



Building on the Assets of the African Woman

CSA October Newsletter

Life is Short, but Love is Forever

. I will begin this message by paying tribute to Prof Gerard Mannion, of Georgetown University who died of a massive heart attack on September, 21, 2019. He was a dearly beloved colleague and an extraordinary Catholic scholar with a deep faith and a deep love for people. He wanted our churches and Christians to become witnesses to love and friendship and worked for a world where we all would dwell in common (the title of one of his edited books). He built bridges across cultures, races, nations and religion. He was a giant light in the world who worked tirelessly in challenging the Catholic Church to reflect the many faces of God to the many faces of God's people on earth through an inclusive and compassionate ministry carried out in humility. He was only 49 years. His death was sudden and unexpected. He was a very healthy and strong man, but we do not choose how we die; we can only choose how we live. Gerard made a good choice to live a life of love, courage, joy, and truth.

Life is Short, but...

Indeed, we all have a short time to live here on earth. As a result, we must commit ourselves to invest our time and resources on things which really matter. The things that really matter in life

Canadian Samaritans for Africa is a faith-based registered international charity working with rural women in five African countries. Our mission is to find where God is present in the lives of poor and vibrant communities.

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are like imperishable diamonds; search your souls to find those things which are often the things not written in your resume, but those things people remember after your death. As people of faith, we must work hard to commit to living a life of service and love; a life of sacrifice and compassion. As Pope Francis, recommends, we must commit ourselves to a revolution of tenderness in a world where many people are carrying deep wounds and are broken and sometimes move around with deep pains and holes in their hearts. We are the hands and hearts and minds through which God will seed goodness and beauty in the world.

True Greatness

Your greatness as a person or as a Catholic is not measured by the size of your wallet; the kind of car you ride or the type of house you live in. True greatness is not to be measured in your income. Rather, your greatness will be measured to the extent to which you have served, how much you have given, how have you added value to people's lives, and how have you been a light of God's love in the world and how you helped to make the world a better place for others. Martin Luther King Jr once said that the most important question for everyone is simple but profound: What am I doing for the good of others? At the end of life what will count is not how much you have acquired but how much you have given. Both the rich or poor has something to give, and something to surrender to God. Everything we have here on earth will end and perish one day, but the love we have given, the kindness we have shown to people; the joy which we have brought through our generosity and sacrifice for the good of others; and the worship we have rendered in humble gratitude to God will remain for all eternity.

Good News from CSA's Mission

When Virginia, the leader of the new cohort of 23

women formed by the Adu Achi women co-op in a different town, called me recently, she was so filled with joy. She was grateful for many things: First, that the women of Adu Achi co-op who began operation in 2007, could reach out to a neighboring community, Umumba, to help them to start their own women co-op. Second, that these women from a different village could share their own limited resources by giving them some seed money to begin a new cohort. Thirdly, that his 23 women cohort members have all started small income generating activities; something which most of them never thought would have been possible many years ago. Such joy and happiness which I felt in the voice of Virginia is really what motivates me. It is wonderful to know that with 2500 CD, CSA could change the lives of 23 women and their families and improve the food security and livelihood of more than 200 children.

How you can Support our Ministry

Stories like Virginia's are the kinds of success stories of changes in the lives of African women which I hear always from our partners in South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Central African Republic, and Burkina Faso. At the same time, we also hear the appeal for more help to scale up the capacity of these rural and courageous women. I am a firm believer that this world with all its contradictions and complexities can still be a garden of love and life where people are flourishing. I believe that God's dreams can come true in small ways in our daily lives. It only requires that Christians and all people of good will commit themselves everyday to doing good and saying to the darkness every day through our way of life, 'you do not belong here.' As the Psalmist says, "The Lord takes delight in his people" (Ps 149:4a) and this happens when we live as God would want us to live—loving, accepting, celebrating, helping and healing each other. In that same spirit, I invite you to do any or all of these

