



FEBRUARY 3, 2017

**SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES IN EASTERN AFRICA
'ALARMING', SAYS CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK**

After responding to prolonged drought conditions in parts of Africa last year, Canadian Foodgrains Bank is gearing up to help more people affected by erratic weather conditions in eastern Africa in 2017.

The erratic weather – too much rain in some places, not enough in others – is hitting countries such as Somalia, Malawi, and parts of Ethiopia and Kenya the hardest.

The weather conditions are part of a particularly harsh El Nino weather event that began in 2015. Through its members, CFGB has so far responded to the El Nino crisis with nine projects, totaling \$4.4 million.

“Such erratic weather conditions could be disastrous for vulnerable communities struggling to recover,” says Barbara Macdonald, who directs International Programs for CFGB.

“We are deeply concerned about the situation,” she says. *“That so many people are again being affected by erratic weather is very alarming. We are continually hoping and praying the rain will come to drought-affected areas at its usual time, and people can return to their normal activities.”*

“We do know, however, that more help is urgently needed,” she adds, noting that drought across Africa is expected to continue in the coming months.

NCM Canada Responds With Food In Malawi

In November 2016, NCM Malawi received a shipping container full of dried soup mix from Compassionate Resource Warehouse. NCM Canada partnered with CRW on the

shipment and also sent funds to purchase corn and cooking oil. A ration of cooking oil, soup mix, and corn was distributed to over 150 needy families in December.

Just last week, NCM Canada was able to secure the final approvals from CFGB and the Canadian government for a food assistance project providing food for 2,000 households (9,000 people) in Lilongwe rural and Nsanje districts of Malawi from February to the end of April.

Each household will receive a monthly ration of 50 kg of maize (corn), 10 kg of beans, 2 litres of cooking oil, and 5 kg of corn-*soy*-blend (CSB). The food will be distributed once a month for three months – up until the maize harvest in May. The corn-*soy*-blend is a supplemental food targeted for pregnant and nursing mothers, children under 2, and people suffering from HIV/AIDS and other debilitating diseases.



Thank you to the growing projects, churches and individuals who have provided support for CRW and for our CFGB projects over this past year. People are being fed. Lives are being saved. The church in Malawi is involved in the distributions and is making significant gains with respect to credibility and rapport with these communities.

You are making a difference!

Rev. Elaine J. Bumstead
Executive Director, NCM Canada

PRAYER CALENDAR
FOR CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Believers all across Canada are celebrating Canada's Birthday with prayer over a period of 150 days. God has encouraged us to call upon Him and promised to pour out His blessings upon us, as a consequence.

Attached is a copy of our prayer calendar. Please distribute this calendar to individuals and churches who are interested in joining this initiative.

In Christ's Service,

Esther Bissoon

CHURCHES INVITED TO UNITE
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON FREEDOM SUNDAY

Over the past three years, more than 400 Nazarene congregations in various countries around the world have participated in [Freedom Sunday](#). The event is a day set aside for prayer, worship, and support around the issue of human trafficking, which enslaves as many as 45.8 million people globally, according to the [2016 Global Slavery Index](#).

This year, Nazarene churches are encouraged to participate in Freedom Sunday on September 24, 2017, the last Sunday of that month.

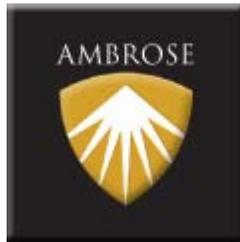
The Church of the Nazarene's participation in Freedom Sunday began in 2014 in coordination with other denominations within the [Wesleyan Holiness Connection](#) (formerly Wesleyan Holiness Consortium). In the same year, the Church of the Nazarene's Board of General Superintendents endorsed the [Declaration for Freedom](#), a document drafted by the Wesleyan-Holiness leaders, including Nazarene representatives.

In the past, the event took place on the first Sunday of Lent. This year, the Wesleyan Holiness Connection's Freedom Network decided to move the date to the last Sunday in September. In part, the change was to allow churches that plan traditional Lenten services to participate, and in part it was to create greater momentum and unity as additional churches and organizations have begun to participate in Freedom Sunday events.

Congregations are encouraged to plan a Freedom Sunday at any time that works in their calendar. Freedom Sunday planning resources are available as free downloads through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries at ncm.org/freedomsunday.

– [Nazarene Compassionate Ministries](http://ncm.org)

The above article appears courtesy of NCN News. For more global Nazarene news, please visit www.ncnnews.com.



EARTHKEEPING: CREATION CARE FOR CHRISTIANS

Christians believe God made the world, loves it and entrusts its care and cultivation to human beings. How should the followers of Jesus embody obedience, justice and hope in an age of deforestation, pollution, desertification and climate change?

[Leah Kostamo](#), our guest speaker, will address the call to creation care in four talks at Ambrose this February.

Schedule

Wednesday, February 15 | 11:15 AM

Theology Class: The Biblical Basis for Creation Care
Location: Classroom A1085-2

Wednesday, February 15 | 4:30 PM

Word and Table Service: Jesus the Outdoorsman
Location: Music Wing

Thursday, February 16 | 11:15 AM

Chapel Service: Do Christians Hate the World?

Location: Gymnasium

Thursday, February 16 | 7:00 PM

Free Public Lecture: Responding with Christian Hope to the Environmental Crisis

Location: Airhart Lecture Theatre

Thursday's public lecture is the opening event of Grounded: a conference to engage, encourage and sustain creation care in Alberta. Info and tickets available [here](#).

**Send your news items of national interest to Diane at national@nazarene.ca
and see your information appear in the next edition of**

Nazarene News