

The top half of the cover features several black and white line drawings. On the left, a carrot with long, leafy greens is positioned vertically. A bee is flying near the top left, and a butterfly is on the right. Another carrot is in the top right corner. The background is white with scattered green circular dots.

HUNGER FOR GOOD

DEVOTIONAL



WORLD
HUNGER
2023



WELCOME

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters."

- Psalm 24:1,2



We say that God is the beginning and the end. We say that the earth is the Lord's. We say that God is sovereign. And yet hunger, exacerbated by conflict, climate change, and a lack of access to resources and capital, plagues millions around the world. **Our fall focus on World Hunger is a time for churches to attend to food insecurity and the injustice of hunger.**

This devotional is a tool to guide us through the issues and the work happening around the world to alleviate hunger. It also draws our eyes toward Christ and his interconnected and restored self, in which we are invited to gratefully participate. We believe that the whole earth is the Lord's and that the whole, complex cosmos is being redeemed. The questions, prayers, and practices arranged over seven days will, by the Spirit, help shape our communities into people who can prophetically proclaim that the whole world is Christ's and that God's kingdom is being built where the hungry are fed.

For one week, we will explore, reflect, pray about how in all things, God works for the flourishing of his creation. Through the stories of World Renew's work, we will contemplate how hunger is connected to many other issues such as climate change and gender equity, effective use of capital, and ongoing disaster mitigation. We will experience the invitation to live into the truth that Christ is indeed reconciling all things and answer the call to join him in mission to respond to the injustice of hunger.

We pray that this devotional helps us to be formed into the likeness of Christ and participate in God's work. And we pray that when God's people offer big or small acts of love, we can help in ways that embody mercy and goodness.



About the Author

Jacqui Mignault is a commissioned pastor in Calgary, Alberta, where she lives with her husband, two daughters and way too many pets. She has served on the CRC's Committee for Contact with the Government, regularly contributes to the Centre for Public Dialogue's Do Justice blog and writes about justice, faith, community, and questions at theabbey.substack.com.



HUNGER FOR GOOD

WANT MORE CONTENT to share with your church or family? Visit worldrenew.ca/resources to learn more about what World Renew is doing around the world.

