



Sweaty Hearts

Volunteers From Alberta Camp Meeting Rally to Aid High River Flood Victims

Sweat rolled down my face as I stopped to look at the other volunteers melting away next to me. Shovels in hand, bent over in the blazing afternoon sun, 50 volunteers decided to make a difference in High River, Alberta. Although the water levels had gone back down, the devastation that was left behind from the flood was apparent everywhere. Boarded up homes, belongings abandoned on the street, and a house with “Help Us” painted across the front, were all reminders of the damage inflicted across the city.

No one anticipated the immense destruction that would incur on June 20th when the Riverwood River spilled over into its surrounding community. All 13,000 residents of High River were evacuated as troops and police took over the city, now deemed unsafe. Three weeks later, when we arrived, neighbourhoods sat quiet, many empty, left in a toxic state of distress.

When ADRA Canada and the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists decided to partner to help the

▲ Above:

ADRA volunteers flexing their muscles as they dig out debris from around a High River, Alberta playground. Community parents were so thankful for restoring some “normalcy” to their children’s lives, giving them somewhere to play while they cleaned out and began restoring their homes.

residents of High River, neither one could imagine the outcome that would have. It was decided that at this year’s Alberta camp meeting, there would be a call for volunteers to leave camp every morning and spend the day working in High River. Prayerful meetings were conducted as both the conference and ADRA went to work organizing the efforts.

The first blessing came from Prairie Bus Lines, which was hired to drive the volunteers from Foothills Camp to High River, a two-hour ride each way. What would normally cost up to \$1000 a day was generously provided at \$900 for the entire week!! From what we could estimate, \$900 would barely cover the cost of the fuel for the week, let alone the

A great big thank you to Terry Lachance (top left) and Shannon Perras (centre) for spearheading the efforts of ADRA volunteers as part of Operation High River. Creating connections, daily work schedules and staying to help until the end. Here they stand with other ADRA volunteers and a very grateful couple whose house they helped clean and restore from flooding damage. ►



YOU DID IT!

Nothing Says Love Like Apple Pie

Ryley Holds Annual Pie Auction For ADRA

Talk to anyone from the Ryley church and they will tell you that things can get serious at the annual pie auction. Over 10 years ago the church came up with this fun and tasty way to raise funds for ADRA.

As you enter the church on auction night, you are welcomed by the aroma of hot apple pie. Not to be disappointed, slices of pie and ice-cream, apple cider and hot-chocolate are available. During the auction bidding can become intense as guests vie for their favorite pies. Bids will even be phoned in and pies have been known to go for as much as \$60. Handmade quilts and knitted goods are also available for sale and the auction is followed by games and prizes.

"We're a small congregation," says Jewel Lian "but everyone does their part. The younger adults even post the auction on Facebook. Even if the evening starts out slow," Jewel continues, "we have always been

blessed. Every year we have surpassed the previous. It's such a fun way to support God's work through ADRA." The 2012 auction raised over \$2,200.

If you're in Ryley on November 2 this year, be sure to drop by for an evening of companionship, fun – and pie.

Visit <http://ryley22.adventistchurchconnect.org/> or Facebook @ Ryley Seventh-day Adventist church to learn more about what's happening at the Ryley SDA church.



Volunteers proudly display their baked goods for the annual Ryley SDA Church Pie Auction.

SHARE YOUR ADRA STORY

We'd love to hear from people involved in ADRA's mission. Why not send us a few lines about what you and/or your group are doing? Send 200 words, a picture* of your activities and your contact details to StayInTouch@adra.ca.

*Digital photos should be a minimum of 3 megapixels.

By sending photos and stories to ADRA Canada you give permission for either to be published at the discretion of ADRA Canada.

YOU ASKED

Question: I keep hearing about the tremendous poverty that ADRA Canada is working to address. With a need so large, is there any point in donating to ADRA Canada to help the poor?

Answer: Poverty has stalked the earth for as long as anyone can remember, and as long as we have records. It's true—the need is great. At ADRA Canada, we are working with you to do something about it!

As Christians, we don't have to look far to learn that the poor will always be with us. "For there will never cease to be poor in the land" (Deut. 15:11). But what should we do about this? "Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land'" (Deut. 15:11). In ancient times, God's people would devote 10% of their income to helping the poor (Deut. 26:12).

