

# THE LINK Newsletter

SUMMER 2017

Do You Hear  
What I Hear?

Clean Water  
for Limuru.

## Do you **HEAR** what **I HEAR?**

Did you know that the human rights of Deaf people are still routinely violated in virtually all countries, including Canada? Even before the time of Ancient Greece, Deaf people were considered incapable of reason and unworthy of rights or respect. Today, many developing countries still forbid Deaf people to be educated, to own or inherit property, to vote, or to marry. Any human right that applies to the general population must also apply to those who are Deaf.

... continued on next page

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities include the following:

- the right to food, clothing, and shelter
- the right to dignity and respect
- the right to quality education to the highest level desired
- the right to communication and information
- the right to the language of their choice, including sign language
- the right to freedom and justice
- the right to equality and access

In the DR Congo, Deaf children often face great challenges due to a lack of understanding in their culture. The Deaf are often regarded as worthless, and have little hope for the future. International Needs' Ephphata School for the Deaf empowers Deaf children and young adults by providing them with a quality education and skills, enabling them to find employment and contribute to the well-being of their families.

Ephphata School has a garden and grows vegetables and bananas, and farms animals and fish in order to give their students a healthier diet.

“Families in our region tend to be large and many don't have enough food to eat. It's hard to concentrate on studies when you're weak with hunger. We're happy to be able to help our students eat a more balanced diet.”  
*Tshinyama Kalosa, School Director.*

Technology has reached Ephphata School as well. Computer classes are very popular and can provide a source of income for students, but frequent power outages hinder their progress. There is an urgent need to install solar panels at Ephphata School to produce a constant source of electricity and enable the school to function fully. Solar energy is not only durable, it is also renewable and requires very little maintenance.

When Luc Tshinyoka was two and a half years old his parents noticed that he suddenly stopped talking. He was not ill, nor had he fallen or hurt himself. For no apparent reason, their son had become deaf. Medical doctors were unable to restore Luc's hearing.



Luc - Wood working class at Ephphata.

The family was devastated. Then Luc's parents heard of Ephphata School for the Deaf and were hopeful that the school would be able to equip their son to live a more fulfilled life. Luc proved to be a bright student and enjoyed learning. He took up photography and art and over time was able to sell some of his creations. Luc is now learning tailoring and carpentry as he nears the end of his education at Ephphata School.

“We are so thankful to God for the guidance and help our son has received at Ephphata School. He is confident and hardworking and is learning how to be independent.”  
*Justin Tshinyoka •*



## Canada's Ambassador to the DR Congo visits Ephphata School

On May 26th, 2017, students and staff at Ephphata School for the Deaf were thrilled to have Canada's Ambassador to the DR Congo, Ms. Ginette Martin, visit their school.

“It was a great honour to receive such a distinguished guest at our school. The students loved her and appreciated her efforts to communicate with them in sign language.” *Tshinyama Kalosa, Principal*

## PRAYER CORNER

### Items for Prayer

“He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.” • Psalm 72:8

Please pray for this great country of Canada. Pray for our leaders, decision-makers, those who teach our children. Pray that God will be honoured in Parliament, in our schools, on the air, and in our day to day lives. Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Ms. Martin had a tour of the school and spent time with the students. She brought small gifts for everyone and showed them a French animated film in honour of Canada's 150th Birthday.

*"We had a lovely visit at Ephphata School for the Deaf in Lubumbashi. Simple but lovely facilities, obvious love and commitment by the staff and truly welcoming students. We watched an animated film as part of Canada's 150th celebrations, and included students from several "regular" schools. I was quite impressed and pleased to see Ephphata's students participate through an interpreter in the discussion on the lessons to be learned from the film."*  
*Ms. Ginette Martin, Canada's Ambassador to the DR Congo*

## Clean Water for Limuru

**You cared, you supported, and you're making a huge difference in the lives of the families living in Limuru.** All funds needed have been raised, to drill a borehole that will provide clean water for the entire community. A special thanks goes out to Nancy Bolton and WMAD (Women Making A Difference), Donna Michalek, and Jarred Steeves for all their fundraising efforts. Water is one of the essential building blocks of life. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on the community. **Thank you!**



### Items for Praise

**"I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."**

• Psalm 9:1

We're so thankful to God for your generous hearts! Praise God that clean water is coming to Limuru. This will greatly impact the community and bring much praise to God.