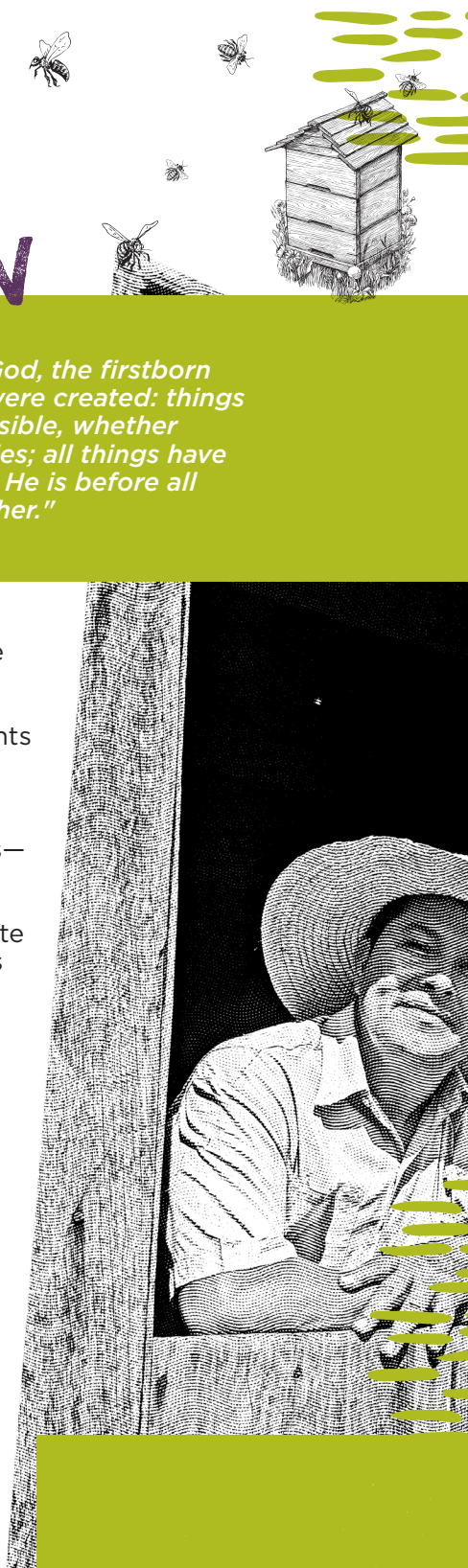
DAY ONE

ALL CREATION

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

All things were created by him. Take a look out your window and notice all the different parts: the sky and its weather, the soil with its microbes, the trees and their shade, the plants with their nutrients ... all of it is Christ's. Look at your own hand. The cells of our bodies with their permeable walls and ability to heal—Christ's. The systems of our own bodies—nerves, muscles, bones, hormones, digestion, circulation—all of it is Christ's. Look at the insects that pollinate our crops. Look at the keystone species that create biodiversity needed by the soil, plants, animals, and humankind. Look at the water cycles that bring life and nourishment to our communities.

Meditating on creation's wonders is a beginning step of wisdom because it places us, humans with agency and a lot of power, in our rightful context. It shows us our rightful size. There are ways of creation we still do not understand and yet when we contemplate the complexity of all, we are drawn to both humility and awe. Could it be that it's only from this humility and awe that we can discern how to wisely participate in God's flourishing creation on earth?





PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE: PRAY PSALM 65: 9-13

Lord, you care for the land and water it. You enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for that is how you prepare the land. Lord, help us stand in wonder and resolute hope that the grasslands of the desert will overflow, and the hills be clothed with gladness. Even in the face of unjust hunger around the globe, may we—with the meadows that are covered with flocks and the valleys mantled with grain—shout for joy and sing to the God who made and redeemed every inch of our ecosystems. Amen.



PRACTICE

RESEARCH your own watershed. Where does your drinking water come from? Where does the water for agricultural projects nearest to you come from? Where does it go? Learn who is upstream and who is downstream?

How is the land and water in your community protected?

Think about this research as a form of worship for the ways God has made his creation to work.



DAY TWO

ALL WISDOM



“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.”

From the earliest days of the Christian church, God’s people, like the apostle Paul, have encouraged one another to seek understanding and wisdom. Not from fine-sounding arguments or from theories and abstractions, not from transcendence of souls leaving creation behind, nor from the powerful and wealthy, but from Jesus the incarnate son of God. This is indeed mysterious, as Paul writes.

The mystery of God is this Christ who lived, learned, slept, and ate in a particular place and time. This Christ who knew joy and grief, hunger, and exhaustion, who did not seek to transcend his culture, language, or humanity but to transform it by the Spirit.

The wisdom of God is the embodiment of Christ. In other words, the wisdom of God is best revealed by Christ’s proximity to the earth; his giving himself for it and the insight this yields. What we must ask ourselves is this: From where are we seeking wisdom?


Where is the wisdom found in a world where there is enough but not all have enough, where the top 1% own more resources than the bottom 90% collectively? We need God’s wisdom that comes from proximity to his creation, not the wisdom of fine sounding arguments, abstractions and theories, transcendence that abandons creation, or power and money. The abundance that is promised is not brought by force but rather grown with understanding from cared-for soil. The wisdom we need is not of how to maximize profit but how to love creation into being.