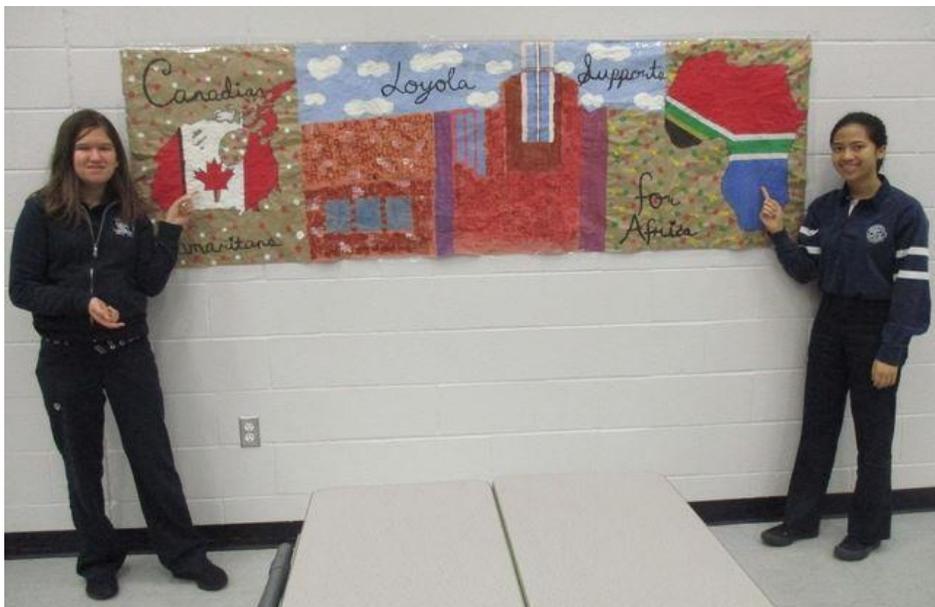
three things to support our ministry:

- Pray for us and all people who work with the poor in the world and in particular in Africa.
- Consider making a monthly or annual donation of any amount to support our ministry with rural women in poor African communities. A donation of 250CD is able to support a woman in an African village to begin a business or an agricultural venture which could substantially alter the life of her family.
- Consider joining us next summer (2020) for an unforgettable trip to the African Safari and volunteer for a week with one of our projects in East Africa.

Your Servant

Stan Chu Ilo

Events Loyola Catholic Secondary School



At Loyola Catholic Secondary School, Chaplaincy leader Teresa McFadden organized staff and student awareness opportunities.

The school was blessed to have a visit from His Excellency Bishop Kussala from South Sudan arriving with Fr. Stan to give a talk to our Grade 11 students in our school library, hosted by Ekwy Odozor, school Librarian and Treasurer of CSA. Before the talk, Bishop Kussala and Fr. Stan enjoyed their first experience of High Tea, prepared by our Hospitality class of students who posed for a picture with our gratefully appreciative visitor



At both talks, Bishop Kussala spoke about the challenges in South Sudan in creating an independent country and building infrastructures like schools accessible to all students. Fr. Stan encouraged the Loyola students to be Canadian Samaritans for their brothers and sisters in Africa. Inspired by their talk, and with the help of Marlene Matyszczyk, the Link Leaders created a backdrop of the African continent and each Grade 9 student was invited to write their name on a paper dove that was taped to the continent of Africa, a stunning visual that shows our spiritual connection to our wider family in Christ with the African continent. Bishop Kussala left our school hoping someday to build a similar school in South Sudan with programs and hands-on classes like Hospitality. The Bishop arrived and left with hope.

Other activities at Loyola included a bake sale organized by the school's

HOPE club, Helping other People Everywhere, with proceeds going to CSA. Another student club, DECA, which develops business skills, also contributed to the bake sale. In total, \$150 was raised in sales.

At other times in the year, morning prayers led by Teresa, Loyola's Chaplaincy Leader, focused on the success stories of the CSA. Under the topic of charitable giving and making the most impact with donations, the school heard how Fr. Stan personally brings donations to the people in need. As well, our school donations were given to Triple C if CSA to help people like Anne Owyno. She is a 50-year-old widow and mother of 5 children, and also lives with HIV. Two of her children were born with sickle cell disease and Anne is also caring for her mother-in-law who suffered a stroke. Through donations, Anne has received counselling, training and attends workshops which have empowered her to run a small business of making her own detergent and selling soap. She also leads meetings to help prevent the spread of HIV and to stop the discrimination against those infected with the disease. Anne sends this message to donors: "long live Canadian Samaritans for Africa – God bless you all."

