



HUNGER FOR JUSTICE

A worship resource for World Food Day



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief



Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger by:

- Supporting international programs to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition, and achieve sustainable food security;
- Influencing improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger; and
- Increasing and deepening the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end global hunger.

Visit foodgrainsbank.ca for more worship resources, videos, and educational activities on related topics.

Visit the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at fao.org for more information and resources on the issue of global hunger.



ABOUT WORLD FOOD DAY

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) created World Food Day to commemorate its founding in Quebec City, October 16, 1945. The goal of the FAO is to free humanity from hunger and malnutrition, and to effectively manage the global food system. World Food Day events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and help strengthen the link between agriculture and food security.

Quick Facts:

- Although significant gains have been made in reducing the number of hungry people in the world over the last ten years, one in nine people are still hungry (around 8 million);
- Around 70% of hungry people are farmers, and women make up 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries;
- 10-20% more people could face increased hunger due to the impact of climate change;
- Canada's support for agricultural development has dropped by 30% over the last five years.

There is good news for those who Hunger for Justice! Increased support for small-scale farmers offers a significant opportunity to reduce global hunger. This package of resources is designed to help your congregation pray, give, learn, and advocate in support of the Foodgrains Bank's Good Soil campaign—supporting small-scale farmers. Get other key people in your congregation or worship committee to maximize the resources, and let us know how it went!

*Statistics taken from <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/campaigns/good-soil/>





PRAYERS & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Suggested Scripture Readings

Luke 18:1-8 Persisting in prayer
Jeremiah 31:27-34 A new covenant written on our hearts
Psalm 119:97-104 The law of the Lord
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Hold fast to what you have learned

Call to Worship

We have gathered in God's holy presence,
the One who etches grace on our hearts.
**This is the place
where God will transform us into disciples.**

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,
not just for a favored few,
but for the least of our world.
**This is the place
where God will write compassion on our souls.**

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;
we remember God's persistence in saving us.
**This is the place
where God will breathe the Word into our lives.**

Opening Prayer

God of love and justice,
we gather together to worship you:
to offer our thanks and praise
and to proclaim your goodness and mercy.

Meet us here.
Breathe your Word into our souls;
engrave your covenant of love upon our hearts.
Teach us faithfulness and compassion
so that our lives may reflect
your love and justice to the world.
Amen.

Praise Litany (based on Psalm 146)

Come! Sing praise to God!
We will praise God as long as we live!

Blessed are those
who have the God of Israel as their helper,
whose hope is in the Most High –
Creator of heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them.

Come! Sing praise to God!
We will praise God as long as we live!

God keeps every promise forever.
God gives justice to the oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

Come! Sing praise to God!
We will praise God as long as we live!

God frees the prisoners,
opens the eyes of the blind,
and lifts the burdens of those bowed down.
God watches over the refugee,
and upholds the orphan and widow.

Come! Sing praise to God!
We will praise God as long as we live!

Our God loves those who do right,
but deliberately thwarts those who do evil.

Come! Sing praise to God!
We will praise God as long as we live!

Dramatic Reading: Jeremiah 31: 27-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**The days are surely coming
when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel and Judah.**

This covenant will not be like
the one I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
and brought them out of the land of Egypt.

**They broke that covenant,
though I loved them as a husband loves his wife.**

But this is the new covenant I will make
with the people of Israel on that day.
I will put my instructions deep within them,
and I will write them on their hearts.

**I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
And they will not need to teach their neighbours,
nor will they need to teach their relatives,
saying,**

You should know the Lord.

**For everyone,
from the least to the greatest,
will know me already.**

And I will forgive their wickedness,
and I will never again remember their sins.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Reader's Theatre (based closely on Luke 18: 1-8)

One: One day Jesus told his disciples a story
to show that they should continue to pray
and never lose heart.

Two: There was a judge in a certain city,
who neither feared God nor cared about people.
And there was a desperate widow in that city
who kept coming to him, saying:

Three: I need you to help make things right.
Someone is treating me badly.

Two: The judge tried to ignore her,
but she kept coming back,
over and over again.
Nothing he said or did could persuade her
to leave him alone.
Finally, he had had enough!

One: This woman is going to be the death of me.
She is driving me crazy!
Even though I don't fear God or care about people,
I'm going to see that she gets justice.
Otherwise, she'll just keep coming
until she finally wears me out!

