

2017, The Year in Review for St. Thomas's PWRDF Committee

Solar Suitcases

Of our last event, scheduled for November, it must unfortunately be said that in the end it was an “almost-but-not-quite event”. Zaida Bastos, an African Canadian who has been with the PWRDF for many years, and who by all accounts is a marvellous speaker, was to talk to us about solar suitcases, essentially a hospital emergency room in a suitcase, complete with solar power source. With PWRDF funding, these are now being widely distributed in Africa. The committee was quite excited about Zaida's visit, especially as she is very involved with PWRDF accounts, and so is able to answer in some detail questions about how our funds are used.

Zaida 's role with PWRDF is to handle global affairs, and so when Deputy Minister of International Development, Diane Jacovella, said she wanted to visit the PWRDF's maternal and child health project in Mozambique, the sort of job that would ordinarily be done by a lower level staffer, Zaida could only agree to drop everything and meet her there. We were informed of this only a few weeks before the event, and there was no time to put together an alternative; all we could do was be glad that the PWRDF's work – which is in fact your work, because it is you that fund it – is significant enough to warrant a visit from the deputy minister, and start thinking about the spring, when we hope to bring you a Sunday focused on the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

Red Dress Event

For this event, we picked up on Winnipeg artist Jaime Black's Red Dress Project, through which she draws attention to and memorializes the many indigenous women across the country who have fallen victim to abuse and murder over the last few decades. To that end, last June we hung almost thirty red dresses about the property where they could be seen and wondered at by passersby. The rain that week made the display all the more effective, and the event was consequently covered by the Belleville Intelligencer.

Inside the church, it was our purpose to show that the abuse and victimization of native women was not the only side of the story, that there were many accounts out there of strong and resilient indigenous women making a difference in their communities, and that was the thrust of the very effective presentation by our own Dorothy Flindall and Jennifer Davis, both of whom have extensive experience with indigenous issues.

How is the PWRDF addressing these issues in our own and in other countries? In partnership with Mexico and Peru, through its Indigenous Community Development Projects, the Primate's Fund is developing and supporting a variety of programs which promote the physical, cultural and economic health of First Nation communities, among them initiatives to develop Indigenous maternal health midwifery practices; programs to address foetal alcohol syndrom; and programs to revive and preserve Indigenous languages;

PWRDF Accounts

The following is an account of PWRDF donations made through St. Thomas's, but does not include those made by St. Thomas parishioners directly through the Primate's Fund website.

Offerings \$11292.15

Coffee \$1197.25

Farmer Market \$244.70

Disaster Relief \$125

Christmas Cards \$240

Other \$35

Total \$13,134.10

All forwarded to PWRDF. Balance on hand December 31, 2017 was Nil

The committee thanks the parishioners of St. Thomas for your generous support of the PWRDF and its programs throughout the year!

Gift Giving

Christmas may be over, but the year is full of birthdays, anniversaries and other gift-giving occasions. The World of Gifts guide, distributed in the October, November and December issues of the Anglican Journal, offers gifts you can purchase to support the PWRDF, Indigenous Ministries and Global Relations projects around the world anytime at its secure website, by filling out the order form in the [guide](#), or by calling 1-866-308-7973 during business hours. Give your friends and family the satisfaction of having boosted the lives of an African, Asian or South American family with gifts of seeds, mosquito nets, chickens, ducks, goats, and many other items that make the difference between poverty and prosperity.

Lenten Study

If you have been looking for a good Lenten study resource, the Living Lent resource of devotions and reflections from PWRDF is an excellent one. Just go to the website and subscribe. You can receive them daily in your inbox, or download them as a PDF for either printing or for reading online. You will learn about what you are doing in communities across the world through the Primate's Fund, and will also find insightful and inspiring readings, activities and prayers.

Thank you again, St. Thomas's, for everything you're doing for people around the world through the Primate's Fund.