We need God’s wisdom about God’s creation from the people closest to the question. We need God’s wisdom, hidden in Christ, for our economies, our broken relationships, and our fears about not having enough or being right enough. We need the wisdom of the embodied, real-world Christ.



witness the story

FINDING FARMING SUCCESS TOGETHER IN UGANDA



Like many farmers in rural Uganda, Monday Justus used to buy his potato seeds at the market. He worked hard planting these seeds but struggled with low yields. He had not been trained in several important steps, such as selecting the right quality of seeds, properly preparing his land, and spacing his crops. Without this knowledge, he could not find a way to improve his results and increase his income so that his family could meet their basic needs.

Monday had the opportunity to join conservation agriculture training facilitated by Pentecostal Assemblies of God, World Renew's local partner in the community. He joined a farming group focused on learning new agricultural practices—such as the use of mulch and cover—that would not only help them grow stronger, but also help to protect and restore the soil.

What a difference these environmentally-friendly farming practices made! By applying conservation agriculture methods—and using improved potato seeds—these farmers were able to harvest a total of 2,600 kilograms. This was a huge increase from their prior yields. They were able to sell 14 of their 19 bags at the local market for a good profit and the rest they kept for their families' consumption.

And so, a new cycle of success began for Monday Justus and his fellow farmers. He enjoys being the chairman of the farmers group and has new hope for his neighbours, family, and entire community.

"I give many thanks to World Renew and partners because our prayers have been answered and all our problems concerning potato growing are being solved," he said.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1: 4,5

Lord, we need help to persevere and to let that perseverance finish its work in us, so we may be mature and complete. We lack wisdom so we ask you for your wisdom. You said it would be given generously and without finding fault and so we pray boldly for your kind of wisdom.

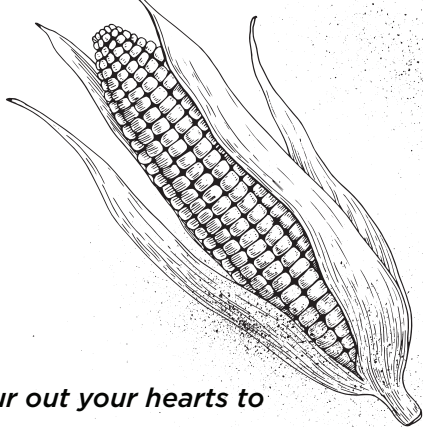
We pray that where hunger is in the world, your practical, embodied wisdom would be what we seek as we follow your ways to feed the hungry.

Amen.



DAY THREE

ALL TIMES



“Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”

All times are God's: times of abundance and times of little; times of joy and times of grieving. When Paul was preaching in Athens (Acts 17), he remarked how God has marked appointed times and histories and how through it all God is reaching out to people and indeed, God is not far.

But not all times are good. Some are destructive and dark. How can we trust in times of disaster? Climate disasters are happening with greater intensity and frequency. A glance at the news shows that the world is indeed always ending for some. How can we hold faith for ourselves and for God's work in the world not only in times of plenty but also in times of loss? How might we pour out our hearts, knowing God is not far in our present moment?

What if active trust in a good God is less a question of will power but a matter of habit and training? Not of the individual but of community and the power of remembering God's presence and refuge in all times together?

We need to remember what has happened in the past. We need to accurately hear the stories of past loss, trauma, and oppression. When we read of famines and conflicts, if we do not remember God's work in the past, we may fall into despair or turn our faces away. In times of trouble, we need witnesses, and we need to be witnesses to what our neighbours are going through. We need to hear how God met his people there. And we need to celebrate and remember that through the incarnate Christ, the Lord consistently meets his people in our own stories.



witness the story

A COLLAPSED HOUSE AND A LOVING COMMUNITY

Twenty-one-year-old Yamikani Mose will never forget the night his family's house collapsed. He was sleeping in the kitchen—a small, dilapidated, and grass-thatched room—when the walls fell. It turns out that the roofing poles had been eaten by termites. During the collapse, Yamikani's left eye was injured and his hip bone was fractured. He could have been killed and was almost paralyzed.