Two: Learn a lesson from this crooked judge.
Even though he was dishonest and selfish,
he acted justly toward the poor widow in the end.
If such a man can act with justice toward the poor,
don't you think God will defend and protect
those who cry out to him day and night?
Will he keep putting them off?
No, I tell you:
he will grant justice to them quickly!
But here's the question:
how much of that kind of persistent faith
will the Son of Man find on earth
when he returns?



Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Word

Life-giving God,
we praise you for the gift of your Word;
for the light and life it brings to our lives.
Through it, we come to know you better;
we come to understand ourselves more fully;
and we find the wisdom and encouragement we need
to live as your faithful disciples in our world.

Through the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
and the careful discernment of your people,
continue to speak to us through your Word,
that our hearts and minds may be renewed,
and our lives would increasingly reflect
your justice and love to the world around us.

Teach us what it means to follow you,
and to walk in your ways. Amen.

All-Age Worship: Five-Finger Prayer

This lovely prayer practice is attributed to Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Pope Francis) while he was still Archbishop in Argentina. The following is a guide for someone to lead the prayer. If your congregation is already aware of the Good Soil postcard campaign, it is an easy way to talk about using our hands to write and send messages (see the Advocate section). After each finger is explained, leave a moment for silent prayer, or have someone say an appropriate prayer. For an additional children's activity: distribute blank pieces of paper and pencils; have the children trace their hands ahead of the "Five-Finger Prayer" and ask them to write the words on the fingers (or just colour the hand, if they're younger).



Using the fingers on your hand, start with the thumb and pray in this order:

1. The thumb is the closest finger to us. So we start by praying for those who are closest to us: our family and friends. They are the persons easiest to remember (short prayer).
2. The next finger is the index or "pointer" finger. Pray for those who teach us, instruct us and heal us: teachers, doctors, pastors and parents. They need wisdom and encouragement to show direction to others (short prayer).
3. The middle finger is usually the tallest. It reminds us to pray for our leaders: those in government or others who have authority, including those who make laws or enforce them. They also need God's guidance (short prayer).
4. The fourth finger is the ring finger – our weakest finger. It reminds us to pray for those who are most vulnerable: those who are sick, injured, hungry or homeless (short prayer, mentioning the 800 million people in the world who are hungry).
5. And finally we have our smallest finger, the pinkie. It reminds us to pray for ourselves. After we have finished praying for the other four groups, we are able to see our own needs in the proper perspective, and pray for ourselves in a better way (silent prayer).

Postcard campaign invitation (see Advocate section): Our hands are the parts of our body that take action. They are extensions of our voice, especially when they write messages, like signing postcards asking government to care for those who are hungry; or when they use a smart phone to send an electronic message to government (mention the Good Soil postcard campaign to support small-scale farmers, and encourage people to sign postcards at whatever time is convenient).



Sermon Starters

In the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8), a poor, powerless person (the widow) persists in nagging a corrupt, powerful person (the judge) to do justice for her. The parable assumes John the Baptist's teaching that holding a position of power and leadership obligates you to work justly, especially on behalf of the poor and weak. But Jesus focuses the parable on a different point, that we are "to pray always and to not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). He identifies the hearers – us – with the woman, and the prayed-to person – God – with the corrupt judge, a strange combination. Assuming that Jesus doesn't mean that God is corrupt, the point must be that if persistence pays off with a corrupt human of limited power, how much more will it pay off with a just God of infinite power.

The purpose of the parable is to encourage Christians to persevere in their faith against all odds. But it also has two additional applications. First, the juxtaposition of a corrupt judge with a just God implies that God's will is at work even in a corrupt world. The judge's job is to do justice, and by God, he will do justice by the time the widow is finished with him. Elsewhere, the Bible teaches that the civil authorities serve by God's authorization, whether they acknowledge it or not (John 19:11; Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13). So there is hope that even in the midst of systemic injustice, justice may be done. A Christian's job is to work toward that hope at all times. We cannot right every wrong in the world in our lifetimes. But we must never give up hope, and never stop working for the greater good in the midst of the imperfect systems where our work occurs....

