

The Hope Book

An Alternative Gift Catalogue

of London Conference

The United Church of Canada

2011/2012



Photo: Deb Elliott

Baby Kenny wearing the shirt provided by Harrow United Church!

The Hope Book 2011/2012

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London Conference
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and
The Mission & Service Fund
of The United Church of Canada
September 2011*

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100%

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Programs
you choose

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London Conference of The United Church of
Canada is involved in Christ's ministry in the
world to,

*"bring good news to the poor, proclaim
release to the captives, and recovery of sight
to the blind, let the oppressed go free, and
proclaim the year of the Lord's favour".*

*London Conference covers all administrative costs associated with The Hope Book
~ with the generous assistance of the Mission & Service Fund!*

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London Conference of The United Church of Canada

The Hope Book 2011/2012



*Aboriginal woman praying
~ Inn of The Good Shepherd
Life Skills program*

Welcome to the Hope Book!

As the name implies, the generous support of congregations and individuals throughout London Conference has delivered the gift of '*hope*' to many across Canada and around the globe. To those living under the combined weight of grinding poverty and inadequate education, the gift of '*hope*' for a more self-sustaining tomorrow is the most precious commodity available.

As you look through the following pages you'll quickly discover that many of the things that we take for granted are well beyond the grasp of the world's impoverished and exploited majority. If we truly wish to foster global peace we must appreciate that it will not come about through military intervention, but by eliminating the twin spectres of poverty and ignorance through such things as:

- a school-kit, textbooks or a computer for a rural school;
- basic food supplies to improve nutrition for children;
- medicines to treat routine diseases that cripple and kill;
- support for a victim of human rights abuse;
- materials to rebuild a ruined medical centre;
- a pump and new well for a parched village;
- adequate drinking water in an Aboriginal community.

Dedicated staff from our United Church of Canada work 24/7/365 with global partners to bring the Gospel teachings, through example, to people the world over. Their efforts facilitate practical transformations in the lives of their host community - and in their own. Dedicated people from London Conference are working in far flung sites such as Hokkaido, Japan; Zambezia, Mozambique; Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua; Matanzas, Cuba and the urban streets of Canadian cities.

The unseen partner in all of these endeavours is YOU! Without your ongoing financial and morale support this stream of '*hope*' immediately dries-up, leaving thousands in a parched desert of perpetual poverty, ignorance and escalating conflict. You are the critical player in this peacemaking team!

Welcome to The Hope Book, 2011/2012.

The Hope Book ... in Cuba



*Bus promoting 'Amistad' peace
Matanzas, Cuba ~ see pg 3*

Gifts for Cuba ~ an 'Extra Measures' program

Extension of the **Organic Gardens** at the Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba is part of the Urban Agricultural Movement. The community gardens are worked by local retired individuals providing needed income for them. Some of the vegetables are supplied to the seminary to reduce food costs and all other produce is sold competitively to local communities. The seminary has undertaken this expansion over two years and the total cost in Canadian funds is approximately \$9,760.

One Organic Garden Row: \$100

The School of Christian Education (in Santa Clara and Holguín) trains 40 lay persons as Christian Education teachers. Costs are for teachers, materials, room & board and transportation. This Evangelical Seminary of Theology program is three years in length at a total cost of \$12,180 Cdn or \$4,060 for one year.

One Lay Teacher Training / One Year: \$100

Extension Courses for Lay Training (in Santa Clara and Holguín) through the Evangelical Seminary of Theology would further train 80 additional lay people. Costs include professors, materials, board and lodging along with transportation. This program is \$4,000 Cdn/year, the entire three years costing \$12,000.

Lay Training Extension Course for One Student / Year: \$50

Non-residential Theology School Training provides for 30 students to earn a B.A. in Theology through five-day education sessions held four times a year. The Evangelical Seminary of Theology, SET, in Matanzas, Cuba is seeking to offer a three-year commitment to this program at a cost of \$12,220 Cdn/year. The three years requires funding of \$36,660.

One Student / One Year: \$400

*For further information on the 'Extra Measures' program email
Matthew Stevens at matthew@londonconference.ca*



SEMINARIO EVANGELICO DE TEOLOGIA

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The Hope Book ... in Cuba



Gifts for Cuba ~ Camping Ministries in the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba

"We accompany our people, especially in their spiritual and social needs"

The Presbyterian Church of Cuba (IPRC) has a reputation for **social commitment, strong lay participation, encouragement of women's leadership** and **ecumenical orientation**. It now has 15,000 members worshipping in 53 congregations. The IRPC is exploring new ways of evangelizing and liturgical renewal, incorporating distinctly Cuban practices and music into worship.

IRPC offers opportunities for families, youth, children and seniors to experience worship, reflection and fellowship through a **camping ministry**. Nestled in Santa Clara in central Cuba is the Campimento Nacional de las Iglesia Presbyteriana (CANIP). The camp is host to over 400 Cuban Presbyterians through the year.