It was not easy for Yamikani's elderly parents to take him to the hospital 40 kilometres from their home or provide for his needs as he recovered. They had already been struggling financially, so this crisis was an additional burden. Thankfully, through World Renew Malawi's local partner Word Alive Ministry, church and community members were able to work together to support this family in their time of need. They helped Yamikani to receive the medical care that he needed and covered the costs of food, crutches, and groceries. After Yamikani was discharged from the hospital, the church continued to support his family with food items and other important daily necessities and the community came together to repair the family's house.

Yamikani and his family were very thankful for this support, but they had many

more steps to take in their journey to a healthier, safer, and more stable life. To help strengthen this family for the long-term, World Renew partnered with church leaders to provide Yamikani with startup capital and a bicycle to use for a small-scale cassava and fresh maize business.

Today, Yamikani has fully recovered and is able to participate in church activities. Through the income from his business, he can provide not only for himself but also for his parents.

"I am thankful to the church and all members of the community for the support rendered to me during the time I was in hospital and after being discharged," he said. "I will be supporting other people who are in need using some of the profits I get from the business."

For Yamikani, a time of crisis became an opportunity to experience the love and care of his community. He will never forget this generosity and he is hopeful that the cycle of transformation will continue for other struggling individuals and families.



PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE: PRAY PSALM 77

When disaster and crisis in our days do not seem to end, when it seems like your unfailing love has vanished forever or your promises to people around the globe have failed, when it seems like you have forgotten to be merciful and have withheld your compassion; oh God, we appeal to the mighty deeds of the right hand of the Most High.

Even in the face of hunger, you are the God who performs miracles, displays your power, and redeems your people. Help us remember, Lord, for the sake of your love for your creation.

Amen.

DAY FOUR

ALL HEALING

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”

One of the challenges posed to us by the life of Jesus is that he is not afraid to encounter the diseased or the sick. He was not afraid of catching diseases or becoming unclean, nor was he afraid of those of lower caste and status at the margins of his society. Christ's power of healing and restoration was available even to those most thought of as undeserving, without requiring a purity test.

All manner of sickness and disease are seen, known, touched, and healed by the Saviour who was willing to go to the root of issues, who was willing to unjustly restore those who did not deserve it. He was willing to go where we are not for the sake of healing.

When we talk about God's healing, there is something bigger than we know going on. There is a fullness of restoration happening. In Jesus' context, healing was not only for the sake of the individual. It signaled an ability to rejoin the community; a restoration to the life of the people accomplished not by the sick person's will power or ability, but by grace.

Eugene Peterson wrote that “the core message of the gospel is that God invades us with new life, but the setting is most often the ordinariness of our lives.” This new life takes place in the place and person of our present, because this new life is “not a means by which God solves problems. He is not a problem solver but a person creator.” We are God's people, created to live in community.

As we look to alleviating hunger, we need to always be mindful that regardless of social standing, race, or health status, we are all deserving of love and welcome. How might our understanding of God's healing go beyond individual pain and reach toward communities of whole, holy health? How might we participate with the God who heals ALL manner of diseases and sicknesses, without a moral squeamishness but a restorative righteousness?

witness the story

GARDENING SUCCESSFULLY TOGETHER IN SENEGAL

Fama did not always have a vegetable garden. For a long time, she did not know the power of working together with other women in her village to grow fresh food for their families' consumption—and for selling to generate income. These were steps that were made possible through World Renew

Fama had the opportunity to join a women's savings group. She and the other 25 members were equipped with the training and resources they needed to build a vegetable garden. With World Renew's support, a water tap was installed, and a fence was constructed around the garden. Then the women worked to dig trenches to connect the tap to the village borehole. It was a daunting task, made possible through dedication and teamwork

Fama and the women were excited to start growing hibiscus, okra, and eggplant. They were even more excited when they began to sell their garden produce in the village and in nearby villages for a good profit.

