

# SPECIAL REPORTS



LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF

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Nyaluit was terrified for her son's life until you helped deliver healing, hope and the boat ride of a lifetime!

## Your Love Sped to the Rescue in South Sudan

You may remember your neighbor Nyaluit and her sons, Mar and Nyayien. They lived a heartbreaking life, navigating dangerous flood waters, shielding violence, battling starvation and suffering through a devastating loss when Nyaluit's husband was killed.

Knowing she had to try to make a better life for herself and her children, Nyaluit embarked on a dangerous 70-mile trek to safety.

**"It was a very difficult journey because some people want to kill you," she recalled.**

Nyaluit finally found a camp where she and her family could take refuge, and thanks to your compassionate gifts, they were met with nourishing

food, refreshing water and safe shelter. Sadly, the relief was short-lived when two of her precious babies, 4-year-old Nyayien and 2-year-old Mar, became very ill with measles.

Nyaluit was terrified. The hospital that could deliver the care her sons needed was only reachable by canoe, and she did not have access to one. Time was running out ... until your love sped to the rescue!

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## A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL

*"Blessed are those who plant trees whose shade they will never sit."*

That's an old proverb, but it feels current. It could have been written just this year about you, our faithful supporter. When you share your love through Lutheran World Relief, you put your faith into action by providing shade from the harsh realities of the world for a neighbor you'll likely never meet.

As we continue to celebrate our 80 years of loving our neighbors, we are grateful to you and all those who have gone before us who lived their lives in service to others — planting trees from whose shade others will enjoy.

This shade hovers over places like South Sudan, where families are able to get urgent medical care for their children, and in Nepal, where young couples can cultivate a bountiful future for themselves against all odds.

Your loving branches are reaching children and their families in some of the world's most remote places and right here at home.

Thank you for your selfless support.

God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard  
President and CEO

## Called to Love Our Neighbors

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." — John 15:5 (NRSV)



## Your Love Sped to the Rescue in South Sudan (continued)

Your caring gifts helped fund a motorboat that could transport her children to the hospital quickly — cutting a five-hour canoe ride to just one hour!

When precious hours count, this method of transportation is a true lifesaver — just like you! Nyaluit's children arrived at the hospital just in time to get the care they needed to survive. The ambulance boat also carries medical supplies between various camps, delivering lifesaving aid to your neighbors.

Nyaluit and her children are just one example of the lives you're helping to save in South Sudan. It is difficult for help to reach the Jonglei region, yet your love knows no bounds.

It reaches families at their most vulnerable with essential medical care. Your compassionate heart helps deliver lifesaving treatment for malaria and other deadly illnesses, critical medication and proper nourishment for children and pregnant women.

Over the past year, you've had a real impact:



**4** mobile clinics established in hard-to-reach communities



**7,265** children vaccinated against measles



**33** health care staff trained



**5,408** consultations for communicable diseases



**17** babies born with the help of skilled midwives



**8,972** outpatient consultations

In many instances, yours is the only help that is reaching these communities. Thank you for going the extra mile to reach your neighbors.



## You Helped a Loving Couple Grow a Fruitful Future

Love always finds a way ... even against all odds.

Dipak BK and Laxmi\* live in Nepal, where 70% of marriages are arranged. That makes it very difficult for young couples to have any say in who they spend their lives with “till death do them part.”

Dipak and Laxmi met when they were 14 years old when Laxmi’s family was farming land near Dipak’s home. After several years of friendship, they knew they wanted to build a life together rooted in love and mutual respect.

But their families had other plans.

You see, Dipak is Dalit, meaning he was born into one of the lowest castes in Nepal’s social hierarchy, while Laxmi was born into a higher caste. And intercaste marriages are still largely frowned upon in Nepal. Despite their love for each other, the two were forbidden to marry.

Laxmi’s parents received several offers from suitors who were interested in an arranged marriage. But, Laxmi’s heart belonged to Dipak, and she refused them all.

Knowing Laxmi would be forced to accept a suitor eventually, the couple eloped. His parents were angry, and Laxmi’s disowned her completely.

It was difficult for the couple to have both sets of parents reject their loving marriage, but Dipak was determined

to build a life for them on his own, stating, **“Until a man leaves home, he will not learn about life.”**

Opportunities are limited for someone like Dipak, but luckily the newlyweds had neighbors like you in their corner.

The couple traveled eight hours away from home to Gulariya, a small town near the border of India, where Dipak has extended family. Once there, his uncle shared with him that Lutheran World Relief was made up of caring neighbors who could help the young couple.

Your generous gifts helped Dipak get the tools and training the couple needed to start their own business farming bananas.

He completed a one-month intensive training on banana cultivation and learned how to cultivate his crop, how and when to fertilize, and how to protect his fruit from pests and weeds.

His love, Laxmi, is beside him every step of the way. “She has been supporting me a lot,” Dipak says. “I was only able to do this because of her support. When I come here to work, she brings my lunch to the field. We eat, then both of us work together.”

**“She also tells me her ideas, like ‘I would do this or that ...’ She thinks about this even more than I do. In fact, she teaches me a lot of things ... She motivates and energizes me.”**

Their love, and their harvest, has inspired their families! Both Laxmi and Dipak’s parents have reunited with them and fully support the couple in their endeavors.

Your gifts have also planted seeds of hope for the future of more than 500 youth and women in Nepal who have started banana farms, opened tailoring businesses and launched other entrepreneurial adventures.

Thanks to you, these young people are cultivating their own futures ... and the outlook is very sweet.○

\*Name has been changed.



## Going Farther, Staying Longer

As we celebrate 80 years of loving our neighbors, we are also honoring you because YOU are Lutheran World Relief! Your compassion makes our life-giving ministry possible. For 80 years, kind-hearted people like you go where no one else goes, and stay as long as needed to minister to neighbors affected by poverty, hunger, sickness, natural disaster and violence. Thank you for being an integral part of this love-filled journey.○

# YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

## Midwest and Southern United States

*Your love rebuilds.* Thanks to your urgent response, we were able to act quickly to provide emergency assistance to more than 10,000 neighbors who were affected by the recent tornadoes through direct financial support and distribution of lifesaving supplies, including Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits.

## Democratic Republic of Congo

*Your gifts help deliver new life.* Premature babies can now be born safely in one of the most dangerous places to give birth in the world. For over 10 years, you've trained hundreds of midwives and provided care for mothers and babies when they need it most!

## Honduras

*Your lasting commitment cultivates hope for the future.* With you by their side, 7,000 coffee and cocoa farmers in the departments of Copán, Santa Bárbara, Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibucá and La Paz will receive training and business opportunities to help them improve their crop quality and create jobs for others in their communities.

**Your loving gifts help rebuild, heal and recover**

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL POP QUIZ

*Q: What's the best way to break the cycle of poverty?*

*A: Education!*

But it's out of reach for too many children around the world.

**Put children on the path to a brighter future today!**



\$29

**Help a girl attend school for a month**



\$35

**Provide needed school supplies**



\$174

**Help a girl attend school for six months**



\$348

**Help a girl attend school for a year**



## Gifts of Love

Shop the digital catalog at [giftsoflove.org](https://giftsoflove.org)



Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.



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