CANIP offers a rare opportunity for people from the three presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church in Cuba to gather together. A variety of five-day programs combine Bible study and reflection, learning and study, and activities such as theatre, crafts, sports and social time. This program is a chance for people to express and deepen their personal identity as Presbyterians while developing relationships with others in a relaxing and **deeply spiritual place**.

The camping ministry is an important one to the Presbyterian Church. It is one of the few places Cubans from around the country can share in community and spiritual renewal.

CANIP is currently building new housing for camp leadership. Many of the cottages housing participants still require roof **repairs from hurricane damage**. The Presbyterian Church is also hoping to replace ceiling fans in each of the cottages and purchase new mattresses and bed frames.

Hurricane Repairs: \$50

*For further information on the Camping Ministries program in Cuba email
Matthew Stevens at matthew@londonconference.ca or Betsy Exley at betsy@londonconference.ca*

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The Hope Book ... in Cuba



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*Farming in the lowlands
Matanzas, Cuba*

From Cuba - an 'Extra Measures' Program

These initiatives have been identified by partner churches and selected by London Conference programme staff from The United Church of Canada listing of approved projects. In that sense, even though we may not actually have personnel from London Conference on site the projects suggested by the **Evangelical Theological Seminary** (Seminario Evangelico de Teologia - SET) in Matanzas, Cuba are missions exclusive to London Conference.

Set high upon the crest of the steep hills surrounding the historic city of Matanzas, Cuba the Evangelical Seminary of Theology welcomes students from across the Caribbean, Central and South American region. Since 1946, through political turbulence and extremely harsh economic ferment the Seminario Evangelico de Teologia has offered its students a secure and contemplative environment to pursue their studies. Their graduates, in a variety of protestant denominations, can be found in **remote mountain villages and sprawling urban centres** throughout Latin America bringing a reformed view of Jesus' teachings.



Stock photo

The seminary welcomes interested groups from Canada, Europe and Asia for sabbaticals, study programmes, conferences and mission familiarization trips. If you were to travel to Matanzas on your arrival you would be met by the **seminary's bus**, a refurbished and colourful veteran of many years of rural school service in Quebec. You will travel from sea level on the Gulf through a spectacular highland region to the narrow streets of Matanzas. Your day begins with the resident community joining together for a **reflective worship** in the chapel that may include hymns in a Cuban style. By Canadian standards the portions for breakfast may seem modest, but it is highly nutritious and grown on-site. Meal times are always a wonderful opportunity to chat with companions who could be from anywhere in the world.

The seminary offers a wide variety of **life skills and cultural programs** that involve area residents. A group of Matanzas' grandmothers provide training to young women in classic Cuban food preparation techniques, clothes-making and handcrafts. Another program involves

For further information on the 'Extra Measures' program email Matthew Stevens at matthew@londonconference.ca

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The Hope Book ... in Cuba



Stock photo

acres of gardens that have been reclaimed by staff and students manually hauling tons of soil over decades to create **terraced hillside gardens**. Through careful cultivation and selection they have developed vegetable and herb varieties that are well suited to the Cuban environment. The resulting nutritional improvement in the local diet has dramatically improved overall health and reduced instances of diseases related to chronic malnutrition.

Students and local Matanzas residents have benefitted from these gardens but so have the regional sites of the Seminary in Santa Clara and Holguín, in the central and eastern portions of the island. Seeds and plantings from these gardens have been freely shared throughout Cuba and many **traditional medicines** are also now available from the herbs that have been grown. Each student is provided with some **agricultural training** while attending the seminary and upon graduating may access the gardens for plants to share with the communities in which they will be ministering, bringing welcome relief to a remote village or a crowded urban barrio.

I hope this little imaginary visit to Seminario Evangelico de Teologia has given you a little impression of the exciting and important Christian work they are engaged in Cuba. Having last year spent ten days at the seminary through the World Assembly of Reform Churches I was deeply impressed and excited by the commitment to improving both the spiritual and physical lives of the communities in which students will minister.

And now, we, in London Conference, can directly share in this mission through projects that the Evangelical Theological Seminary has identified as priorities for the immediate future. These are significant projects with equally significant associated costs, but remember that every gift in any amount moves them closer to realization. Perhaps as a congregation or even as an entire presbytery one of these projects could be adopted as an Extra Measures mission outreach. Imagine the satisfaction in knowing that through our United Action one of these overseas projects in Cuba is being accomplished.