Several members of the group continued to grow their skills through agriculture training and shared what they had learned with others. Through the garden, the women are also able to provide for the needs of their

community. Using some of their profits, they helped to provide for the medical needs of a single mother and pregnant women who were struggling to get by on their own. They were also able to lend funds to have electricity installed in their community.

Fama is thriving as the vice-president of the group and is thrilled about all she and the others are achieving. These industrious women enjoy spending time in the garden. As they garden, they talk about their activities and families, work in unity and peace, support each other, and are honest with each other.

"The people in the village are happy with us," says Fama. "They said that they have never seen such solidarity. We pray that God will grant us the means to develop additional sources of income."

When Fama looks at a flourishing vegetable garden, she now understands that it is not only a source of sustenance for today, but a source of hope for the future. And this hope is even more powerful because it is shared with her neighbours. They are finding success together.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE: PRAY WITH ISAIAH 58:6-12

Lord, you rebuild ancient ruins, you raise up age-old foundations. You make it so your people are called Repairers of Broken Walls and Restorers of Streets with Dwellings. You heal every manner of sickness and disease. And we can join in. By loosening chains of injustice and untying the cords of the yoke so that the oppressed can be free; by sharing food with the hungry and providing wanderers with shelter; by clothing those who are naked and not turning our flesh and blood away we can join in.

We can join in by doing away with chains of oppression and pointing fingers of blame with malicious talk; we can join in by spending ourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of all oppressed people. Lord, help us join in your idea of healing.

Amen.



DAY FIVE

ALL PARTS TOGETHER



“But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

For each of us, in each of our circumstances, being a part of the body of Christ is a high calling. Diving into this truth can have enjoyable aspects as we talk about our individual skills and gifts working together in a church community. But at times it can be hard to live out that unity, given our cultural legacies of hierarchies in our communities between men and women, between ethnic and racial majority and minorities, between those who make more money and those who make less. Being a disciple of Christ

means our power does not come from cultural clout or worldly hierarchies, but from Christ's bearing a cross and reversing the works of sin in the world.

Prayerfully crossing the divides that the parts of the body of Christ experience in the world is a skill for God's people to develop. A Christian farming family in Malawi has such a vastly different experience of the world than a Christian family in an oil boom town. Men and women in the same congregation have vastly different experiences of struggle and harm. How might we listen without undue deference to those with money and power and without patronization to those without? These are hard legacies to undo.

And yet, we are not left to figure it out on our own. The Spirit of God who reverses the world's power will teach us through one other, each part having and speaking with concern to the other parts.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE: PRAY WITH 1 CORINTHIANS 12:26

Lord it would be enough if all we prayed for the rest of our days was for you to help us to suffer with those who suffer and rejoice with those who rejoice. Teach us to hear the experiences of your whole body and to honour each part as we would our own selves, because our power does not come from our status or money, but from your wounded then resurrected body.

Amen.



witness the story

GANIZANI'S JOURNEY TO ROLE MODEL OF CHANGE



Violence against women in Zambia is rampant with 32% of married women subject to controlling behaviours and 47% of married women experiencing violence by their spouse. Yet 52% of women experiencing abuse never seek help or tell anyone about the violence they have endured. Understanding that all people are image bearers of God and therefore entitled to live free from abuse, discrimination, and limitation of our unique gifts, World Renew has been working in communities where gender injustice is prevalent to shine a light on the problem.

One man who we'll call Ganizani participated in a gender justice project. "My life and way of living was not so pleasing and many times I offended my wife and children," Ganizani says, "because I never understood anything concerning human rights and giving freedom to my wife and family. I used to drink a lot and many times would beat my wife. My wife never had a voice on anything in the family. I controlled all the proceeds from our harvest such that my wife never knew how the money was used. I never cared about her wellbeing, rights or freedom."

"When I joined the project, I learned about farming as a business and other lessons. The workshops opened my mind because I now understand about gender roles and how they impact on the welfare of my family. I realized that I must change for the better. I stopped drinking in 2018 and

explained to my wife that now I will be a better husband and that we shall be doing everything together as a family," Ganizani shares.

