

ISSUE 5

Lasting Promise

M A G A Z I N E

YOU ARE A HUNGRY CHILD'S MIRACLE

A VISIT TO THE
RUSSIAN BORDER

FROM
TRASH TO
TREASURE



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF





BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES

How you — and a daisy-like flower — are revitalizing Tanzanian farming communities

Angelina Amon Mwanzonga has grown pyrethrum, a variety of chrysanthemum, all her life. Once dried, these flowers are used to produce organic pesticides.

Although there is a growing demand for eco-friendly pesticides globally, Angelina and many other hardworking pyrethrum farmers in Tanzania have struggled to keep food on their families' tables.

Estate gifts from forward-thinking donors like you have allowed Lutheran World Relief to work alongside families in Tanzania for many years. During this long-term work, our program staff observed the challenges pyrethrum farmers face — and developed a plan for helping them grow their livelihoods.

Since 2020, your generosity has helped 16,000 rural pyrethrum farmers improve the quality and yield of their flower crops. As a result, these farmers have increased their incomes from **\$320 to \$750 per acre, per year — an increase of 134%.**

And as income rises, hunger decreases — a bountiful harvest! 



Lasting Promise

MAGAZINE

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EDITOR:

Emily Love Esworthy

ON THE COVER:

When we first met Mado Betu at the age of 2, she was dying of starvation. Without your compassion, she would not have seen her third birthday. Today she is a healthy, happy girl of 8! Read her story on page 4.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU, OUR Partners in Lasting Promise



As a Partner in Lasting Promise, your love and compassion for others is inspiring. I love hearing your stories about why you give.

Did you know you can expand your impact simply by sharing your story with other LWR supporters? It's true. By talking about your calling and motivations, you can encourage someone to join you in investing in a brighter future for neighbors in need.

If you'd like to bless others by sharing your story, please reach out to me.

I'd also appreciate your thoughts on how we're doing to support you. Please complete our short survey at lwr.org/survey, or point your smartphone camera at the QR code below.



LEE GRANT

Planned Giving Manager
LGRANT@LWR.ORG



NO MATTER HOW FAR



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

You are loved. That is the message your neighbors receive when your kindness reaches them. And this message is powerful, because it may not be one many people hear often. "I am loved" may easily be drowned out by "I am hungry" or "I am afraid" or "I do not know what tomorrow holds."

But no matter where they were born, no matter their circumstances, every person in this world is a child of God. Everyone is worthy of love.

Because of you, we can go that extra mile to share love with those who need it most — the remote, the forgotten, the forsaken. We carry your love in dugout canoes, on the backs of motorcycles, in the pockets of bullet-proof vests.

You are the bearer of good news for people who need it most. Thank you for your dedication to reaching every neighbor, no matter how far.

You are loved.

AMBASSADOR
DANIEL SPECKHARD
President and CEO

A young girl in a floral dress is jumping rope in a dusty outdoor area. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, several other children are standing and watching. The scene is set in a rural, arid environment with a dirt ground and a simple building in the background.

YOU ARE A HUNGRY CHILD'S MIRACLE

Mado is living proof that miracles happen when we care for each other. You saved her from starvation. Now her family is paying it forward by teaching their neighbors how to keep their children healthy, too.



MADO BETU is a happy, healthy 8-year-old. She attends school near her home in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She smiles big and says she'd like to be a nurse one day.

That's because Mado wants to help other sick children, **just as you helped her.**

Our team met Mado when she was 2. God bless the little boy from Mado's village who saw how thin she was, then ran to our local clinic to get help.

When we followed the boy to Mado's home, we found the tiny toddler resting on her mother Mamamadu's lap. You can see in this photo that she was severely malnourished — little more than skin and bones. Mamamadu had tried everything she knew to save her daughter, but Mado was wasting away.

Thanks to you, Mado's story has a happy ending.

You are the miracle Mado so desperately needed. Because of your caring support, the local health workers had the skills and supplies they needed to save her life.

But that's not all. Because you have made a promise to invest in a brighter future, our team was able to stick around to make sure Mado had what she needed to thrive. They taught Mamamadu about nutrition and showed her how to make a simple, nutrient-rich porridge with local ingredients.

Once Mamamadu saw how well the porridge nourished her children, she began sharing the recipe with other mothers in the village. That means **the impact of your support will continue rippling through this community for many generations to come!**

◀ *Mado is healthy, strong and skipping rope today because you loved her and her family. Thank you for giving her a future!*

Miracles happen when we care for each other.

Mado is alive and thriving because caring people took action. The little boy who ran for help. The health workers who rushed her into treatment. YOU, who made the choice to love your neighbors in tangible, lifesaving ways.

