

CM080 March 19, 2021

Dear Friends at St. Andrew's (Calgary) Pres. Church,

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus 1 Corinthians 1:4

Every year, through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Presbyterians across Canada faithfully respond to God's call to be generous people. We are so grateful for your congregation's prayers and support. Your gift of \$31822 is helping equip congregations, start new faith communities, support international partners, empower youth, encourage new ministers, equip theological students, support Indigenous ministries, pursue justice – and so much more. Thank you.

Please share <u>this short video about Presbyterians Sharing</u> with your congregation, to thank them for their generosity. Download a version to project in your congregation or show online at presbyterian.ca/sharing/#ps-resources.

Together with individuals and congregations across Canada, the Women's Missionary Society, Atlantic Mission Society and others, you helped raise over \$5.63 million for Presbyterians Sharing. The many hours contributed by volunteers, staff and committees who worked and prayed together to develop resources, lead events, raise funds and participate in outreach ministries, multiplied the impact of each dollar given.

## When we put our gifts into God's hands, God does remarkable things!

At the beginning of 2020 we couldn't anticipate the chaos and uncertainty that the global pandemic would bring. However, your generosity, combined with decreased expenses and salary support from the government, meant that not only were we were able to continue the mission and ministry we had planned, we also provided additional support to help congregations and mission partners adapt and respond to the circumstances the pandemic created.

Hear some words of thanks from people grateful to God for you:

"Through this life-changing ministry and the work of our volunteers, we are able to provide hope and support to some of the most difficult places in Malawi."

The Rev. Joel Sherbino, Prison Ministry, Blantyre Synod, Malawi

"Our little ministry is unlikely to end poverty or cure schizophrenia. But loneliness and isolation make both of those afflictions so much worse. And we can fight those by choosing to connect in the moment we're given. We can feel the Spirit right there with us, delighting in us as we delight in each other."

The Rev. Kate McGee, Executive Director, Boarding Homes Ministry, Toronto, Ont.

"The combination of lectures and breakout groups in the Transform online course, paired with mid-week homework and follow-up emails seems to be a really effective means of engagement for today."

The Rev. Ken MacQuarrie, minister, Knox, St. Catharine's, Ont.

"We need programs like this in our community! I thank all the people who contribute to WICM and the First Steps to Employment program. To have a better society, we need the place and time to deal with underlying issues. Thank you for the opportunity to do this!"

Ruth Magnuson, Executive Director, Winnipeg Inner City Missions, MB

These good news stories are not be possible without your faithful support. Your gifts are a symbol of hope, a reminder that we serve a living, vibrant and generous God. I thank God for you, the lives you are touching in your community and the love we are sharing together in communities across Canada and around the world. I look forward to working with you in 2021 and into the future.

In Christ, Karen

Karen Plater Associate Secretary, Stewardship & Planned Giving Life and Mission Agency