Stock photo

*Matthew Stevens
Stewardship Minister
for London Conference*

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matthew@londonconference.ca*

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The Hope Book ... in Tanzania



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Women in Tanzania

Gifts for Tanzania ~ Christian Council of Tanzania

**Bishop Kisanji Kituo Cha Mafunzo Cha Wanawake
Morogoro Women's Training Centre**

The Morogoro Women's Centre, southeast of the Tanzanian capital, delivers courses for women to support the leadership role they play in their communities. Women primarily from rural areas and representing a variety of religious, ethnic and social backgrounds come to the courses and the centre is able to offer accommodation on-site.

Courses include basic skills development, home-based livelihood skills such as tailoring, home economics and family care, computer and secretarial training, business management, leadership skills and project management.

A new course is training for Maternal Health Care Workers. African women are a staggering 100 times more likely to die during childbirth than any place else in the world. Around 1,500 maternal deaths happen each and every day. Most child births do not happen in a hospital or clinic and are attended by traditional birth assistants with no formal training. Many of the traditional assistants are also involved in illegal genital mutilation of girls and young women.

The Women's Training Centre wants to train 250 Maternal Health Care workers per year over the next three years. This requires a total of 30 11-day Maternal Health Care Worker Courses. The cost of this ambitious program is a huge investment over the next three years.

Working with the Tanzanian Ministry of Health, the Centre will **train women on birthing techniques, nutrition, emergency first aid and CPR**. Rural women will be able to expand their role and act as community health care workers. Education and awareness of the negative effects of female genital mutilation will also be taught.

\$720 will support one woman from rural Tanzania attending a course including travel, accommodation and food, a 'medical kit' and a solar LED lighting system (since babies don't always come in daylight!) as well as the cost of instructors & materials.

This program is supported by the United Church of Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency.

http://unitedchurch.smugmug.com/ExtraMeasures/PromotingHealthAndWellBeing/MorogoWomensTrainingCentre/17324890_KkgR5H

1 Maternal Health Care Worker Course: \$720

For further information on the Morogoro Women's Centre email Matthew Stevens at matthew@londonconference.ca

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The Hope Book ... in Tanzania



Animal Husbandry in Tanzania

Gifts for Tanzania ~ Christian Council of Tanzania

Supporting Families Living With HIV/AIDS in Dodoma and Geita

The Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) is an organization of 15 Protestant churches and 14 church-related organizations. The CCT provides a channel for a single church voice on issues involving the spiritual, moral and socio-economic welfare of the people in one of the world's poorest countries.

In Tanzania the leading cause of death for children is malaria and for adults it is AIDS. The Christian Council of Tanzania is working to support families and communities living with HIV and AIDS. The approach is multi-faceted, from support for day-to-day life to programs that address stigma and discrimination.

HIV and AIDS hits the poorest and most marginalized families the hardest. They already face multiple challenges providing basic necessities for their families and an added complication is that many of the Anti-Retrovirals (ARVs) need to be taken with food to be effective. Inadequate access to food creates a downward spiral leading to people who become more seriously ill or die, creating more challenges for families living on the edge of survival. The CCT assists people living with HIV with the development of **income generating projects** so that families with members taking ARVs, including children, are able to afford **minimum nutritional support**.

Christian Council of Tanzania has developed and supported income generating programs with 4,000 members across the country. The program has witnessed a positive transformation from hopeless men and women to happy families with success and ambitions. Families with members, including children, on ARV are now able to afford minimum nutritional support.

Based on previous success the Council plans to develop **small scale animal husbandry projects** with pigs and poultry to improve family and community nutrition. Income through the sale of **eggs and meat** would ensure continued health benefits. **Pigs and poultry projects** are fairly easy to establish and in a short time and have excellent short and long term returns. Families will be provided with training and animals.

Pig & Poultry Project for 1 Family: \$250

One Pig or Chicken: \$ 20

*For further information on the Families Living with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania program
email Matthew Stevens at matthew@londonconference.ca*

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The Hope Book ... in Japan



Monument honouring 26 Christians, Nagasaki

Stock photo

Gifts for Japan

The **Dohoku Christian Centre** is known as a meeting place where people gather and share their concerns. The new winterized doors keep the centre a warm and welcoming place. The Centre staff do many workshops on world hunger and food security. The workshop was developed by the Dohoku Centre and is continually revised through the opinions and reflections of those who have participated in it. It is multi-generational and participatory. This workshop has been done with many, many groups including groups of farm women who have no connection with the church but who asked us to do this workshop with them

Dohoku Centre Support: \$50

The **Dohoku Christian Centre** Igarashi Hiroshi is the person who had the idea of selling 'Peace on Earth' tomato juice as a concrete way of indicating that growing food is an act of peacemaking. Donations are used towards peacemaking activities.

'Peace on Earth' Tomato Juice: \$5

The **Bibaushi Church** seemed like a dream but now that dream is a reality. Contributions from The Hope Book have provided new pews which arrived this spring. The attendance has tripled since the church was completed!

