruption or a disruption in our lives?” Will we simply return to life as we knew it before COVID-19, or will the effects of the pandemic disrupt our systems and processes, creating time for reflection, assimilation of new processes, and, ultimately, a new direction and new methodology?

In this issue of *Global Link*, you will hear how the presence of COVID-19 caused Caitlin and Elissa to think outside the box by adapting their usual fundraising modalities for their local Partners in Mission campaigns. And in Mozambique, Major Dyson speaks to how COVID-19 has “adapted both a way of thinking and a way in which we live in ways we have never seen before.”

Humanitarian relief and development are predicated on incurring change from one state to another. In our work, this results in change in position from a lack of education to having an education; from being homeless to having appropriate shelter; from being unemployed to securing employment; from a lack of safe drinking water to having access to clean and safe water. All these shifts, however, require change, adaptability and a willingness to move in a new direction.

The ability to adapt, or adaptability, is key to both success and survival. Let’s embrace the disruption, work together to end global poverty and see what great things can happen in the lives of individuals and communities around our world.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay well.

Sincerely,
Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray
World Missions Director

SALVATION LIVES IN MOZAMBIQUE

By Kathy Nguyen

Over the years, Mozambique has demonstrated unyielding strength and resilience in the face of tremendous hardship. When towns and cities were ravaged by cyclone Idai, The Salvation Army provided families with materials to rebuild their homes. When severe flooding stripped more than 500 families of all their belongings, project officers provided them with bags of food and essential items. Now, as COVID-19 spreads throughout the nation, Salvation Army officers and volunteers are working the front lines to help flatten the curve.

Major Dyson Chifudzeni, project officer in Mozambique, witnessed these devastating calamities first-hand and worked in the recovery efforts of most of them, but like the rest of the world, COVID-19 was unfamiliar territory.

“I’ve been an officer for 21 years,” he says. “COVID-19 is like nothing I’ve experienced before. Schools, churches and businesses were on lockdown. Before this pandemic, most of the nation was already living a hand-to-mouth existence, barely having enough to scrape by. Once the lockdown began and unemployment increased, life became very difficult.”

With the support of Canadian donors, The Salvation Army in Mozambique provided relief and prevention awareness to more than 15,000 individuals.

“We travelled to seven different provinces, providing nearly 100 institutions, corps and vulnerable communities with handwashing facilities, hygiene and sanitation pamphlets and posters, and food parcels,” says Major Dyson.

But the work is far from over. With most of the population already living in poverty, this pandemic has devastated the nation in insurmountable ways.

“COVID-19 impacted the country in ways I’ve never seen before; it completely adapted our way of thinking and the way in which we live,” says Major Dyson. “But to Canada and to all the well-wishers who have been there for Mozambique, I want you to realize what a huge difference you have made. Your support restores hope and salvation to hungry children, single parents, vulnerable seniors, and the homeless and helpless. Thank you for all that you’ve done and for everything that you continue to do.”



If you would like to support international COVID-19 relief, please visit saworldmissions.ca

HOPE GROWS IN ZAMBIA

By Kathy Nguyen



Every day, an estimated 2,000 children die from preventable diseases related to contaminated water. That's why The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda has initiated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) campaigns around the world. WASH projects have three main objectives, each vital to the health and well-being of a community: to provide safe and clean water, incorporate sanitation and hygiene practices, and help with food security.

At the Nansenga Primary and Secondary School in Zambia, our donors enabled us to bring clean water through the provision of a water tank.

"A long time ago, we had no choice but to drink salt water—this was unsafe for all of us," says Chipo Moompa, physics teacher at the school. "With clean water, the teachers and pupils are no longer getting sick."

This water tank not only provided them with better health, but they also used the water to start a communal garden on their school grounds.

"When the crops are ready, we sell them to locals and use the money to buy textbooks and school supplies for the teachers and students," says Chipo. "The Salvation Army is our school's redeemer!"

From South Asia to Africa, The Salvation Army has water tanks, pumps and boreholes in schools and communities around the world, bringing better life and health to those in need.

Thanks to your support, this school in Zambia was able to turn the gift of water into something much more—sustainability.

If you'd like to give the gift of clean water, please visit [SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope](https://www.salvationarmy.ca/giftsofhope)

THE VALLEYS ARE HIS

By Robyn Goodyear

Cave Valley, a remote farming community in Jamaica, is prone to flooding from heavy rainfalls that damage homes and livelihoods, and even result in loss of life. As a consequence, the cycle of poverty, for many, repeats itself. The Salvation Army's Cave Valley Basic School exists to uplift this community by providing children with a quality education, nutritious meals and school supplies.

As international project support co-ordinator for the world missions department, I had the opportunity to visit this school and bear witness to the amazing work being done in this community. The teachers are incredibly dedicated and work hard to engage their students.

Every year, Santina receives support with back-to-school supplies for her daughter, Ganielia. She finds enormous comfort in knowing that Ganielia receives regular meals and a solid education.

"This school is truly a blessing for the community," she says. "May God bless The Salvation Army so they can continue to do good work."

Although the school has temporarily closed during the pandemic, teachers and staff are actively involved in maintaining a clean and safe space. When government regulations permit, they are ready for eager students to return.

This is made possible through the Brighter Futures children's sponsorship program. With your help, the future is bright for strong and committed families in Cave Valley.





Fundraisers from North Toronto Community Church keep their distance with Sunday Tea Boxes in hand.



Every year, Salvationists around the world come together to raise money for the international Self-Denial Appeal, which is also referred to as the Partners in Mission campaign. This prayerful and financial support enables us to carry out transformational ministries around the world. Thanks to these funds, The Salvation Army flag flies in more than 130 countries today.

As COVID-19 spread across Canada, congregations were forced to stay home, which caused a major roadblock in fundraising initiatives. While it may have been easy to forgo the appeal this year, individuals and corps were quick to adapt, determined to raise funds in safe and creative ways.

Caitlin West, who attends The Willows in Langley, B.C., decided to sell bread.

“Initially, I was baking bread for my family and friends as a way to occupy my extra time at home,” says Caitlin. “But when I realized it may be hard for our church to meet our fundraising goal, I thought I could start selling bread.”

Caitlin sold close to 90 loaves of bread, raising more than \$1,000.

“This fundraiser taught me how willing people are to give, even in times of uncertainty,” she says. “Right now, many people are uncertain about their jobs, finances and health, yet they’re still so ready to give what they can to support the work of The Salvation Army.”

While Caitlin was breaking bread, North Toronto Community Church sold *Sunday Tea Boxes* that contained assorted baked treats.

“Since we would normally gather for a Sunday tea after church, we decided to try and recreate that experience,” says Elissa Zelinsky, who attends North Toronto. “Once we received our orders, we sent our team on socially distanced deliveries.”

The team raised just over \$1,200!

“This fundraiser was a reminder that the church is not just a building or program,” Elissa says. “It’s a body of people who desire to see the kingdom of God here on earth.”

While COVID-19 may have halted normal everyday activities, it didn’t stop our spirit, compassion or selfless giving. Thank you, faithful Salvationists and friends, both near and far, who continue to share the message of Christ in all that you do.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chaanga Secondary School, Zambia

With the income generated from raising two goats, Vernon was able to repair his wheelchair and go back to school.

A gift guaranteed to make a world of difference.
SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope



Gifts of HOPE



GLOBAL LINK – FALL 2020

Published by The Salvation Army World Missions Department
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