



May-June

2007

Volume 20

Number 3

www.elca.org

Seeds for the Parish
Communication Services
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Shakopee, MN
Permit No. 33

Seeds for the Parish

RESOURCE PAPER FOR LEADERS OF ELCA CONGREGATIONS

“Go and do likewise” with ELCA World Hunger

The lawyer gave Jesus the right answer: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart...and love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). “But wanting to justify himself,” he went on to ask “And who is my neighbor?” (10:29). Jesus instructs the lawyer and us by telling a story about a man beaten and left half dead. Two good people proved to be bad neighbors and ignored the man. A third, though, allowed himself to recognize, react, and remember; like a good neighbor, the Samaritan cared. Jesus closes the story with the directive to “*Go and do likewise*” (Luke 10:37).

Giving to ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Stand With Africa, and ELCA Disaster Response are ways we embrace Christ’s exhortation and expectation to “Go and do likewise,” and make a life-saving difference for neighbors in need around the world and close to home.

Go and do with ...

High on a mountain in Peru, Elias stood in front of the irrigation system that he and his community of farm families helped build. He spoke with pride and thankfulness: “Thank you for working with us. Thank you for your partnership.”

The community’s school teacher spoke, too. “I brought the children here today,” he said, “to see what their parents and so many others are doing for their future.”

ELCA World Hunger is efficient and effective because it is relationship-driven and accompaniment-based. For example, gifts to ELCA World Hunger Appeal, directed through partner Lutheran World Relief, provided \$7,000 to fund the irrigation project. LWR staff in Peru provided expertise and helped coordinate the efforts of the local agencies that came together collaboratively to address needs in the area. Sixty families invested sweat equity and prepared 74 acres of shared land, built a 33,000 gallon reservoir, dug a trench down the mountain, and installed the hoses and sprayers.

For the past three years the quinoa crop failed because of drought. This season, with irrigation, the community hopes to harvest three full crops. There will be food on the table and food to sell and money to send their children to school. Thanks be to God for the privilege to “go and do” with neighbors.

Go, do, and make a difference

Patrick, a thin and solemn young man, sat on a carpet of dried grass in his home outside of Bukoba, Tanzania. After his parents died of AIDS, Patrick became the head of a household of one. Fifteen years old, Patrick was in his last year of primary school.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal helps fund the HUYAWA program that cares for Patrick and other children orphaned by AIDS. The program provides basic supplies and financial assistance for school and health care.

When asked what he hopes for after graduation from primary school Patrick replied, “I don’t expect to be selected for secondary school; I hope to become a proper farmer.” Later, when asked what he prays for, Patrick admitted “I pray to [get] good grades [on the final examinations] and be selected to join



Elias Fernandez Quispe the campesino elected to speak for the community. (Photo taken by Sue Edison-Swift)

secondary education.”

A year later we learned that Patrick did do well on his examinations and he was selected to continue his education. Patrick received a scholarship from HUYAWA to attend a two-year carpentry program. This vocational education is life insurance for Patrick. With a marketable trade, Patrick can break the cycle of hunger and poverty and claim a future with hope.

The Samaritan, our model good neighbor, attended to the beaten man’s immediate needs by caring for his wounds, and he also provided for the man’s continued care. ELCA World Hunger helps us be neighborly and address both immediate and long-term needs. As part of an integrated and comprehensive program, our gifts fund immediate relief, sustainable development, open-our-eyes education, and change-the-system advocacy. Thanks be to God for the “response ability” to go, do, and make a difference!

Go, do, and remember

Upon leaving Patrick’s home, the visitors promised “we’ll keep you in our hearts.” Patrick put his hand on his chest and smiled.

Each gift to ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Stand With Africa, and ELCA Disaster Response is a prayer-full promise to remember. Through our gifts we are there, long term, with our most vulnerable neighbors. Even if the story of our neighbors’ need is no longer in the news or never made the news, through our compassionate program we recognize, react, and remember. As good neighbors we “Go and do likewise.” Thanks be to God.

—Sue Edison-Swift is communication director for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal.

July 15 is “Go and do likewise” Sunday

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) is the Gospel text for Sunday, July 15, 2007. This is a once-every-three-years opportunity for the congregation to focus on the “Go and do likewise” programs of ELCA World Hunger, Stand With Africa, and Disaster Response. Many new and favorite resources are available to help. The resources sampled below are free, including free-to-you shipping. They are available by calling 800/328-4648 or ordering online at www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger

• “Go and do” bookmark

Find the “Go and do likewise” World Hunger Appeal theme on the front of the bookmark and Luke’s Parable of the Good Samaritan on the back. (ISBN 978-6-0002-1175-2; 1 pkg. = 30)

• 2007-2008 World Hunger BASICS bulletin

This useful piece explains the “basics” of, and encourages giving to, ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Stand With Africa,

and Disaster Response. Each bulletin includes an offering envelope. Use as an insert for Sunday’s bulletin or as a stand alone piece. (ISBN 978-6-0002-1910-9; 1 pkg. = 50)

• “Go and do likewise” World Hunger Poster

Reflect on the woman walking straight and tall while carrying two buckets down the dusty road. How might she, how will we, be “go and do likewise” good neighbors? (ISBN 978-6-0002-1911-5; limit five per congregation)

• 2007 World Hunger Top 40 Resources

This handy catalog features new and favorite ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal resources. Many feature the “Go and do likewise” theme. (ISBN 978-6-0002-1921-5)

The resources above and many more are sampled in the **Summer 2007 World Hunger Resource Packet** (ISBN 978-6-0002-1923-9), which congregations will

receive later in May or early in June. Learn more about ELCA World Hunger resources at www.elca.org/hunger/resources and www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger

In This Issue ...

Articles

Worship Workshops	2
Assembly Elections.....	3
Little Lutheran Debuts.....	3
What’s New on the World Wide Web?	6
Global Evangelism	7
LDR in action.....	8

Departments

Ripe for Picking	4-5
Q&A	6