Hymnbook: \$25

The **Ainu Peoples Resource Centre** no longer publishes the translation of the children's story 'Growing up Ainu'-the author has passed away and her relatives wish to remain quiet about their Ainu identity to avoid discrimination. Support for this work is needed.

Ainu People's Resource Centre: \$25

The **Dohoku Christian Centre** supports the missionary work of Divan Suqluman to Hokkaido. She is in demand as a speaker at church events, especially to rural areas which are the most difficult to get to as well as being the most expensive to reach.



Rural Travel: \$50

For further information on the Dohoku Christian Centre email Robert & Keiko Witmer at robwitmer@hotmail.com

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The Hope Book ... in Japan

Ainu & Bunun visit in Taiwan



Photo: Rob Witmer

From Robert & Keiko Witmer in Hokkaido, Japan

We send greetings to all our friends in London Conference and thank you for your continued support in northern Hokkaido. Although the Christian community in Japan is small Christians here are very committed and have a vision of what God is calling them to do. Your support helps to turn that into reality and it assures this small community in Japan that it is not alone but part of the larger body of Christ whose hands reach around the world embracing all of creation with the love of God. We list here some of the work we are involved in:

Three Love Seminars are held twice a year and look at issues related to food, agriculture and rural society. They are based on the core values of love for God, love for human beings and love for the soil ~ the Three Loves. This year was the 50th Anniversary of Three Love Seminars at Dohoku Centre.

Keiko and I along with our co-worker Fujiyoshi Kuriko and our missionary friend from Taiwan, (Rev.) **Divan Suqluman** just finished planting our rice field for 2011. Divan is a member of the Bunun people of Taiwan, one of 13 recognized aboriginal peoples of Taiwan and has been working in Hokkaido since 2005. Divan is a member of the District's (Conference) **Ainu Peoples Issues Committee** and the people of London



Photo: Rob Witmer

Conference have been supporting her work in connecting with Ainu people (the aboriginal people of Hokkaido) as she seeks to build a new relationship of trust and solidarity. Divan joins us in planting, growing and harvesting rice. We have been growing rice for our personal use for the last ten years as a way of connecting directly to the land and to gain a greater understanding of what it means involved in the production of food.

We held a **peace event** in Nayoro to raise money for the publication of an English translation of *The Sad Song of Okinawa*, a book about the battle of Okinawa in the Second World War. This is an extremely powerful book and will very soon be available in English. I have worked on some parts of the translation. We had more than 80 adults and children at this event which consisted of reading the story as the pages of the picture book were shown on a large screen with music from the cello and ocarina in the background. The ocarina played beautiful traditional melodies from Okinawa while the cello created the somber mood that brought to mind the terrible suffering that took place there in 1945.

For further information on the Dohoku Christian Centre email Robert & Keiko Witmer at robwitmer@hotmail.com

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The Hope Book ... in Japan



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Miura Tadao is the director of the **Ainu Peoples Resource Centre** and plays the 'mukkur'. The mukkur is a traditional Ainu musical instrument made from bamboo. A similar instrument is found in many parts of the world and as it travelled west it became what in English is known as the jaw-harp.

The Ainu Peoples Resource Centre and the Dohoku Centre regularly facilitate and participate in exchanges with aboriginal theological students from Taiwan and in December 2010 an entire class visited Dohoku (northern Hokkaido) and stayed at the Dohoku Centre. This seems to indicate the fruit that these exchanges are bearing.

Cards and messages that we have received from churches and friends in Canada since the March 11th earthquake and tsunami remind people in Japan that **they are not alone** and that people around the world are supporting them and praying for them at this very difficult time. More than 15,000 people died in the earthquake and tsunami, more than 5,000 are still missing and almost 100,000 are in shelters or temporary housing. Levels of radioactivity around Fukushima continue to rise and there are restrictions on the shipping of farm products. These two pictures only show a portion of what we have received but they have had an important meaning to people here. When centre staff visit other churches **we take these messages with us** and share them with other church people.



Photo: Rob Witmer



Photo: Rob Witmer



Photo: Rob Witmer



Photo: Rob Witmer

We enjoyed meeting our friends and supporters in London Conference during our period of home assignment this last year.

God's Peace To All!! ~ Rob & Keiko Witmer

NOTE: ROBERT & KEIKO WITMER HAVE BEEN WORKING IN NORTHERN JAPAN FOR ALMOST 35 YEARS.

For further information on the Ainu People's Resource Centre email Robert & Keiko Witmer at robwitmer@hotmail.com

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The Hope Book ... Mozambique



Gifts for Mozambique

Another 83 families have signed up to grow and harvest local **plants with medicinal properties** for fighting conditions associated with AIDS, and to manufacture and distribute the medications in their community. To get them started each received a hoe, machete and sickle. Those who needed one received a watering can. Through the program they also received seeds for tomato, cabbage, pepper and carrot, since nutritional diets are just as important in the lives of sufferers from HIV-AIDS.