Imagine that for a moment—what if we all devoted 10% of our income to helping the poor?

According to one author*, it would take just a little over 1% of the income of American Christians to lift the poorest one billion people in the world out of extreme poverty. Even if Canadians represent a relatively small percentage of the total population of North America, imagine what we could do if we all gave something...even a little bit.

Consider this thought: "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed" (Proverbs 19:17). "Thank you" to you, our readers and loyal supporters, for putting your faith into action. You are a blessing to the world! Last year, through gifts large and small, you enabled ADRA offices around the world to help more than 12 million people! If you asked any one of those 12 million people if your gift made a difference, you'd probably get this response: "You bet. Your gift made a big difference to me!"

*Richard Stearns, *The Hole in our Gospel*



▲ Pastor Lyle Notice and ADRA volunteers during a long day digging out debris in a High River, Alberta community park. Thank you pastor for all your energy, leadership and spiritual encouragement!

cost of the drivers. We gratefully send a huge, heartfelt and appreciative "thank you" to this bus company and its drivers!

Pastor Lyle Notice, Community Service Director for the Alberta Conference, along with Terry Lachance and Shannon Perras of the Calgary Central Church, spearheaded the volunteer initiative. The day's 50 volunteers were equipped with shovels, rakes, cleaning supplies and masks. As I looked around at our group, I saw an eclectic combination of cultures and ages, but with one certain thing in common – determination and a willingness to serve.

One of the greatest blessings I received was from the volunteers as they came off the bus at the end of the day. Everyone was tired, sweaty and hungry but all had a smile on their face, night after night.

The Bible says that we should bear each other's burdens not just because it's something nice to do, but as Galatians 6:2 says: Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

Loving our neighbours, feeding the hungry, helping those who are in need - that is the law of Christ that we should abide by, the unconditional love that should be overflowing from our hearts.

That week in High River, I can honestly say that I saw this love. It was in the sweat that dripped off our faces, the tired smiles that encouraged each other to continue digging, the compassionate conversations with the families

from the community and the many continuous prayers that were lifted on their behalf.

To all the volunteers that gave of their time from their families and from camp meetings to put the needs of others first, ADRA Canada says thank you and I say thank you. It was an honour to have sweated beside you!

Your gifts to ADRA's Emergency Response Fund enable ADRA to be ready to immediately respond to disasters both here in Canada and abroad, like the Calgary-area flooding. To give a gift today so we can be prepared to meet the urgent needs of victims of future disasters, please use the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.adra.ca or by calling us at 1.888.274.2372.

– By Suzie McIntosh, ADRA Canada Donor Relations Associate.



The community responded to volunteer efforts with signs of gratitude.

PRAYERS FOR PRECIOUS LIVES

ADRA Cambodian Workers Encouraged by Your Compassion

As part of last Christmas' Precious Lives campaign, we asked you to share your prayers for the dedicated ADRA Cambodia staff, for the vital health and nutrition program they are implementing and for the women and children touched by this work. You rose to the occasion!

From across the country, little blue and pink hands, covered with your prayers, flowed into our office. Your prayers didn't stop here. They made their way directly to Cambodia. "Everyone had a chance to read them," said Anne Stickle, ADRA Cambodia Associate Country Director. "As I read the messages tears came to my eyes thinking of the sacrifices that each person made, and that so many are praying for us now, praying for the women, children and their families in the communities we work in, for the volunteers and all of us staff. It is hard work and a lot of work, so prayers are very encouraging."

You may remember that in remote areas of Cambodia, one in seven children die before they are five years old. But the Precious Lives Campaign is working to change this by providing improved and accessible health facilities, educating women in health and wellness, nutrition and child care, and ensuring access to micro-nutrients and protein-rich foods.

Thank you to everyone for supporting this hard but vital work with your prayers. You are helping children in Cambodia reach their 5th birthday!



ADRA Cambodia staff gratefully receive the handprint prayer cards sent by ADRA Canada supporters last Christmas to encourage the staff and community participants involved in the Precious Lives project. The project is seeking to protect the health of mothers and children under the age of five who often die in this project area due to lack of health care services and information.

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ADRA's Mission:

ADRA works with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action.

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