



OCTOBER 13, 2017

**CFGB MEMBERS RESPONDING TO ROHINGYA REFUGEE
CRISIS WITH \$1 MILLION EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Members work together to form quick and timely response in face of overwhelming need.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank members have come together in response to the needs of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, where over half a million people have fled extreme violence in Myanmar in search of safety and freedom.

Through its members in collaboration with their local partners, CFGB is responding with two projects in the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh, where many of the refugees have fled.

"It's a rapidly growing humanitarian crisis where hundreds of thousands of innocent people are in urgent need of help," says CFGB Program Manager Matthew Van Geest, who is coordinating the response on behalf of the organization.

"We're glad that through our member churches and agencies, the Canadian church can be so visible in the face of so much suffering," he adds.

The Rohingya are descendants of Muslims who came to Myanmar generations ago. They speak a different language and are of a different religion than the majority of Myanmar's citizens, who are Buddhist. The Myanmar government considers them stateless, and places restrictions on their rights as citizens.

Violence broke out in the northern Rakhine state at the end of August when Rohingya militants attacked government forces. According to the United Nations, the Myanmar government responded against the Rohingya with disproportionate violence.

Entire villages have been destroyed, and there has been widespread panic and flight.

"The Rohingya people have experienced incredible trauma in recent weeks as they flee

from Myanmar,” says Ken Kim, Chair of the CFGB Board of Directors, and Director of Disaster Response at World Renew.

“The accounts of those interviewed are harrowing. Many have walked for over ten days with nothing in search of safety in Bangladesh. They are exhausted, hungry and in desperate need of basic support.”

Providing the lead members (ERDO and World Renew) with financial support are Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada, Presbyterian World Service & Development, Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund, The Salvation Army, The United Church of Canada, and World Relief Canada.

One project, implemented by World Renew and totaling \$700,000.00, is providing 3,000 households (about 18,000 people) with emergency rations of rice, lentils, oil, sugar, salt and high energy biscuits, for three months.

The other project, implemented by ERDO and totaling \$315,000.00, is providing an additional 1,375 households (about 8,000 people) with the same rations.

“Through our members, we are continuing to monitor the situation of the Rohingya refugees closely, to see if there is an additional food response needed,” says Van Geest.

“A joint coordinated response like this has a number of benefits,” he adds. ***“For example, instead of nine different organizations doing nine different responses, we have two larger responses.”***

“It allows us to negotiate better prices because we can buy in bulk, it means less administrative work, and less risk to local partners working on the ground in difficult situations.”

“It’s something we hope to do more of in the future.”

To learn more or make a donation, visit www.ncmcanada.ca. Click on “Donate” and “Disaster Response.” Be sure to designate “Rohingya CFGB Response.” You can call 1-888-8087-490 to make a donation, or you can donate directly at www.foodgrainsbank.ca.

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR VANCOUVER FIRST CHURCH

This past week, Vancouver First Church of the Nazarene quietly celebrated another mark in their history. Overshadowed by other events, a pair of siblings were honoured with

cake and balloons for being a part of Vancouver First Church since its inception eighty years ago.

Erma Thomson and her kid brother, Lorne McLeod, moved from Alberta in time for the planting of their home church.



Vancouver First Church is in the beginning stages of the redevelopment of their property on 19th East Avenue.

This coming Sunday, the congregation will be voting on the authorization of spending money to hire an architect to draw preliminary sketches for this potential redevelopment.

Respectfully Submitted,
Douglas C. Woods

NCM CANADA GIFT CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE!

The 2017–2018 NCM Canada Gift Catalogue has a new look! The redesigned catalogue is now available and has been mailed out to all Nazarene churches in Canada.

This year's catalogue, as always, includes popular favourites such as goats, blankets, wells and school books. Also included in this catalogue are opportunities to give towards children's needs in child development centres in South Asia and Malawi (Africa).

The catalogue also features our relationship and projects with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, where your giving can be matched 4:1 by the Canadian government (see page 10 of the catalogue). Included this year is the opportunity to sponsor an acre in a CFGB growing project and see your dollars further multiplied!

Youth groups, Sunday School classes, seniors groups and others, including local NMI, continue to participate in giving through the catalogue. Some have fundraising events, others collect loonies and toonies over several weeks, others hold 'auctions' of catalogue items.....the possibilities are endless!

You or your group may give in one of three ways:

1) You can mail your order form and payment to the National Office using the following address:

Church of the Nazarene Canada
20 Regan Road, Unit 9
Brampton, ON
L7A 1C3

Please ensure that your cheque is made payable to Church of the Nazarene Canada.

2) You can call the National Office at 1-888-808-7490 and make a donation (VISA and MasterCard accepted).

3) You can submit your order online at www.ncmcanada.ca.

Please find your personal copy of the Gift Catalogue attached to your copy of the newsletter. You can also view the Gift Catalogue online at www.ncmcanada.ca.

PLEASE NOTE

To help ensure that you will receive your gift cards in time for Christmas giving, your order must arrive at the National Office by **December 1, 2017**. Gift cards are also downloadable on the website.

For additional copies of the Gift Catalogue, please contact the National Office.

*Thank you to all who give.
Your gifts do make a difference!*

NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
ELECTS JEREN ROWELL AS ITS 11TH PRESIDENT



The trustees of Nazarene Theological Seminary are delighted to announce the election of Dr. Jeren Rowell as President. Dr. Rowell is well known for his gifted leadership and theological integrity. He is highly respected by NTS' broad community, including the Board of General Superintendents of the Church of the Nazarene, NTS trustees, faculty, staff, students, and the seminary's global constituency.

Dr. Rowell received approval by the trustees on October 12, 2017. His election comes three and a half months after NTS' previous president, Dr. Carla Sunberg, was elected to the Board of General Superintendents of the Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Rowell's election follows a comprehensive search process that began in late July. Dr. David Downs, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee and Vice-Chair of the NTS trustees, noted the trustees' confidence in Dr. Rowell, especially *"his understanding of the intricacies of graduate-level theological education. Throughout his ministry – as a pastor, an adjunct professor, the editor of Preacher's Magazine, and as Superintendent of the Kansas City District Church of the Nazarene – Dr. Rowell has demonstrated a strong passion for the theological education and practical/professional preparation of ministers in the Wesleyan/holiness tradition."*

Join with us in celebrating God's continued faithfulness to Nazarene Theological Seminary.



COINS FOR CHRISTMAS

This annual fundraiser asks individuals to collect spare pocket change or the price of a daily cup of coffee in gold coffee cups provided by Open Door Outreach from mid–November until mid–December.

This is an event for people of all ages to reach out to the marginalized women Open Door assists across PEI. On the journey to recovery from addiction and incarceration, it helps to know people in the community care in the Christmas season. Proceeds provide personal gifts to the marginalized women Open Door works with throughout the year.



For more information, please contact us: <http://opendoorpei.ca/contact/>.

**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**