

Advent 2017



**Living Manger
Living Word**

Living Manger – Living Word

As we prepare for the feast of Christmas let's reflect on the story of the Manger by making it a living story. Each week we will focus on a work that PWRDF is doing and actions we can take to support that work. You have been provided with an Advent Spiral to help you count down the days until the feast of Christmas, along with this daily Advent resource.

Each day we will stop, reflect and also put aside money as a part of our Advent preparation. You can then bring your money to church and place it in jars provided and labeled for the specific projects of PWRDF (see end of booklet for more information about the projects). In this way, we can build a living manger, providing livestock to those in need, safe places for children to be born and even supporting families who are forced to flee to Egypt just as Jesus, Mary and Joseph did.

These items, purchased through PWRDF, will make a long term impact on people around the world and will witness to power of the Living Word to transform people's lives.



Preparation:

Friday December 1

Decide on how you will keep a holy Advent this year. What time of day do you want to do your reflections – and with whom? Where are you going to place your spiral? You can put it on the fridge and use a magnet to move through the spiral – or maybe you want to put it on the table and use a battery candle or small Christmas ornament to move through the spiral. You may also want to consider lighting a candle or using an Advent wreath. The candle lighting prayers are included in this resource.

Saturday December 2

Choose a container where you place your money that you will collect throughout this season. Maybe a jar, so you can watch it as it collects. Read the descriptions of the PWRDF projects we are going to support and pray for all those involved in this important work of our Church.

Each week starts with a story from PWRDF (taken from their webpage) and a theme for Advent. We will be using the same story and candle lighting in church each Sunday. We encourage you to use the prayer for the week every day as you move through your Advent Spiral and do your Advent Actions.

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

Actions for the week:

Monday 4th

Many folks, like Zainabu, do not have access to milk or other healthy beverages. Give thanks for having something healthy to drink and give \$.50 for every beverage in your fridge.

Tuesday 5th

Safe drinking water is also a concern for many people in our country and in our world. Give thanks for safe, running water and give \$.50 for each faucet in your house.

Wednesday 6th

For many of us, our mothers, aunts and other strong females have been our caregivers, much like Zainabu. Take a moment to think of the women who have supported you and cared for you over the years. Give \$.25 for each one.

Thursday 7th

This is the season of shopping. Today (or sometime this week) buy something from a local business/crafts person, like Zainabu.

Friday 8th

Zainabu relies on her goats to make a living. Give \$.50 for every job you have had.

Saturday 9th

Many people rely on what others give in order to have healthy meals. Put something aside today to give to a local foodbank.

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.

Actions for the week:

Monday 11th

Many people around our world are forced to flee their homes in search of safety. Give \$.50 for every safe home you have lived in.

Tuesday 12th

Many refugees have to walk for days, even weeks, to find refuge. Give \$.10 for every pair of shoes you own.

Wednesday 13th

Sometimes our news is filled with terrifying stories, or stories that make us angry at the state of our world. Pray for those in the news today.

Thursday 14th

We often take for granted that we have access to healthcare. Pray for those who work in our healthcare system and give \$.50 for each time you have visited the doctor/hospital this year and if you have not needed to go give \$2 in thanksgiving for good health.

Friday 15th

Most refugees travel by foot. If you have a car you can rely on, give \$1. If you have access to other vehicles (boats, quads, etc.), give \$2

Saturday 16th

Refugees sometimes get separated from family and friends when they are forced to flee. If you are going to be visiting with family or friends over the holiday season, give \$1.

**Sunday December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent
– Joy**

Celebrating the joy of food security

PWRDF Story:

Maria Luala, 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.

Droughts in Kenya make food security a constant issue throughout the country. Proper protein sources are especially hard to obtain. In response to the food crisis, PWRDF is supporting the animal husbandry initiative coordinated by the National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCCK). The project seeks to provide meat and eggs to those most in need of quality protein.

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!

Actions for the week:

Monday 18th

Maria's story reminds us of the importance of poultry in our economy. Count the number of eggs in your fridge and give \$.10 per egg. Add \$1 if they are local.

Tuesday 19th

We love to get together and feast this time of year and we tend to stock up of food for all that expected company. Give thanks for easy access to food and give \$2 if you have been to the grocery store in the last week.

Wednesday 20th

We often take food security for granted, while many people in our world exist day to day. Give thanks for local farmers and for easy access to food on a regular basis.

Thursday 21st

Maria used cardboard boxes as a hen house. This time of year, we tend to wrap presents in boxes. If you have wrapped a present in a box this week, give \$1.

Friday 22nd

How many different vegetables are you planning on eating for Christmas Dinner?? Give \$. 25 for each serving of vegetable you are hoping to have.

Saturday 23rd

Maria raises chickens – many of us will be eating turkey on Christmas Day. How big is your turkey?? Give \$.10 for every pound of your turkey.

**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.

Weekly Prayer:

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.

Here are the PWRDF projects we are going to support with our Living Manger-Living Word.



Get your goat

Item P-02

In Tanzania, a goat can bring health, income and stability to a family in our All Mothers and Children Count program. The community chooses the families to participate and when the goats breed, the kids go to another family in need. The second time the goat is bred, the kids stay with the first family.

Your gift of \$30 outfits one family with their first goat.



Chick it out

Item P-01

Chickens are prized for their meat and eggs and can provide a quick source of income for families.

Your gift of \$40 buys 40 chicks for a farmer.



Comfort Food

Item P-11

When families arrive at Refugee Egypt, from South Sudan, Syria and other countries, the immediate need is nutrition. You can help by providing emergency food parcels as they get back on their feet.

Your gift of \$50 buys a food parcel for a family arriving at Refugee Egypt.



Special Delivery

Item P-04

Reduce the transmission of bacteria and disease during childbirth in Burundi by ensuring every baby is born with a fresh, unused delivery kit.

Your gift of \$40 allows 40 babies to be born with a clean delivery kit.