"My husband has changed," says Ganizani's wife, Misozi, with a smile. "We no longer face problems in our marriage. We budget together and I have a role to play in decision making in the family. I have access to resources and control how we must spend our money. We are equal partners."

Misozi recently brought home a cash box. The cash box not only provides the couple a place to save their money, but it also provides a way Ganizani and his wife can work together to achieve goals and make decisions. Misozi says that neither of them can open the cash box without telling the other. "We do everything as one and we have seen some changes in our family. We may not have everything, but the most basic things like salt and soap we always have."

Ganizani has become a role model of change, and he has promised to be a gender rights ambassador. He now sees Misozi as an image bearer of God and deserving of respect. Ganizani's story of transformation inspires other men to change and helps in raising awareness of the importance of ending gender injustice and ensuring violence-free homes and communities in the journey towards thriving relationships, families, and communities.

DAY 6

ALL PRAISE



*"The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech; they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world."*

The created world speaks the language of praise—even without words. The sun's light ripples in colour over the horizon and a robin's delightful chirping fills the air. The sun and the robin give praise to their creator, simply by virtue of a created thing doing what it was created to do. How might we too offer our own actions as praise without words? Specifically, how might the ways we produce and eat food point to the power, grace, and beauty of the living God? How might the language of praise go beyond lofty words and be heard in the language of food production?

How we produce, finance, and consume food testifies to what we value and what we believe about God and others. It is, if we make it so, an act of praise. What do you know about where your food is grown? What about the living conditions of the workers who cultivate and harvest it? How is it processed? How is it priced in commodity markets? Do the workers get a fair wage? Do the sellers sell at a profit that is fair and sustainable? Would the ways your food is produced be praise to God?

In our system, we can use our money intentionally or carelessly. Our economic choices—even those around food—can reflect God's truth. We may have the privilege of choice when it comes to what we eat, while

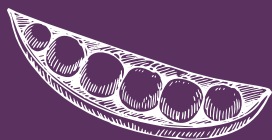
many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not. Our economic choices in Canada rarely acknowledge that we depend on weather, on agricultural norms, on regional policies, temporary foreign works, and on supply chains. Food is about the relationships that join us to earth. How are we praising God's abundant grace with how we conceive of our food systems? Do we savour or do we waste? Do we effectively prepare, or do we hoard? Do we unthinkingly feast on cheapness and convenience, or do we understand the true cost of food production? And do our choices reflect God's care for his whole creation?

While it is tempting to dismiss concerns about our food system as unrealistic or too big to change, and while we might legitimately be overwhelmed at the scale of the systems we were born into, might there be a way to praise God even through the way we live? Could we too, one creature among many, witness without words, to the gracious and relational ways of God—even through the mundane details of supply chains and budget spreadsheets? Let's choose to live justly in dysfunctional systems as we "pour forth speech, speak knowledge," and "proclaim the work of God's hands!"



PATHWAY + PRACTICE

PICK ONE of your family's favourite food items and learn about where it is grown and who harvests it as close to your location as possible. Learn what companies are major distributors of this food and how much they pay their employees. Pray for each step along the way of the supply chain, and right up to your local grocery store and its employees.



PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE: READ 1 PETER 4:8-11

Lord, we long to speak, serve, and love one another in ways that praise you. We need your strength so that in all things—including our food production and consumption—you may be praised. Challenge us who need to be challenged, and comfort us who need comfort when it comes to how we live. May the ways we produce and consume our food be glorifying to you, the giver of good gifts.

Amen.

DAY SEVEN

ALL TABLES

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

There is something about eating done in a Christian way, but not because of the words said or the table settings. It is rather because of the relationships that join us to the earth, to fellow creatures, to our loved ones, our guests, even our enemies. And ultimately, all of that points us to treating our food as though we loved the author and perfecter of it all.

