



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

God's Love IN ACTION



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NEPAL: How you're cultivating a brighter future

EMERGENCY UPDATE: Your congregation's impact in Liberia, Lebanon, Baltimore and Ukraine

NEW: Bulletin board poster inside!

God's Love IN ACTION

DEAR PARTNER IN MINISTRY,

You strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus as you serve your church, community and the wider world. **How do you discern and prioritize where you spend your time and resources?**

At Lutheran World Relief, we understand what it's like to be pulled in many directions. We prioritize by striving to go where no other organizations go: the hardest-to-reach villages, the places we rarely hear about.

We also aim to stay after everyone else leaves. Many are quick to help when disaster strikes, but that support often ends while families are still in crisis.

Going farther, staying longer. This is hard and holy work, and congregations like yours make it possible. Congregations that choose to prioritize loving their neighbors. Congregations that recognize it's not a mission anyone can accomplish alone.

I am so grateful for you — for your hard work, your partnership and your faithful service to God's people, everywhere.

In Christ,



Daniel Speckhard

**AMBASSADOR
DANIEL SPECKHARD**
President and CEO

P.S. The center spread of this issue is a poster!

I encourage you to hang it on your church's bulletin board for your congregation to see and celebrate their impact.

COVER: Nageswor Chaudhary and his wife Ram Bati Chaudhary in their farm's marigold field. They live in the eastern Nepal farming community of Saptakoshi with their children.

EMERGENCY UPDATE

4 unexpected ways your congregation is helping

A truck carrying food parcels and Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits arrives in southern Lebanon.

Our world presents endless opportunities for the people of faith to respond with compassion. You may be surprised by some of the lesser-known places — or unique ways — your congregation has helped so far this year.

1 LIBERIA

In late December, **a fuel tanker exploded**, killing 89 people and badly burning 100 more. Your congregation's support sent **shipments of medicine and supplies** the local hospital urgently needed to treat survivors and restock shelves. You also provided nourishing comfort in the form of **rice and other food items** to 245 people whose lives and livelihoods were affected by this tragedy.





3 UKRAINE

The war has decimated farmlands, destroying sources of food and income. Your congregation's kindness is providing agriculture support to 5,500 families in the volatile eastern region, including training on how to **assess fields for landmines**. You're also providing **seeds to grow the ingredients for borscht** — a nutritious staple meal in Ukraine.



See how your love is planting seeds of hope for farmers devastated by war. Watch online at lwr.org/congregations.

4 MARYLAND, USA

In March, a ship struck and collapsed the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, killing six people. Several other ships were trapped behind the wreckage for weeks. Because crews did not have visas to come ashore, they relied on local organizations to deliver fresh water, food and supplies. Lutheran World Relief distributed more than 150 **Quilts and Personal Care Kits** across seven ships to make their stay more comfortable. After all, seafarers make the Quilt & Kit Ministry possible! ■



Visit one of the ships and learn how your handmade gifts brought comfort to crews stuck in the port. Watch online at lwr.org/congregations.



2 LEBANON

Families in the southern region are caught in the crossfire of renewed fighting between Hezbollah, which has voiced support for Gaza, and Israel. Lebanon has endured a long and severe economic crisis. This new wave of violence has forced already struggling families deeper into chaos and hunger. Your congregation responded by providing **emergency food** to 222 families and **Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits** to 1,000 families.

Visit lwr.org/congregations to watch and share the videos.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Going farther. Staying longer.



CASTROVIRREYNA, PERU

Peru



Overcoming poverty doesn't happen overnight. With your congregation's support, Lutheran World Relief walks alongside the world's poorest communities for the long haul — empowering families until they can thrive on their own.

Deysi Milagros Canales Machuca was a bubbly elementary schooler in 2011 when we began working with her hard-to-reach community in the mountains. Due to famine, her family was surviving on nothing but potatoes. Since then, **Lutheran congregations have helped them to revitalize their farms** and diversify their diets over time. Today, Deysi is all grown up and has a family of her own — plus a greenhouse for vegetables, herds of livestock and hope for a bright and healthy future.





PIGI, SOUTH
SUDAN



South Sudan

Due to ongoing conflict, millions of people are forced to live a nomadic life. But even when they are safe from violence, women and children in remote areas are especially vulnerable to killers like malaria, malnutrition and complications during pregnancy and childbirth. To best serve them, **your compassion provides mobile clinics that follow communities** when they move. **You've even purchased a motorboat** to bring health care to your neighbors who live where there are no roads.



THEN



NOW



SAPTAKOSHI, NEPAL



Nepal

Farmers need rain. But every rainy season — when flooding washes away their crops — the rain can seem like a curse. Since 2014, **caring churches like yours have equipped flood-prone communities to adapt and overcome.** Today, these farmers have a warning system to alert each other to rising waters so they can move their valuables to higher ground. They have also learned how to grow flood-resilient crops and farm during the dry season. Now, hundreds of formerly struggling farmers like Nageswor Chaudhary can feed their families, educate their children and afford basic medical care.