The second point is that only God can bring about justice in a corrupt world. That is why we must pray and not give up in our work. God can bring miraculous justice in a corrupt world, just as God can bring miraculous healing in a sick world. Suddenly, the Berlin wall opens, the apartheid regime crumbles, peace breaks out. In the parable of the persistent widow, God does not intervene. The widow's persistence alone leads the judge to act justly. But Jesus indicates that God is the unseen actor. "Will not God grant justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night?" (Luke 18:7).

Prayer of Confession

God of Love,
when your children suffer,
are displaced,
persecuted, or worse
your heart is saddened,
you cry out for justice.

When apathy dulls our hearts
and we do not speak out,
forgive us.

When we are slow to respond
and lives are lost,
forgive us.
Give us a heart for justice
and a prophetic voice,
that this world might see
your love in action
through our lives and words.

Prayer for the Offering

Generous God,
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have shown us what it means to love.
And you call us to follow Your example—
to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Continue to write your law of love on our hearts.
Give us an unwavering passion for justice,
and a tenacious faith that will not rest
until the hungry are fed,
the oppressed find relief,
and the outsider finds a welcome. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People: The End of Hunger and Deprivation

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected
all over the world,
that their cries for daily bread may inspire
works of compassion and mercy
among those to whom much has been given.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the farmers
with limited or marginal land throughout the world,
for those who lack access to water and other resources,
and for the light of research and support services
to shine in the lives of all God's people.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease
throughout the world,
particularly those exacerbated
by lack of nutritious food and outright hunger;
that plagues of death may no longer fuel poverty,
destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation
and restoration throughout the world.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for an end
to the waste and desecration of God's creation,
for access to the fruits of creation
to be shared equally among all people,
and for communities and nations
to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth
and the water God has given us.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all nations and people
who already enjoy the abundance of creation
and the blessings of prosperity,
that their hearts may be lifted up
to the needs of the poor and afflicted,
and partnerships between rich and poor
for the reconciliation of the world
may flourish and grow.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen.

Litany at the Table: What do you bring?

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring bread,
made by many people's work
from an unjust world
where some have plenty
and many go hungry.**

At this table, all are fed
and no one turned away.

Thanks be to God.

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring wine,
made by many people's work
from an unjust world
where some have leisure
and many struggle to survive.**

At this table, all share the cup
of pain and celebration
And no one is denied.

Thanks be to God.

These gifts shall be for us
the body and blood of Christ,
Our witness against hunger,
our cry against injustice,
And our hope for a world
where God is fully known
And every child is fed.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Commitment

As we pray, O God,
we ask you to keep us
from using prayer as an escape;
keep us from the temptation
of uttering a few words,
in the hope that you will swoop in
and do the rest
with no further requirement from us.

May our prayers be a constant, unending rhythm
that drives not just our words,
but our thoughts, our attitudes and our actions;
may we never stop seeking, asking, knocking,
pleading for justice,
wrestling with your coming reign.

As we pray for our world,
may we also live lightly on the earth,
taking only what we need,
and giving all we can.

As we pray for our nation,
may we also live as good neighbours,
protecting the weak and vulnerable,
and celebrating goodness and grace
wherever we may find it;

As we pray for our community,
may we also live with open arms and hearts,
embracing both familiar companions
and unknown strangers,
and welcoming all as you do.

As we pray for our friends and families,
may we also live as those who lay down their lives,
selflessly serving those in our care,
and always choosing the sacrificial way of love.

And so may our prayers be the catalyst,
that changes us into little incarnations –
ordinary people
who manifest Christ. Amen.



Affirmation: We dare to dream

We dare to dream of a world
in which hunger is unknown:
where scarcity is an illusion,
and everyone has a place at the table.

We dare to dream of a world
in which generosity is the norm:
where greed finds no foothold,
and there is more than enough for all.

We dare to dream of a world
in which love rules:
where compassion is the first response,
and there is no place for bigotry.

We dare to dream.
We dare to pray.
We dare to believe.

Closing Responses

Let us never give up praying
for justice,
or the oppressed in this world
will one day ask us 'Why?'

Let us never give up praying
for fairness,
or the hungry of this world
will one day ask us 'Why?'

Let us never give up praying
for healing,
or the sick in this world
will one day ask us 'Why?'

Let us never give up praying,
for to give up
is to deny our faith
in a God who answers prayer.

Sending Words

They are right,
those who doubt what we do.
It is purely the product
of over-active imaginations.