Thank you for being a miracle for hungry children like Mado! ○



▲ In 2016, Mado was severely malnourished and would have died without your caring support



▲ Six months after receiving emergency treatment, Mado was smiling and gaining weight

NO MATTER HOW FAR

A VISIT TO THE RUSSIAN BORDER



Anna Prokopenko, 69, (left) and a friend travel past destroyed buildings after attending an LWR quilt and kit distribution outside of Kharkiv. The Rev. Tim Krick says this photo captures the feeling of daily life near the Russian border.

The **REV. TIM KRICK**, who works with congregations on behalf of LWR, recently visited some of the communities you are reaching in Ukraine. This trip took him four miles from the Russian border, into towns that were occupied by Russian troops within the last year. Here are some of his observations.

What was it like to visit an active war zone?

Tim: Very surreal. The vast majority of buildings had been damaged, and all around were reminders that the war is ongoing. As we were handing out quilts, the Ukrainian military was clearing mines from some nearby fields, and we heard explosions go off. And then there were the frequent air raid sirens. There is this constant apprehension. This is their everyday life.

How are the people holding up?

Tim: When we talk about serving the most vulnerable, this is as vulnerable as it gets — the people who stayed behind when war broke out. Many are elderly, or they didn't have the resources to go somewhere else. They are often alone. Some of them had their homes occupied or looted. They've lost loved ones. Some were sexually abused during the occupation. And there is so much uncertainty. They are adamant that Ukraine will prevail, but they don't know what might happen to them personally.

One young mother at the quilt distribution told us that you live every day with this feeling that you could die at any moment. She's afraid to let her son just go out and run. There are mines and broken glass and you don't know who you can trust. People feel isolated.

The refrain we heard over and over again was, **“Thank you for remembering us.”** Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for providing this food, this place to stay. Thank you for remembering.

What is the best way for people and congregations to help?

Tim: Pray. Pray for an end to the war. Pray that peace prevails. And pray for continued strength, because there is no end in sight. And please continue to give what you can. You are giving them the most basic resources they need to endure until the war ends. You are giving them the hope they need to continue on.



3 WAYS YOUR LOVE IS HELPING UKRAINIANS TODAY

- 1 Providing hot meals, lodging and art therapy to families in 6 sanatoriums**
- 2 Comforting displaced families with quilts and kits**
- 3 Deploying a mobile clinic to provide medical care in hard-hit areas**

... and so much more.

Thank you for supporting the largest humanitarian response in LWR history.



The Rev. Tim Krick works with a child during an art therapy session at a sanatorium in Ukraine's Kharkiv region. In times of peace, sanatoriums are like retreat centers, but they also offer medical services. Many of these facilities have opened their doors to displaced Ukrainians in need of shelter during the war.

YOUR Lasting Promise

Thank you for being a compassionate partner whose love reaches our neighbors, no matter how far the distance. It is this unwavering support that allows us to help the most vulnerable, creating tangible and sustainable change in every corner of the globe. Here's how your love is impacting those most in need.



INDONESIA

Farmers in Indonesia are putting their hard-earned money aside for their future instead of expensive fertilizers thanks to your ever-present care. Rehmuli and her husband Adit have four children and work on their small farm together. Through waste management training, she learned how to produce organic fertilizer. **"It will definitely help to save money for our kids' education and daily expenses,"** Rehmuli shared.



YEMEN

Growing up amid war, 11-year-old Yousef lost so much — his home, security and his childhood innocence. Your love brought critical water distribution stations to the displacement camp his family has lived in for the last several years. Yousef's father Anwar can now raise livestock, and Yousef is back in school since he no longer needs to make long, dangerous treks to fetch water. **"Now our children have no excuse to be absent from their classes [and] we can easily raise the livestock to improve our lifesaving income,"** said Anwar.

e GOES THE DISTANCE



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

When Melanie's abusive partner kicked her and her children out, she had nowhere to turn. Because of donors like you, she was introduced to Tushinde, a program which offers holistic care such as free legal help and psychological support. **"Please continue this work," she said. "Thanks to Tushinde, I am what I am. I am super happy. I am at ease."**



HONDURAS

For too many Honduran youth, migration was once their only option for creating a sustainable future. But faithful supporters are changing their story, building the next generation's hope for a stable and prosperous life within Honduras. **Teresa Ventura received business training and support, which makes her hopeful for the future. "It is the beginning of a new stage in our lives as entrepreneurs."**



SOUTH SUDAN

Your steadfast commitment is helping women in South Sudan better plan their families and ensure healthier outcomes for their children. Sarah has two children and has been living with a physical disability caused by a traffic accident when she was young. When she received counseling and family planning methods, she felt stronger. **"Now I can give better to my children when one is sick or needs money for school,"** she said.