There is something Christian about eating that embodies justness and practices outrageous welcome. As with the eucharistic meal, whenever we eat together there is a knowledge that sacrifice and offering are at its centre. It is the sharing of the bread and the passing of the cup. It is the joy of knowing that there is enough.

In Hebrews 1:3, the author writes, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." Jesus, the one who invites the least likely to his table, sustains all things. Could it be that our hungry world is sustained by this true Word? Could it be that even in broken systems, the exact representation of God is seen as the one at the head of the table passing out bread and wine? Could it be that this gracious table is God's glory? Could we imagine it even at our own dinner tables?



PRACTICE

HOST a meal and praise God throughout. Buy quality ingredients and think about the way the food is grown and harvested. Make beautiful food and marvel at the preparing of it, the skill and creativity involved in making a meal. Invite unexpected people; perhaps a family new to Canada or someone struggling with mental illness, homelessness, or loneliness. Invite unlikely guests and marvel at who has gathered to eat the meal.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE: PRAY WITH ISAIAH 25:6-8

Lord God, let us live out the truth of this promise:

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare

a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy

the shroud that enfolds all peoples,

the sheet that covers all nations;

he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears

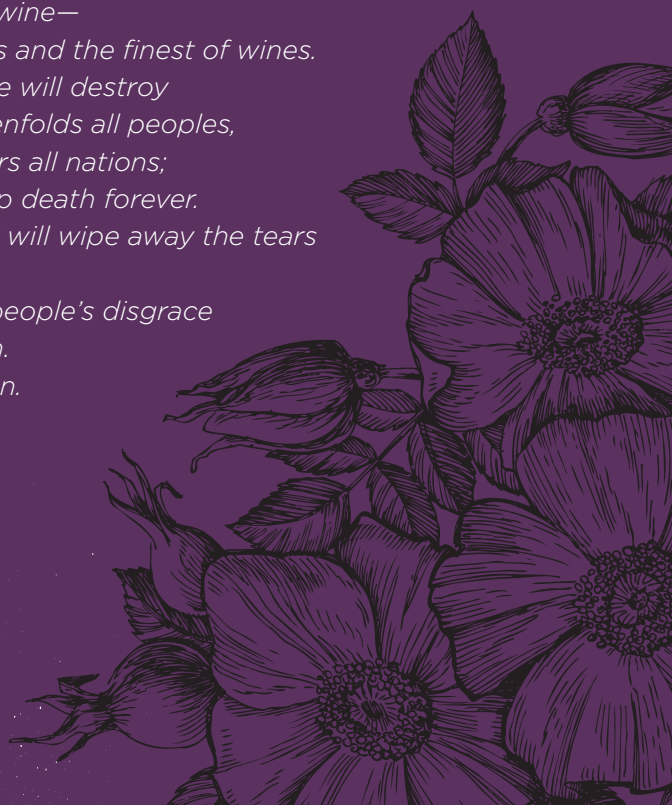
from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace

from all the earth.

The Lord has spoken.

Amen.



WORLD HUNGER CONTINUES TO RISE.

Extreme weather and conflict have forced more families into poverty in the last year. As the world continues to face the challenges of a hunger crisis, vulnerable families are in need of hope.

If you are looking to help answer God's call to feed the hungry, World Renew is encouraging people like you to consider becoming a monthly partner through our Free A Family® program.

As a member of the Free A Family® program, you bring hope to families through food, income generation, education, and health and nutrition.

HUNGER FOR GOOD

Your gift of \$27 a month equips a family to join World Renew's programming and begin their journey out of poverty.

Respond to God's call for justice and help families change their story of hunger forever.

Sign up to help a family to change the story of poverty.

AS A THANK YOU, you will receive our quarterly issue of our Family-to-Family magazine, keeping you connected with some of the inspiring families whom you will come alongside everyday.

 **World
Renew**
LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