Who but the foolish
would look at barren ground
and imagine food for all,
see past desolation
and believe it will become an oasis,
would not be stopped by war,
but live for the day it will be peace,
and reach deep into the world's fear
in the prayer it would bring life.

So if faith is the terrain of the deluded
then may you leave here
with the faith of the fools
who have loved the world since its beginning
and will live for its redemption until its end.

Benediction

May you continually wrestle with prayer.

May you beseech the door of heaven
with shameless boldness.

May your prayers produce, in you,
a countenance of joy,
a gracious demeanor,
and a peaceful heart.

And may the God of hope, fill you with all peace,
that you may abound in hope,
assured that your prayers are heard
by a loving and gracious God.



SONG SUGGESTION

Until All Are Fed

How long will we sing?
How long will we pray?
How long will we write and send?
How long will we bring?
How long will we stay?
How long will we make amends?

Refrain:

Until all are fed, we cry out.
Until all on earth have bread.
Like the One who loves us,
each and ev'ry one,
we serve until all are fed.

How long will we talk?
How long will we prod?
How long must we fret and hoard?
How long will we walk
to tear down this façade?
How long, how long O Lord?

How can we stand by
and fail to be aghast?

How long 'til we do what's right?
How could we stand by
and choose a lesser fast?
How long 'til we see the light?

On the green, green grass
they gathered long ago
to hear what the Master said.
What they had they shared –
some fishes and some loaves.
They served until all were fed.

~ written by Bryan Field McFarland and Tommy Brown.
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You can hear the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLwmYlzk78> or here: <https://www.noisetrade.com/bryanfieldmcfarland/until-all-are-fed>
A lead sheet available here: <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Until-all-are-fed-lead-sheet.pdf>

VIDEOS

Good Soil Postcard Campaign Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSJEcXKQMfU>

The Persistent Widow

<https://vimeo.com/176123757>

**Did you use this resource? We'd love to hear about it. [Click here to let us know.](#)
or send an email to foodjustice@foodgrainsbank.ca.**

SOURCES

Welcoming the Stranger was written and compiled by Christine Longhurst for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Our thanks to the following individuals or organizations who contributed prayers or readings:

- (1) We have gathered in God's presence was written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>
- (2) Sermons Starters were excerpted from Persistence: The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8), copyright © 2014 The Theology of Work Project, Inc. <https://www.theologyofwork.org/>
- (3) God of Love was written by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>
- (4) Prayers of the People: The End of Hunger and Deprivation was excerpted from a longer prayer on the National Catholic Rural Life Conference website. <http://www.ncrlc.com/page.aspx?ID=133>
- (5) Litany at the Table: What do you bring? was written by Brian Wren, from Bread of Tomorrow, ed. Janet Morley, Christian Aid/SPCK 1992. Posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>
- (6) As we pray, O God was written by John van de Laar and posted on Sacredise. <http://sacredise.com/>
- (7) Let us never give up praying was written by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>
- (8) They are right was written by Cheryl Lawrie, and posted on [hold this space]. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>
- (9) May you continually wrestle with prayer was written by Ryan, Pastor at Adamsville Presbyterian Church. Posted on rethinklife. <http://dialogizomai.blogspot.ca/>

DRAMA: UNJUST

Here is a modern retelling of the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge.

NARRATOR -- One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

JUDGE -- (enters wearing black robe, crosses to podium, pounds gavel) This court is now in session. Anyone having business before this court, draw near and be heard.

WIDOW -- (enters carrying an armful of legal briefs) Your honor, I have business before this court.

JUDGE -- (sigh) You again.

WIDOW -- Yes, your honor. There has been a grave injustice perpetrated upon my person and I demand justice.

JUDGE -- Why do you persist in wasting the court's time? I have already given my decision in your case.

WIDOW -- You gave a decision, but justice was not served.

JUDGE -- So, you brought another truck load of legal motions?

WIDOW -- (smiles) Yes, your honor. I think you're going to like these. I worked on them all night last night. I'm sure that one of them will right the wrong that has been done.

JUDGE -- My good woman, as I....

WIDOW -- I am not your "good woman." My name is Ethel Goldstein. I am simply a poor, helpless....

JUDGE -- Alright, alright! You may be poor, but you're far from helpless. I get the point, Mrs Goldstein. But your name in no way influences the facts of this case.