Adrienne Surprenant for LWR





Women who run the garbage bank have improved their confidence and income, while also cleaning up their community and supporting healthy hygiene.

ONE MAN'S TRASH = ANOTHER WOMAN'S HOPE

As a Partner in Lasting Promise, your kindness shows up in all sorts of hard-to-reach places. Refugee camps ... Disaster zones ... Even garbage dumps in Indonesia.

Turning Indonesia's trash into treasure

The women who grow coffee in Indonesia are some of the hardest workers you can imagine. Libranita br Tarigan stands out among them. She is a wife, mother and coffee farmer. Her hands are always busy at home and at the farm. Because Libranita's husband is the elected leader of their village, she also devotes lots of time to serving alongside him.

"I have a principle that it is important to work to support the community," she says.

And their community has a lot of need. In the poor region where they live, one in four families lacks clean water. Poor sanitation systems, plus a lack of knowledge about healthy hygiene, create serious health challenges.



Then there's the litter problem. Ingan Malem Pandia, who lives nearby, recalls walking home from her farm a year ago and passing plastic bottles and food packages all over the road.

"We have to do something about this before we are swamped with garbage and diseases," she recalls saying.

Then your kindness provided an empowering way forward.

Education, opportunity, hope

Your support is helping hardworking women like Libranita and Ingan to clean up their communities — and make money in the process.

Last year, you made it possible for Libranita to participate in a training program to learn about hygiene and waste management to improve health in her community. There, she learned that establishing a "garbage bank" could improve their village in multiple ways.

Similar to a recycling center, **garbage banks are places where certain types of trash can be collected, recycled and sold for income.** Libranita brought the idea back to her village, and her neighbors were eager to participate.

Today, instead of throwing trash on the road, people pick it up and sell it to the garbage bank for extra income. Litter has reduced dramatically, and even the next generation has gotten involved. Libranita says kids from the local school collect waste every day and take it to the garbage bank, excited to have a little spending money in their pockets.

You're creating impact that endures

For a garbage dump, the atmosphere is surprisingly cheery. The women who run it are friendly and supportive, and they enjoy the time spent working side-by-side. Libranita is often there, setting a good example as a member of the garbage bank's elected management committee.

In a region where women do not have many options to be leaders or share their ideas, Libranita and the other committee members are excited to have authority at the garbage bank. They are developing leadership skills, taking care of their community's health and inspiring women in other communities to do the same.

"When I am involved in the garbage bank, I feel happy and proud," Libranita says. "We are protecting our environment and serve as an example for others."

Thank you for making a brighter, cleaner future possible for families in Indonesia! ○

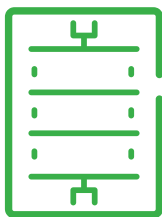


//BY THE NUMBERS

"We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD and his might and the wonders that he has done."

Psalm 78:4 NRSV

Just one generation can leave a massive footprint. In the past 25 years, LWR quilters and kit makers have spread God's love across the world in incredible ways.



9,191,127
QUILTS

These would cover 11 square miles
... or **5,324 football fields**.



9,493,141
KITS

This is more than the populations
of Minnesota, North Dakota, South
Dakota and Nebraska combined.



95
COUNTRIES

Nearly half the world!



When you make quilts and kits for neighbors in need,
you are the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**