THEN



NOW

Cultivating a sustainable future in Nepal

Nageswor Chaudhary lives on a small plot of land in Nepal. He has a beautiful family: his wife Ram Bati, four daughters, two sons and a growing number of grandchildren.

He also has the mind and skill of an engineer. When you explore his farm, you find ingenious inventions like a plow made from a bicycle and a cart crafted from parts of a broken wheelchair.

ABOVE: Ram Bati Chaudhary holds a radish she picked from the greenhouse on the vegetable farm she shares with her husband.



 **VIDEO: WATCH & SHARE**

Visit lwr.org/congregations to watch the inspiring story of Nageswor and his family's vegetable farm.

But making ends meet has never come easily. That's largely because Nageswor's family are Dalit, or members of **one of the lowest castes** in Nepal's social hierarchy. Opportunities are limited for them, and they generally live on less-desirable land. For many poor farmers, that means living on the floodplain near the river — which overflows every monsoon season, drowning their crops.

Crafting other solutions for income

Over the years, Nageswor tried carpentry, masonry and bicycle repair to supplement the income from his farm. No job paid enough to fill his children's bellies, cover school fees or pay for medical care, which is a challenge because Nageswor is diabetic.

"We couldn't improve our quality of life then," he recalls. **"We used to feel very helpless. It weighed heavily on my heart."**



Then your congregation gave him a hand up

In 2014, Lutheran World Relief began working with poor communities in Nepal to increase flood safety and reduce the impact of floods on families' livelihoods. Thanks to the kindness of congregations like yours, this work has grown to include more villages and types of livelihoods training.

When Nageswor had the opportunity to work with Lutheran World Relief to improve his meager farm, he jumped at the chance. "Farming is our ancestral way of life," he explains. "So, my wife and I decided to farm vegetables together."

Three years ago, he received support to build a greenhouse, plus training and seeds to grow crops outside the rainy season. Today, he grows tomatoes in hanging bottles, cauliflower, turnips, marigolds, mustard greens and more. His **greenhouse crops fetch a higher price at the market** and have allowed him to grow his farm to **six times** its original size.

Hard work is paying off

Today Nageswor's family is thriving. He has helped two daughters get married and three complete secondary school. He also has money to save and invest in local microloan groups to continue getting ahead.

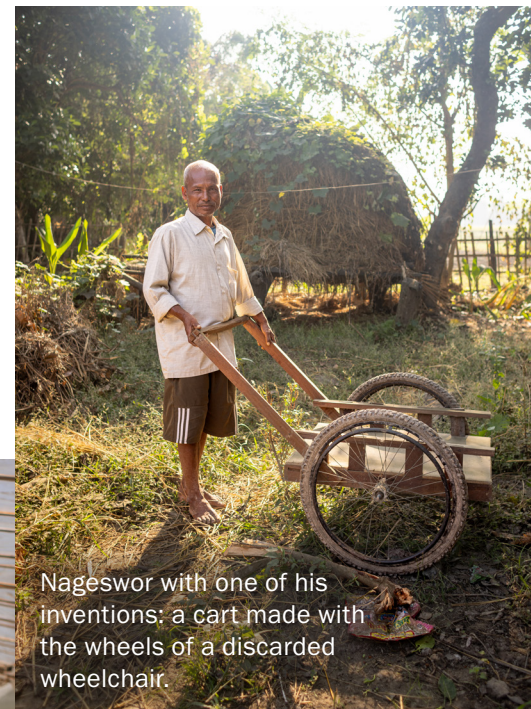
He looks around his farm and his family with pride. **"Now I do not need to rely on others, or stretch out my hands to others for money,"** he says.

All because your congregation gave him the hand up he needed to cultivate a sustainable future. ■

"Now I do not need to rely on others, or stretch out my hands to others for money."



ABOVE: Nageswor and Ram Bati in front of their home with three of their daughters, a granddaughter and a niece.



Nageswor with one of his inventions: a cart made with the wheels of a discarded wheelchair.



Nageswor inspects his hanging tomato plants alongside local staff member Sarawan Chaudhary.



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RESOURCES FOR YOU

Busy fall ahead? We've got you covered! ***Who will your love reach next?*** is a suite of ready-to-use, easily adaptable resources created just for pastors.

View the videos below and other helpful resources today at lwr.org/mission.



UNTIL YOUR LOVE REACHES EVERY NEIGHBOR



NO MATTER HOW FAR



FAITH ON THE FRONTLINES



FAITHFUL CARE FOR A HUNGRY WORLD

WHO WILL *Your Love* REACH NEXT?



SMALL GROUP
STUDY GUIDES



BULLETIN
INSERTS



INSPIRING
VIDEOS



QUILT & KIT
BLESSING LITANY



CHILDREN'S
MESSAGE PROMPTS



AND
MORE!



SHARE YOUR CONGREGATION'S LOVE.

Share restoring hope with God's children by giving online at lwr.org/congregations or by mailing a check to **Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061.**

To receive updates, join our email list for congregational leaders at lwr.org/congregations.