3-Week Training Course for 1 Gardener/Healer - \$200

Watering Can - \$15

Wheelbarrow - \$40

Rural School Girls' Bursary: Currently 91 rural Mozambican girls are continuing in school thanks to bursaries. Their parents are subsistence farmers who contribute what they can to keep their daughters in school. The program pays school fees, passage to school and to home at the start and end of each school term, school uniform (skirt and blouse), products for personal hygiene and school supplies throughout the term depending on each girl's needs in her program. The last distribution was of: 900 workbooks, 300 ballpoint pens, 55 each of art sketching books, rulers, and pencil sharpeners, 100 plastic folders, 16 boxes of coloured pencil and 16 kits of drawing instruments. All 91 bursary girls took part in a workshop on motivation time management and career choice to help her realize her educational dream.

One Girl's Bursary for 1 Year - \$300

Three hundred persons in three swampy, mosquito-infested zones received **mosquito nets** and instructions in their use. Of these 259 were women and 41 were men. Of the women 37 were pregnant and 135 have children under 5 years old. The rest of the women beneficiaries were elderly and less able to fight off malarial infection. A mosquito net properly used at night protects all who sleep beneath it from malarial infection.

One Mosquito Net - \$10

School Supplies: Last year 160 children in two rural zones, Colongone and Irrgo, couldn't afford to register to go to school. Funds were provided through The Hope Book and 70 girls and 90 boys, age six to seventeen registered. Neighbours or relatives bring the children to school

For further information on Gifts for Mozambique email Bill & Karen Butt through matthew@londonconference.ca

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The Hope Book ... Mozambique



Photo: Bill & Karen Butt

and the principal and the CCM team help them. The school supplies provided through The Hope Book contain 5 workbooks, a pencil, pencil sharpener, ballpoint pen, ruler, eraser, a dozen pencil crayons and a backpack.

One School Kit - \$20

Karen and Bill Butt write,

“Your partners at the Christian Council of Mozambique have been working hard in the last few months, supported by gifts from The Hope Book from London Conference. They’ve sent many photos and reports in Portuguese, which we wanted to translate and summarize so you’d see how important your Gifts have been.

Many contributors of The Hope Book stipulate that their gift can be used for any purpose, wherever needed. So the Catalogue has been making possible some other projects that are saving and improving lives:

10 patients have started Anti-Retro-Viral Treatment and are suffering hugely from its initial side effects received life-saving monthly supplements of grain, oil, sugar, beans and soap.

In 4 rural district prisons, The Hope Book gave hope to prisoners in classes on Bible study, ethics, literacy and life-skills. The voluntary program is enormously popular. In two districts (Gile and Ile,) all 50 prisoners took part. In Gurue district, 103 of 163. In Mocuba district, 65 of 265 prisoners. Many completing their sentences take up productive lives and employment and come back to say thank-you. There is a shortage of educational material—Bibles, notebooks, pencils—and of training and uniforms for the teachers.

The CCM team have located a local firm capable of making tricycle wheel-chairs for the disabled. They’re doing the research to make a list of worthy beneficiaries and hope for next year to include these vehicles in the Catalogue.”



Photo: Bill & Karen Butt

NOTE: BILL & KAREN BUTT COMPLETED THEIR SERVICE IN MOZAMBIQUE IN MID-2010 AND ARE AWAITING A NEW ASSIGNMENT.

For further information on Gifts for Mozambique email Bill & Karen Butt through matthew@londonconference.ca

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The Hope Book ... Nicaragua



Nicaraguan scholars-to-be

Photo: Deb Elliott

Gifts for Nicaragua

The **Doris Robb Gaby school** is operated by the Creole Moravian church. Nicaragua is a country of young people and 50% of the population is under the age of 14. The struggles for the education system is having enough resources. The situation here in Puerto Cabezas is that there are not enough desks and the desks they have are old and not in good repair. Please help with this project so children can have a place to sit while they learn.

New Desk - \$50

In Nicaragua getting **clean water is always a problem**. The municipal water system only comes on every few weeks and that water is contaminated. The ADSIM (the mission side of the Moravian church) has the equipment for drilling wells. Last year The Hope Book of London Conference helped drill 4 wells in Puerto Cabezas. Hundreds of Nicaraguans have clean water just from those 4 wells. The cost of drilling a well is significant when done locally. If needed in outlying communities the cost is higher due to added costs of transportation.

Drilling a Local Well - \$1,200

Drilling a Rural Well - \$1,500

Security is always a problem in Puerto Cabezas. Drug addicts show up on school playgrounds and this is **dangerous for the children at the school**. Older boys often come into the playground and muddy and mess the yard so it becomes unsafe for younger children to play outside. Thanks to support from The Hope Book we have one side fenced. Three to go...

