Your love saves lives during deadly monsoon seasons

Wide and flat, the river meanders like a snake through the mountains, creating a natural border between India and Nepal. Rice farmers living along both sides of the river's edge rely on its fertile soil to grow the food they eat.

But they know, just as the river gives, it can also take away.

These families have experienced the devastation of flash floods in monsoon season. Children, mothers and fathers have lost their lives while flocks, crops and grain stores were washed away. And now they’re facing monsoons while trying to navigate and survive the coronavirus pandemic.

But not where your love has intervened.

Your love reached these families and helped them initiate a village-to-village, neighbor-to-neighbor early warning system. This gives families ample time to gather their children, belongings, livestock and food, then seek shelter on higher ground.

As Rajendra, a father of five explains, your love has “helped us a great deal in preparing for floods. Now, we know a flood is coming before it hits us. We go to the houses with elderly people, the disabled, pregnant women and we’re able to get them out before the flood comes.”

These riverside communities are also adapting their farming techniques. Thanks to your love, farmers continued inside ...
I pray you know just how grateful your neighbors in need are for your deep Christian compassion. With so many people who need our help around the world, we’ve launched a new group for Lutheran World Relief donors called Faithful Neighbors.

Faithful Neighbors take our Lord’s call to “love your neighbors as yourself” to the next level — through easily managed monthly giving. Throughout the year, this monthly gift adds up to ensure your love reaches further and stays longer, sending help to the next village and sustaining a family all year long.

So, whether you are able to join this group or not at this time, thank you for helping all of God’s children and every neighbor who needs you in these uncertain times.

God bless you,
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL

Thanks to you, people in need in Colombia can fight COVID-19

For decades, the people of the Tolima area of Colombia suffered through a brutal conflict between military forces and guerrillas. Because of this, the area is severely underdeveloped. Your love has been at work here for two years, supporting children and families in need.

When COVID-19 hit, the area’s already struggling health systems could not keep up. And lockdown restrictions kept farmers from selling their goods and shuttered markets.

Thanks to your love, communities are implementing critical measures to stop the spread of the virus.

Your gifts installed handwashing stations in high traffic areas, provided sanitation supplies and clean water, and shared information on how to stay safe and healthy.

Local health director Eucaris Arcila Martínez says, “This is a very important contribution and helps us protect the life, health and integrity of the [local people].”

Your love also helped transition local farmers co-ops into shared food resources, blessing those who are hungry with desperately needed food.

Your love has taught farming families to grow seeds and saplings on carts that can be easily rolled away during a flood emergency.

And after the flood waters recede — because of your love — communities now have emergency response strategies in place. They deploy search-and-rescue operations using boats your love provided, along with other emergency items crucial during floods, including life jackets, ropes, sirens, megaphones and radios.

In the most recent flood, as of this writing, no lives were lost at all in villages with these plans in place.

Thanks to your generosity, our teams are able to respond quicker, stay longer, and reach deeper into communities where others can’t go. Carrying your love to your neighbors who are forsaken and forgotten by others — but not you.

“You have taught me how to keep my family safe and to be better prepared,” says Rajendra. “Thank you!”

Called to Love Our Neighbors

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength ... “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

— Mark 12:30–31 NRSV

Making a monthly difference, even from Amsterdam

The Shuff family in Amsterdam: Andrew, Joanna, age 4, Amy and Micah, age 7.

Moving from Texas to Amsterdam was a big change for the Shuff family. But one thing didn’t change: the love they share with neighbors in need through the Lutheran World Relief Faithful Neighbors monthly giving program.

“We are blessed to be a blessing,” Andrew Shuff said. “We don’t have to worry about where our food comes from, so we should make sure others can have food, too.”

The simplicity of the program is what attracted the couple — who include sharing with neighbors in need as part of their monthly expenses, along with food, utilities and housing costs.

“Setting things up automatically just helps keep it simple,” Amy says. “We don’t have to remember each month, and it helps with budgeting.” There are other benefits too, such as their annual tax deduction. Yet the young family enjoys far more than convenience.

As Amy explained, “You can keep up with the news and be very sad about it. But I know Lutheran World Relief is already at work in a lot of those places. I don’t have to think about it to really make a difference.”

Learn more at lwr.org/monthly.
Donor Spotlight

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Your love saves lives continued ...

have learned to grow giant mushroom clusters in hanging plants, as well as cabbage and cauliflower on rooftops — far above the floodwaters’ reach.

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In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the handwashing stations your love and gifts make possible are saving lives.
Your monthly gift of $29 or more does so much.

For Pumam, your faithful giving saves her family from hunger until they can feed themselves, then sends help to the next family in need.

Become a part of the Faithful Neighbor family today so your love reaches further and stays longer.

JOIN TODAY at lwr.org/monthly.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Thank you for sending your love to your neighbors across the globe!

Peru
Now a COVID-19 hot spot, Peru is home to many Venezuelans who fled the economic turmoil and strife in their homeland. Your love ensures families get critical health and safety information through an easily accessible mobile platform. Displaced families are among the most vulnerable during this crisis, and you are giving them a way to protect themselves.

Iraq
Your love is helping farmers — including Syrian refugees — to grow enough from their home gardens to not only feed themselves, but to also share with their neighbors in need.

Uganda
Along with our Christian partners on the ground, your love is helping care for the African continent’s most forsaken. Your love is ensuring more than 2,000 clinics in seven countries are prepared to help our poorest neighbors survive the pandemic.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK AROUND THE WORLD