WIDOW -- The facts of this case are that my husband died, leaving me childless. And now, because I am a childless widow, I am being treated as a second class citizen.

JUDGE -- But in Israel a childless widow IS a second class citizen, Mrs Goldstein.

WIDOW -- That is unjust and you know it.

JUDGE -- Just or not, that is the law of the land. We have been over this time and time again, Mrs Goldstein...

WIDOW -- You have the power to make this right, your honor. I'm not asking for the law of the land. I am asking for justice. Maurice Greenbaum stole my land from me and...

JUDGE -- Maurice Greenbaum paid your back taxes. The land is rightfully his.

WIDOW -- I have crops in the fields that could pay the taxes. All I'm asking for is a chance to hire someone to harvest the crops and sell them for me so I can pay the taxes.

JUDGE -- I have already ruled on that motion, Mrs Goldstein, and the answer was NO.

WIDOW -- Then, I have another motion. (hands one of the legal briefs to Judge)

JUDGE -- What's this one? (opens brief)

WIDOW -- This is a writ of habius corpus.

JUDGE -- Habius Corpus?! Habius Corpus is a motion to have someone released from jail. What....

WIDOW -- Since you have stripped me of all my rights, I am a prisoner of the system. I...

JUDGE -- (gavel) Motion denied.

WIDOW -- (hands Judge another brief) In that case, I have another motion.

JUDGE -- (sigh) What's this one? (opens brief)

WIDOW -- This is a motion denying transfer of the land to that crook Maurice Greenbaum on environmental grounds.

JUDGE -- Oh, brother. I can hardly wait to hear the arguments for this.

WIDOW -- There is an endangered species living on my land and...

JUDGE -- Wait a minute. Endangered species? What endangered species?

WIDOW -- My dog.

JUDGE -- A dog is not an endangered species.

WIDOW -- Mine is.

JUDGE -- What kind is it?

WIDOW -- It's a mutt and I've never seen another one like it.

JUDGE -- (gavel) Motion denied.

WIDOW -- (hands Judge another brief) In that case, I enter this motion to turn my property into a provincial park with me as the caretaker.

JUDGE -- (gavel) Motion denied.

WIDOW -- (hands Judge another brief) In that case, I enter this motion to turn my property into a national park.

JUDGE -- (gavel) Motion denied.

WIDOW -- (hands Judge another brief) In that case, I enter this motion to turn my property into a national monument.

JUDGE -- Motion.... Wait a minute. A monument?! To what?

WIDOW -- My husband. He was a really great guy. You would have loved him. I was thinking of erecting a bronze statue....

JUDGE -- (gavel) Motion denied.

WIDOW -- In that case, you leave me no choice. (hands Judge another brief) I hereby petition the court to have my property...

JUDGE -- It's Maurice Greenbaum's property and you have until noon tomorrow to vacate...

WIDOW -- Hereafter, I shall refer to my property as the "afore mentioned property". And I petition the court to have the transfer of the afore mentioned property delayed until such time as the criminal charges against Maurice Greenbaum have been adjudicated.

JUDGE -- Criminal charges?! What criminal charges?

WIDOW -- The petition clearly states that the afore mentioned property is evidence in a criminal complaint filed by a poor unfortunate widow who was ruthlessly robbed of her property...

JUDGE -- (gavel) Motion denied.

WIDOW -- You didn't let me finish.

JUDGE -- Yes, I did. You just finished. (gavel) Motion denied.

WIDOW -- (hands Judge another brief) In that case, I petition you to recuse yourself as the judge on this case.

JUDGE -- Recuse myself? Why would I want to disqualify myself from hearing this case? On what grounds?

WIDOW -- On the grounds that Maurice Greenbaum is your wife's brother.

JUDGE -- That has nothing to do with this case. (looks around, softly) How did you find out about that?

WIDOW -- I overheard you talking to that thief Maurice Greenbaum out in the hallway. No wonder I can't get any justice in this court.

JUDGE -- (gavel) Motion denied.

WIDOW -- Fine. (turns to exit) I'll see you tomorrow.

JUDGE -- Tomorrow?

WIDOW -- (turns back) Yes, I'll be here first thing tomorrow with about a dozen new motions. We still have not explored eminent domain, illegal search and seizure, abridgement of free speech, the many aspects of due process of law. Then, of course, there's the appeals process, where I start all over again....