One Foot of a Cement Fence - \$50

The mission outreach of the Moravian church (ADSIM) has built several clinics in Puerto Cabezas and in the outlying communities. There are approximately 10,000 indigenous people who live in ten different small villages. Most live in extreme poverty. Good health care is always an issue. In Bilwaskarma there is a **clinic that serves these 10 communities**. Some of the high-risk issues are severe **diarrhea in children and maternity deaths**. A blood pressure cuff and a stethoscope can make a difference in someone's life.

Blood Pressure Cuff - \$100

Stethoscope - \$200

For further information on programs in Nicaragua email Deborah Elliott at ddelliottgibson@gmail.com

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The Hope Book ... Nicaragua



Doris Robb Gaby School students

Photo: Deb Elliott

Job's Hall is a building where children used to meet for Sunday School and special events. It was **destroyed in Hurricane Felix**, and now the property is unused. A **basketball court** would be an excellent use of this space for the young people in the community to have a place to play. The entire cost is \$12,000. Help us build a safe and healthy community for young people.

Basketball Court - \$100

Most schools are privately run in Nicaragua. The cost is not high, however for many families it is very difficult to come up with anyway. High School and university costs even more and is out of reach for many bright students. We started a **scholarship fund** through your support last year to pay for tuitions for those students that come from poverty stricken families. We hope to be able to send every deserving child to school.

Scholarship Fund - \$100



Bottling clean water



Helping with the Well

Photo: Deb Elliott

NOTE: DEBORAH & DONALD ARE APPOINTED TO SERVE THE MORAVIAN CHURCH OF NICARAGUA ON THE ATLANTIC COAST OF NICARAGUA. A FOUR-YEAR, RENEWABLE APPOINTMENT THAT BEGAN IN JUNE 2009 AND WILL LAST UNTIL JUNE 2013.

For further information on programs in Nicaragua email
Deborah Elliott at ddelliottgibson@gmail.com

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The Hope Book ... London North



Photo: Limberlost Chaplaincy

Gifts for Limberlost Chaplaincy

'Fresh Starts' provides hope for recovering addicts through therapeutic arts, educational workshops on surviving abuse, depression & anxiety, Bible study & personal prayer support.

Materials for 8 residents struggling with addiction - \$25

'Reading Buddies' provides support for young readers from kindergarten top grade 8.

Children's natural eagerness to read awakens with appropriate reading materials and undivided, regular reading time with trained volunteers.

Full Year's Reading Materials & Snacks! - \$50



Photo: Limberlost Chaplaincy



Photo: Limberlost Chaplaincy

'A Cup of Conversation' helps those new to Canada share their faith and culture, develop new skills and practice conversational English.

Weekly Materials for 10 New Canadians - \$20



Photo: Limberlost Chaplaincy



Photo: Limberlost Chaplaincy

For further information on the Limberlost Chaplaincy email chaplain@limberlost.org

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The Hope Book ... London North



Photo: Limberlost Chaplaincy

Services of Limberlost Chaplaincy

Limberlost Chaplaincy is celebrating 30 years of serving families in the low-income housing complex of northwest London. Founded by the Mennonite Church, Limberlost is now supported by many faith communities, including London Conference, to fulfill Micah's challenge to *"act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God."*

The needs of this culturally diverse and economically challenged community are many.

Over half of Limberlost's 700 residents are under 18. Committed to this next generation, Limberlost supports leadership training programs and offers music lessons, tutoring, skills camp, classes in parenting, cooking and arts and crafts, sports activities, film nights, and a reading buddy program with over 30 volunteers – all to build on each child's potential.

Addictions, disabilities and broken relationships walk alongside poverty in the lives of many at Limberlost. Almost 40% of the families are immigrants struggling to create a new home in a foreign culture. Limberlost supports "Fresh starts, improved lives, and a future of faith and hope for all" by helping with physical and material needs, educating to improve the quality of residents' lives, building community through shared events and by providing spiritual support through counseling and prayer. With the help of our sponsors, Limberlost gives residents access to an emergency food pantry, medical provisions and free dental services, bus tickets, diapers, and a free clothing boutique. Residents share a hot breakfast each Wednesday morning, and engage in various educational workshops from conflict resolution to conversational English. Most importantly, they share opportunities to build community and faith.

LIMBERLOST CHAPLAINCY IS PARTLY FUNDED THROUGH LONDON CONFERENCE AND THE MISSION & SERVICE FUND.

*For further information on the Limberlost Chaplaincy
email chaplain@limberlost.org*

*Suite 111 - 747 Hyde Park Road, London Ontario N6H 3S3 Phone 519-672-1930
hope@londonconference.ca www.londonconference.ca*

London Conference of The United Church of Canada



Photo: Limberlost Chaplaincy



The Hope Book ... London South



Photo: K. Ballagh-Steeper

Gifts for the Southdale Chaplaincy

After School Programs: After School Programs run every weekday with the prayer that the relationships with the children who participate allow them to envision a different future beyond the grinding poverty that they know. We provide healthy snacks and sometimes a nutritious supper shared by church volunteers. We also provide leadership opportunities for youth by hiring them to be Jr. Leaders with some of our After School Programs.