**Thank you!**

## Happy 150th Canada ! 🇨🇦

Every year since 1994, Canada has been recognized by the United Nations as one of the best places in the world to live. We breathe some of the cleanest air on the planet and enjoy great freedom and privileges. As we celebrate our 150th year as a country, let us pause and remember some of the men and women of faith who helped shape our nation.

In 1866, when the Fathers of Confederation assembled to discuss the terms for uniting the Canadian provinces, Leonard Tilley, the Premier of New Brunswick, suggested that the word "Dominion" from Psalm 72 be used for the new country.

**"He shall have dominion from sea to sea and from the river unto the end of the earth." (Psalm 72:8)**

Tilley shared with the delegates his strong conviction that Canada should be one Dominion under God and recommended that the nation be named, "The Dominion of Canada". The Fathers of Confederation agreed and on July 1st, 1867, the Dominion of Canada was born.

Many of the benefits we enjoy in Canada today are a result of people transformed by God who dedicated their lives to help transform communities;

In 1875, Elizabeth McMaster, a devout Christian, noted that half of all recorded deaths in Toronto were children under the age of 10. She gathered a group of women, rented an 11 room house and established a hospital for impoverished, sick children. This hospital would become SickKids, the largest Canadian Hospital dedicated to the research and treatment of children's illnesses.

Dr. Egerton Ryerson, a former Methodist minister, drafted what would become the blueprint of Canada's school system. John Strachan, an Anglican bishop, founded McGill University, the University of Toronto, and Trinity University, while other godly men and women established higher education in other parts of Canada.

Emily Murphy, an Anglican minister's wife, campaigned for women's rights, gaining legal status for all women in Canada, and the right to vote. And the list goes on of ordinary men and women who put their faith into action and contributed to the fabric of our nation.

**My prayer for us today is that we will learn from their example and be inspired to impact our communities, from sea to sea and around the world, for God and country.**

## Ride for Refuge 2017 – Walking and Rolling!

If you have not had the opportunity to join the fun, family-friendly Ride for Refuge, 2017 is your year!

On **September 30th, 2017**, walkers and cyclists of all ages will join forces across Canada to raise support for vulnerable and exploited people around the world.

This year, **International Needs supporters will be walking/cycling for our Drop-in Centre for Street Children in Bangladesh.** Life for Dhaka's street children is precarious at best. Many are beaten and robbed of the little they have while they sleep. Many are sick. All are hungry. At the Drop-in Centre, the children receive food, medical care, bathing facilities, basic education, Christian care, and counseling. It's such an important work, and a good reason to get involved, so dust off your bike or pull out your walking shoes and start rounding up a team for the 5km walk or the 10km, 25km, or 50km bicycle ride. Each ride is followed by a fun time of fellowship and food.

**For more information or to register please visit us at [www.internationalneeds.ca](http://www.internationalneeds.ca) and click on the Ride for Refuge logo. If you are unable to participate, please support one of our teams. Thank you!** •

## Sharing His Bounty



Shirley Sutherland grew up in a Christian home in Stratford, Ontario, the youngest of ten children. Shirley shares, "In those days we didn't have much but we had everything. We had love and that was enough." Now a widow in her mid-eighties, Shirley remains joyful and has a deep abiding trust in her Saviour. She enjoys spending time with her family and loves to



garden. She still lives in the home she shared with her late husband Kenneth. Shirley has one daughter, five grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, and a 12 year old blind dog named Coco.

Several years ago, a spokesperson for International Needs Canada visited Shirley's church, Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Woodstock, Ontario and shared with them the work of International Needs in various parts of the world. Shirley was moved by the struggles of children in impoverished communities and decided to sponsor three children.

*Shirley shares, "The Lord has blessed me with so much, I feel it's important that I pass on to others what He has given to me. I just love these children and speak of them often, encouraging others to sponsor children as well. It makes such a big difference in their lives. I receive letters from them and they tell me all about their school and family life, always thanking me for the support and letters I send. They call me Aunty Shirley. One child often asks me to come and visit him in Bangladesh. I doubt very much that this will happen but I am so happy to be able to support them so they can go to school and have a better chance in life."*

Thank you so much Shirley for your kindness and generosity to children in need. You are impacting not only the children, but their families and communities as well. •