JUDGE -- Alright! Alright!

WIDOW -- Excuse me?

JUDGE -- You can keep your stupid farm. Maury and I can find another piece of property to build our vineyard on. Go! Go! Get out of my court room! I never want to see you again!

WIDOW -- Let's get this straight. You're giving me back my property?

JUDGE -- Yes. But only if you promised never to come back here again. Now out! Get out! (shaking gavel at her). I don't want to see or hear from you ever again.

WIDOW -- I'm going already. I'm going.

NARRATOR -- Learn a lesson from this crooked judge. Even though he was dishonest and selfish, he acted justly toward the poor widow in the end. If such a man can act with justice toward the poor, don't you think God will defend and protect those who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? No, I tell you: he will grant justice to them quickly! But here's the question: how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on earth when he returns?

Unjust was written by Bob Snook, and posted on Sermon Central. It has been adapted slightly from the original. http://www.sermoncentral.com/drama2.asp?item_id=6 Copyright © 2001 Bob Snook. Conditions for use: Do not sell any part of this script, even if you rewrite it. Pay no royalties, even if you make money from performances. You may reproduce and distribute this script freely, but all copies must contain this copyright statement. Email: bobsnook@fea.net



“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of...” (2 Timothy 3:14)

Many of the people in the world who experience hunger are small-scale farmers who struggle to grow enough food on small plots of land to provide for their families. Their families often go through a hunger season each year.

Jane Wajicko, of Makuyu, Kenya is one farmer whose family experienced a hunger season at certain times of the year.

Rainfall patterns that have grown increasingly unpredictable made it hard for her to know the right time to plant.

Helping farmers like Jane cope with changing rainfall patterns was the goal of a conservation agriculture project implemented by Foodgrains Bank member World Renew and its Kenyan partner, Anglican Development Services (ADS).

Through the project, 800 farmers like Jane learned how to use mulch and cover crops, minimal soil disturbance and crop rotation to improve food production.

“Normally, most people give all the crop residues to their livestock after harvest,” says Jane. “I take the residue from my crop, find dry grass and leaves, and use them as mulch.”

The mulch cover ensures that Jane’s soil will retain more of the rain that does come, making her less vulnerable to unpredictable rainfall. The mulch also suppresses weed growth, and cools and adds organic matter to the soil. Since she started practising conservation agriculture, Jane’s staple crop of maize has improved three-fold.

“Before the program, I would get about one to one and a half bags of maize. Now, I get between three and three and a half bags,” she says.

You can help end hunger for families like Jane’s by donating to our conservation agriculture program and making sure small-scale farm families have the skills they need to cope and thrive.

And what’s more, thanks to the generous support of the Government of Canada, your gift to this program is matched 3:1.

To support this project, go to www.foodgrainsbank.ca and designate your donation to Conservation Agriculture in East Africa.

Photo: Jane Wajicko, of Makuyu, Kenya, works on her land.

ADVOCATE

“Will not God grant justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night?” (Luke 18:7).

Increasing support for small-scale farmers in developing countries is key to ending global hunger. Over 70% of hungry people in the world are small-scale farmers. Investments in agriculture can improve their own access to food and develop a more secure livelihood in agriculture.

Canada has long been a leader in supporting global food security. However, government support for agriculture in its aid budget has fallen – down 30% over the last five years.

You can help change this.

Sign and mail in your Good Soil postcard today, urging the Canadian government to renew support to small-scale farmers. Show our government that you care about ending global hunger. Each postcard represents a “knock” at the door, reminding our government that action is required to seek justice for those who, despite their hard work, experience ongoing hunger.

To learn more, and to order postcards for yourself, your congregation or group, visit <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/campaigns/good-soil/>. Don't forget to let us know you mailed your postcard(s)!



Canadian Foodgrains Bank
A Christian Response to Hunger

Small-scale farmers—and many are women—are as dropped by 30 percent in

support to reducing hunger and poverty, world for all.

its international development efforts in developing countries.

GOOD SOIL
Strengthening Support for Small-Scale Farmers

No
Postage
Required

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

HOW TO ADD YOUR VOICE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is an important way of advocating directly and immediately with the Canadian government. Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its members use social media to communicate with each other, our supporters, and Canadian decision makers such as MPs and Global Affairs Canada.