1 Day Salary for Jr. Leader - \$30
Craft Supplies - \$ 5

Basic Needs: "Do I pay the rent, the hydro bill or buy groceries?" Mary asks herself yet again. A single parent of three children, Mary's social assistance does not provide enough to carry her through the month. Her Child Tax Benefit helps, but the hydro bill eats too much of her monthly income. The result is she comes up broke every month and relies on the food bank to feed her family for a week and often two. A \$10 food card to buy milk, bread and other perishables in a week when the family is eating food bank supplies makes a big difference.

5 \$10 Food Cards - \$50

Camp Sponsorships: When your Mom is an addict, there is much worry. Will she be ok when I get home from school? Will there be food? Often older siblings are left to care for younger ones. The problem is complex. Every summer the Southdale Chaplaincy provides Camp Sponsorships so that children from the Southdale Community can attend a local church camp where children can experience a week of healthy and abundant food, be mentored in healthy relationships and have fun - fun without worry or responsibility.

Camp Fee for One Child - \$125



Photo: K. Ballagh-Steeper

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email kbs@southdalechaplaincy.com*

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The Southdale Chaplaincy

*Building Community, Serving the Community,
in the Heart of the Community at Southdale.*

For twenty years the Southdale Chaplaincy has ministered at Southdale, the city of London's largest public housing complex for families. Many families are on social assistance and some are working but all of our families struggle with the challenges of living in poverty. The Chaplaincy offers care, support and respect through all of our many programs and services.

We provide After-School programs five days a week reaching over 60 children. The Chaplaincy provides summer camp sponsorships, a community Christmas Party and Christmas Food Hampers. We plan special activities throughout the year including the annual Strawberry Social in June hosted by our Board of Directors.

The Chaplaincy also provides pastoral care and support through the Chaplain. Some families struggle with mental health, chronic health problems, addictions or recovery from addiction. But many families experience the sting of stigma because of their poverty and where they live. One woman was asked when she registered her daughter for kindergarten who her CAS worker was simply because of her address. At the Chaplaincy, adults and children who participate in our programs and seek out our services are treated with dignity and respect. The children in our programs are mentored by our After-School leaders and volunteers. In all we do, we strive to demonstrate the unconditional love that Jesus showered on the world, particularly those people who find themselves on the margins of society.

Together with over 80 volunteers the Chaplaincy provides a vital and important ministry in the Southdale Community. With the sharing of resources and prayers, this ministry will remain something that the Southdale community residents can rely upon for the coming years.



Photo: K. Ballagh-Steeper

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email kbs@southdalechaplaincy.com*

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The Hope Book ... Woodstock & Ingersoll



Stock photo

Gifts for Operation Sharing

Food For Friends: Those in need of emergency food assistance receive food cards in pre-determined denominations. An alternative or supplement to the food bank gives participants access to fresh fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy. This program is supported by donations.

Food For Friends Program - \$25

Soup Kitchen: Alternating with the community of churches a hot meal is served at lunch two days a week to between 50 to 70 people at each meal.

Soup Kitchen Meal - \$5

Inn Out of the Cold: Shelter is available for homeless men and women from November 1st to March 31st. A healthy snack is offered in the evening along with breakfast in the morning.

Inn Out of the Cold - \$40

Knapsacks For Kids: This program provides school supplies for children of families with limited economic means. Last year 496 knapsacks with school supplies were distributed to help children start the new school year off right..

Knapsacks for Kids - \$35

Christmas Place: In operation the first week in December, this is an invitational opportunity to shop at minimal cost for Christmas presents for families. 'Books for Birthdays' provides a new book for children 1 to 12 years old.

Christmas Place Gift - \$25

The Extended Family Project: A team of volunteers support participants working to get out of poverty and help to take the necessary steps as participants become part of their community.

Extended Family Project - \$50



Stock photo

For further information on Operation Sharing
email christinacrawford_@hotmail.com

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The Hope Book ... Woodstock & Ingersoll



Operation Sharing

Promoting Empowerment through an Holistic, Proactive and Integrative Approach to Poverty Alleviation.

“I have been involved with Operation Sharing for the past 11 years. Over the years the people there have become part of my life. Many of the people who help are committed to their work with Operation Sharing. We try to make the lives of the people we serve easier and try to help them lead better and more fulfilling lives. I am very proud of the financial and moral support we get from the community.”

Frank Smith, President

“Operation Sharing is a Christ Focused Community, committed to living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through service of love and justice, as we work with the impoverished of Oxford County.”

