

Advent Candle Lighting



Sunday December 3 – First Sunday of Advent - Hope

Giving hope – giving goats

PWRDF Story:

Zainabu Kilaza is a mother of two living in the village of Stesheni in Nachingwea district, Tanzania. Her two dairy goats produce eight litres of milk each day. She and her two children drink two litres a day and sell the remaining six. The income allows her to buy more food, as well as clothes and school supplies.

“I am grateful to God that I am alive,” said Kilaza. “I feel happy and healthy. If I would not be the beneficiary of this dairy goat program, I would have died. Many have died, but I am glad I have been alive to see this change.”

Gracious God, you remind us that when we give to others, we are giving hope.

We light this candle to remind us of the importance of hope.

Prayer for the week:

God of hope

You restore our broken lives

Comfort us with the promise of the expected One

Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

Sunday December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent – Peace

Bringing peace – feeding refugees

PWRDF Story

Refugee Egypt program provides food packages to motivate parents to bring their children in to the clinics, and also provide the opportunity for staff there to talk with the families about proper nutrition to help ensure the children's growth is not stunted due to malnutrition.

One newborn baby came to the Well Baby Clinic when he was 29 days old. After weighing and measuring him, the staff determined he was underweight (under the 3rd percentile), and then referred him to the malnutrition clinic. At the clinic, his mother learned about the importance of breast feeding and of her own diet while she is lactating.

One month later, his weight had improved, and his mother was happy to see her baby growing and being more active.

You call us Lord to prepare the way: to be your messengers of peace.

We light this candle as a beacon for peace.

Prayer for the week:

God of light

You show us the Way

Lift up our hearts that we may proclaim your peace

To all those who wander in the wilderness.

Sunday December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent – Joy

Celebrating the joy of food security

PWRDF Story:

Maria Luaala, a 30-year old mother of six, and a refugee in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, has a reason to be hopeful. She now has a job, and can supply her family with meat and eggs, a luxury that only a few can afford in the refugee camps of the drought-ravaged Kenya.

In response to the food crisis, PWRDF is supporting the animal husbandry initiative coordinated by the National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCCK). With help from NCCCK, Maria joined with a group of twenty other men and women to raise chickens. She has made use of cardboard boxes to house the noisy flock of 100 egg-laying hens. This cooperative strategy produces \$300 of monthly income for the group's members, as well as a supply of eggs for eating. PWRDF's partnership with NCCCK has provided Maria and her companions with a sense of purpose and hope.

Rejoice! says the Lord. Reminding us that our God can do great things!!

We light this candle as a celebration of Joy

Prayer for the week:

God, Our Saviour

You fill the hungry with good things

Send us out to the world:

Joyfully rejoicing for all that you make possible!

**Sunday December 24 – Fourth Sunday of
Advent / Christmas Eve – Love**
Monday December 25 – Christmas Day
Birthing Love

PWRDF Story:

In 2012, the Diocese of Bujumbura in Burundi (a partner with PWRDF and the government of Canada in maternal, newborn and child health work) did a survey in 29 rural villages where they were about to begin a new program. At that time, they found that a staggering 12% of babies died during childbirth. The program's goal was to cut that number by more than half to 5% over 5 years.

Thanks to the efforts of the promoters, the health staff, and the people of the 29 villages, during the period from April through September 2015, the infant mortality rate in the region dropped to 0%. Over 97% of those births occurred at a medical facility, attended by a health professional. 73% of the newborns underwent the complete vaccination regimen.

God of amazing Love: you have come among
us.

We light the candle of love and the Christ Candle,
knowing God has birthed love in our midst.

Prayer for the week:

Peaceful Christ Child

You fill our world with joy and hope.

May we welcome you with open arms

And allow your love to transform our lives.