Between Thanksgiving (Monday, Oct 10th) and World Food Day (Oct 16th) we would like to send as many tweets and Facebook posts to the government as we can! The more messages the government receives about increasing aid for agriculture, whether it be hand-written postcards or social media messages, the more likely we'll see it happen.

TWITTER

Most elected officials are active on Twitter. They take the tweets they receive seriously.

If you want another user to be notified about your tweet, you must tag/mention them using the '@' symbol. Twitter makes it possible to connect with others and join in conversations by using hashtags ("#" key followed by a topic: #EndHunger) and mentions ("@" symbol followed by the person or organization you wish to mention: @Foodgrains).

With "mentions", you can directly notify or "tag" the person or organization that you want to see your message. When you mention someone in a tweet they get a notification that will prompt them to read your message. For example, if you would like Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, to see your tweet, include @mclaubibebau somewhere in your tweet, and she will get a notification. In the same way, you can include a mention to your own Member of Parliament. Here's how:

- Find your MP at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/>
- Find their handle (@MPname) on Twitter
- Use their @handle in the tweet

Key people/organizations to mention:

Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie: @mclaubibebau
Global Affairs Canada: @DevCanada
Canadian Foodgrains Bank: @Foodgrains

If you wish, you can add a hashtag. With hashtags, you can identify topics of certain conversations people are having. For example, if you want to see who else is talking about increasing aid for agriculture, simply search #AidforAg and every use of that hashtag will pop up. Similarly, if you wish to join the conversation, use #AidforAg in your post, and others will be able to see it when they search for that hashtag!

Key hashtags:

#AidforAg – This is the hashtag for improving aid for agriculture, the basic message of the Good Soil campaign.

#EndHunger – This is the hashtag the Foodgrains Bank uses to promote our vision of ending global hunger.

Sample tweets for the 2nd week of October (or any other time):

- I'm urging Canada to increase global support for small-scale farmers @mclaubibebau #AidforAg @Foodgrains
- @CanadaDev please increase aid for agriculture in developing countries #AidforAg = #endhunger
- More resources needed for aid, esp. for small-scale farmers @yourMP @Foodgrains #AidforAg

Visit our [Good Soil Flickr page](#) for images to attach to your post.

Retweet and mention/tag us @Foodgrains! We'll retweet as appropriate.



Foodgrains Bank @Foodgrains · Jul 14

We're urging Canada to increase support for small-scale farmers! @CanadaDev @mclaubibebau #AidforAg



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FACEBOOK

Facebook is currently the most popular social media platform.

The best way to reach your local MPs or other Canadian decision makers through Facebook is by posting to their 'Page.'

To access your MP's Facebook Page, search for their name. Once you've opened their Page, you can view all the information they've shared publicly.

To post on a Page, click where it says 'Write something on this Page...'. Once you've written your message, click the blue "Post" button, and the message will be posted to that Page. You can also include your MP or a government minister by using the "@" symbol, which tells Facebook to "tag" them. This directly notifies them and includes them as part of the post.

Note: Some politicians may have disabled posts from the public on their pages. If this is the case, simply send them a personal message instead by clicking the blue "Message" button at the top right of their page.

Sample posts:

- "I'm showing my support for small-scale farmers around the world by asking the government to restore funding to agriculture in its international assistance. I would like to see Canada be a leader in global food security."

- "Small-scale farmers make up the vast majority of farmers in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and many are women. Even though they are food producers, many deal with degraded soils, uncertain climate, and a weak market position, and are therefore food insecure. Small-scale farmers can overcome many of these problems with appropriate investment in training, finance, and infrastructure such as better roads and crop storage. I'm asking the Canadian government to provide more and better support for small-scale farmers around the world."

Posting images or videos makes the post even better. If you've signed a Good Soil postcard, you could attach a photo or video of yourself signing it. If you've visited projects overseas, such as a food study tour, you could post a photo from that experience. If you need a good photo from us, ask us! We've got lots on our [Flickr page](#). If you wish you can include the hashtag #aidforag.

Key people to tag on Facebook:

Marie-Claude Bibeau: Minister of International Development and La Francophonie: Marie-Claude Bibeau

Global Affairs Canada: Canada's International Development – Global Affairs Canada

Canadian Foodgrains Bank: Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Get in touch with us via Facebook and Twitter if you need assistance. Remember the Golden Rule and keep it positive!