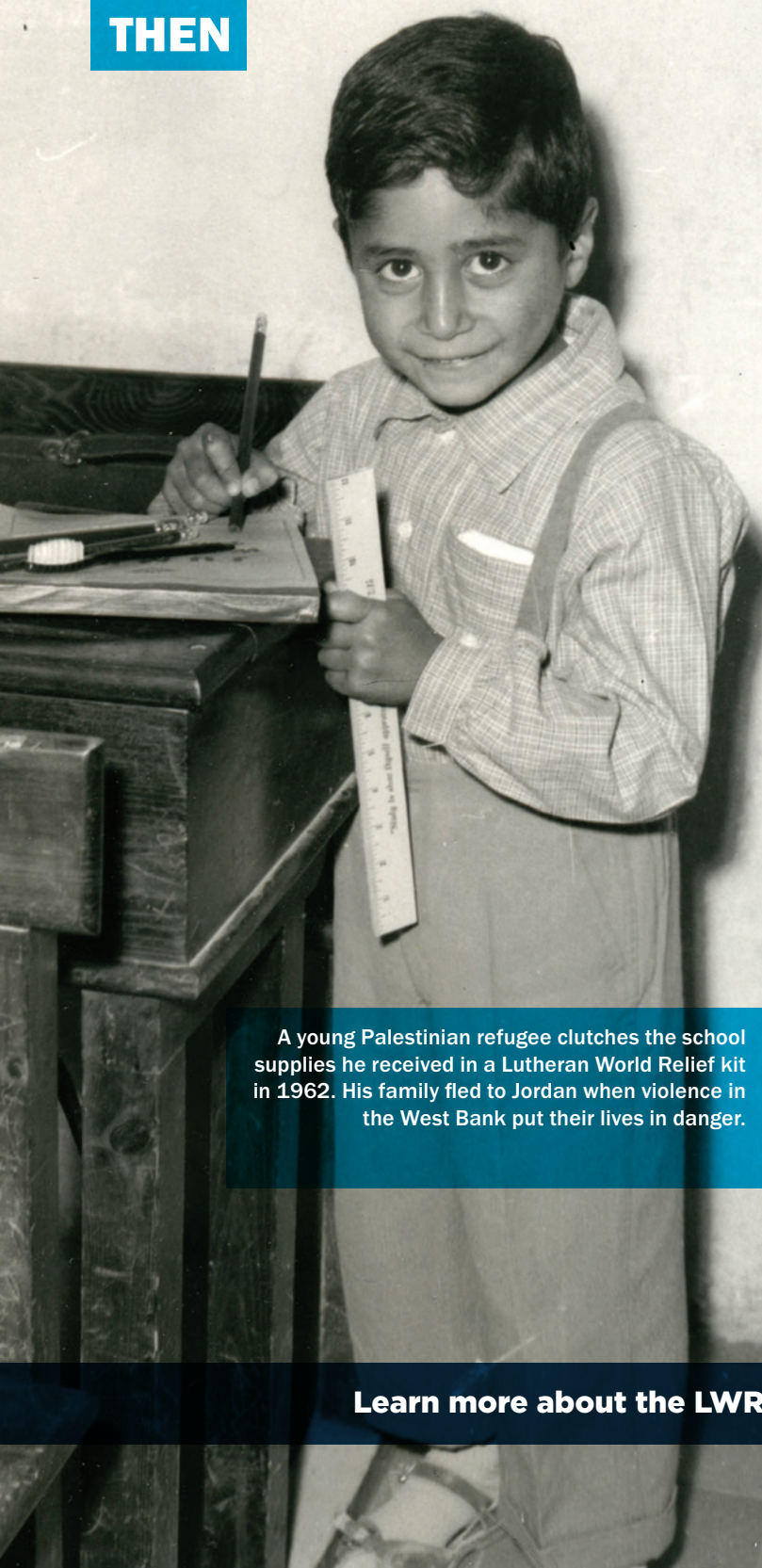


THEN AND NOW

CHANGE MAY BE INEVITABLE IN THIS WORLD,
BUT WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON THREE THINGS:

- 1 God's love never changes
- 2 Kids are adorable no matter where (or when!) they're from
- 3 Children around the world always treasure the items you send in your LWR kits.

THEN



A young Palestinian refugee clutches the school supplies he received in a Lutheran World Relief kit in 1962. His family fled to Jordan when violence in the West Bank put their lives in danger.

NOW



Poverty and hunger are common in Njombe, Tanzania. LWR School Kits ensure children have the supplies they need to attend school. To thank our caring kit makers, teacher Anna Mwambudzi says, "May God bless you and add to whatever you have."

Learn more about the LWR Kit Ministry at lwr.org/kits.

//INFOCUS

Asya Halal, 20 months, has not smiled much since the February earthquake destroyed her home in Türkiye. Her family has been living in a sweltering tent, drinking water that makes them sick. “The children cry all the time,” says her mother Seyda, who hasn’t been able to shower in over a month. “It’s so hard.”

But today, Asya is smiling because you are providing a new home for her family to live in. The furnished container will have a separate living room and bedroom, a full bath and a small kitchen. Asya is especially mesmerized by the shiny new faucet — and the stream of clean water it produces.

Her father Erkan says, “**Thank you thousands of times for supporting us. God bless you all. Thank you so much for coming this far.**”





“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?” Romans 8:5 NRSV

IN ROMANS 8, we are reminded that nothing in all creation can ever separate us from the love of God.

Sometimes we might sense God’s presence in the throes of a fervent prayer. Other times, it flows through another person who sees our need and meets it with kindness.

That’s why you are an incredible blessing to your neighbors around the world.

No matter how far the need may stretch, you go the distance to help people who would otherwise be forgotten. Because of you, children of war can feel the warmth of Christ wrapped around their shoulders. In a remote desert camp, you are a source of clean, fresh water.

Beyond the washed-out road ... across raging flood waters ... deep underground to shelters where even bombs can’t reach ...

Because of your compassion, God’s love is experienced in the hardest-to-reach places.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Lasting Promise Magazine

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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