The staff and volunteers of Operation Sharing do not see ourselves as ministering to the poor; rather we work with and among those who are less well off materially than ourselves. We seek to learn from them.

Operation Sharing is supported by over 45 different church-related organizations as well as municipal, provincial and federal governments, community service groups, businesses, and individuals.

There is room for all levels of involvement and participation in our community:

- those in need of service and support
- those interested in volunteering time, skills and resources
- the staff who lead the hands-on work of the ministry
- board members who chart direction and establish policy

Every person involved is celebrated as a unique individual loved by God, coming with a variety of gifts to be shared in order to enhance the community. Operation Sharing programs offer support to up to 2,500 people a month.



*For further information on Operation Sharing email
frnksmith@sympatico.ca or christinacrawford_@hotmail.com*

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CUBA	Organic Garden Row	\$ 100	x	quantity	= \$	#	of gift cards
	Lay Teacher's Training for 1 year	\$ 100	x		= \$	#	
	Lay Training Extension Course for 1 year	\$ 50	x		= \$	#	
	Theology Classes for 1-year	\$ 400	x		= \$	#	
	Camp Hurricane Repair	\$ 50	x		= \$	#	
TANZ	Maternal HealthCare	\$ 720	x	quantity	= \$	#	of gift cards
	Pig & Poultry Farm	\$ 250	x		= \$	#	
	A Pig or A Chicken	\$ 20	x		= \$	#	
JAPAN	Dohoku Centre	\$ 50	x	quantity	= \$	#	of gift cards
	'Peace on Earth' Tomato Juice	\$ 5	x		= \$	#	
	Hymnbook for Bibaushi Church	\$ 25	x		= \$	#	
	Ainu People's Resource Centre	\$ 25	x		= \$	#	
	Rural Travel	\$ 50	x		= \$	#	
MOZAMBIQ	Gardener/Healer Training	\$ 200	x	quantity	= \$	#	of gift cards
	Watering Can	\$ 15	x		= \$	#	
	Wheelbarrow	\$ 40	x		= \$	#	
	1 Year Girl's Bursary	\$ 300	x		= \$	#	
	Mosquito Net	\$ 10	x		= \$	#	
NICARAGUA	School Kit	\$ 20	x		= \$	#	
	New Desk	\$ 50	x	quantity	= \$	#	of gift cards
	Drilling a Local Well	\$ 1,200	x		= \$	#	
	Drilling a Rural Well	\$ 1,500	x		= \$	#	
	1' of a Cement Fence	\$ 50	x		= \$	#	
	Blood Pressure Cuff	\$ 100	x		= \$	#	
	Stethoscope	\$ 200	x		= \$	#	
	Basketball Court	\$ 100	x		= \$	#	
	Scholarship Fund	\$ 100	x		= \$	#	
	Addiction Aid Materials	\$ 25	x	quantity	= \$	#	of gift cards
SOUTH LIMB	Reading Materials & Snacks	\$ 50	x		= \$	#	
	Materials for New Canadians	\$ 20	x		= \$	#	
	1 Day Salary for Jr. Leader	\$ 30	x	quantity	= \$	#	of gift cards
	Craft Supplies	\$ 5	x		= \$	#	
	5 \$10 Food Cards	\$ 50	x		= \$	#	
	Summer Camp Fee for 1 Child	\$ 125	x		= \$	#	
	Food For Friends	\$ 25	x	quantity	= \$	#	of gift cards
	Soup Kitchen Meal	\$ 5	x		= \$	#	
	Inn Out Of The Cold	\$ 40	x		= \$	#	
	Knapsacks For Kids	\$ 35	x		= \$	#	
OP.SHARE	The Christmas Place	\$ 25	x		= \$	#	
	Extended Family Program	\$ 50	x		= \$	#	

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL DONATIONS -----> = \$ _____ **TOTAL # gift cards** _____

- ◆ Make your cheque payable to **London Conference**
- ◆ Mail your donation to: **London Conference Office
111 - 747 Hyde Park Road
London, Ontario, N6H 3S3**
- ◆ Please note that cheque donations must be received no later than Monday, **December 5, 2011** to ensure the receipt of **gift cards before Christmas.**

YOUR NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ POSTAL CODE _____
 PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____



*Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$20 (for donations \$20 and under tax receipts will be issued upon request only).
 Revenue Canada requires that tax receipts be issued in the name of the person signing the cheque.*



The Hope Book

*"When I was hungry,
you gave me something to eat,
and when I was thirsty,
you gave me something to drink.
When I was a stranger,
you welcomed me,
and when I was naked,
you gave me clothes to wear.
When I was sick,
you took care of me,
and when I was in jail, you visited me ...
Whenever you did it for any of my people,
no matter how unimportant they seemed,
you did it for me."*

Matthew 25:35-36 & 40



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