Here is another awareness story Loyola heard. Harriet Bora is 49 years old and married with 3 children. She lives in a very poor area of Kenya and sells what she farms on her small plot of land. She sees hope with Loyola's help. She said: "a thousand miles starts with 1 step. With a loan, I have a photocopier and my business is growing. I now see light at the end of the tunnel. With a new load, I will buy more material for sewing school uniforms to sell. My shop will be full of items customers want." Harriet expects to repay her loan and continue to build her business to support her family. Help through Triple C of the CSA is essential in a country with no unemployment insurance or welfare programs like we enjoy in Canada. We are helping hard working people who want to repay what they have been given. These are not handouts but truly hand ups. As a visual, the students in Loyola's HOPE club (Helping Other People Everywhere, supervised by Teresa) made a beautiful poster linking the continent of Africa with the Loyola school building. This poster was displayed in the school cafeteria. With these real messages from Anne and Harriet along with the poster, the Loyola community rallied behind a civvies day fundraiser, paying for the privilege to wear casual clothes instead of their usual school uniform with proceeds going towards helping women like Anne. This Civvies Day raised \$2,450 for CSA.

Staff members also became motivated to support CSA. Tim Habib, the Hospitality teacher and coach of Loyola's Senior Girls Basketball team, promoted a Teacher-Student basketball game. Students paid an admission price, and the charity game raised \$270 towards Triple C of the CSA. Another staff member, Melinda van

Gorp, rallied her Planning for Independence class, and the students went door to door selling lollipops, raising \$150 for CSA.

[Learn More](#)

Cooperative Women August Outing



The month of August is a month that brings women together in this part of the world, both the women at home and the ones abroad. The Adu-Achi women cooperative stole the show with their honourable display in this year's August meeting. We were there in grand style to show the women how emancipated we've become with the help of CSA.

It was indeed a day to reckon with, as it watered so many women's interest to become part of the cooperative in order to get what we have in terms of skills.



Village of Love

CSA presenting a cheque for \$3500 to Mr. Andrew Obara to help support our partners in Kenya, the Village of Love.



Events at Philip Pocock Secondary School



This year Philip Pocock Secondary School developed a partnership with CSA in order to promote the stories and lives of the women who benefit from donations from CSA. Pocock's campaign officially launched with the visit of His Excellency Bishop Kussala to speak to the students both about his own journey and the mission of the Canadian Samaritans in his diocese of Tombura-Yambio in South Sudan. In the fall every homeroom class was given the story of a woman who is being helped by the Canadian Samaritans.

The students in that class adopted this woman for the year – they learned and read her story and discussed some of the challenges she faces. They also had the opportunity as a class to write to this woman with questions, words of encouragement and prayers. In May and June, Pocock school received an abundance of letters from these women giving an update as to how they were doing, and this formed a strong connection with the Pocock students who have developed a relationship with the communities being served.

The Pocock school community followed this up with a CSA marketplace fundraiser selling craft goods hand-made by some of the women supported by CSA. This fundraiser brought in \$250. Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School looks forward to continuing their relationship and supporting the work of CSA.

A note to our wonderful Friends and Donors

Normally at this time of year, the family of Friends and Donors of the Canadian Samaritans for Africa (CSA) are engaged and saturated with information about our annual fundraising event. However, this is not the case this year for a variety of reasons, all with a view to improving what CSA does and how.

There have been additions to the CSA board of Trustees this year, namely Susan HooKong-Taylor, Linda Ncube, Joseph Hargoe, Marlene Matyszczyk and Michelle Cheeseman.

These new members bring a wealth of experience, passion and shared vision of CSA goals and objectives. You can read more about them on our website. It is our hope with adding such a diverse team to our existing board, CSA will become better than ever.

In addition to the new board members, there have been ongoing operational improvements with service delivery and oversight of CSA projects, including website redesign and strategic planning to enhance fundraising initiative for 2020, details of which will be shared as they become available in our Newsletters.

As a result of the foregoing, the Board decided not to have the annual Gala fundraising event in November this year, 2019.

We value your continued support during this time and, although there will be no annual fundraising gala, we would welcome any financial donations you are able to provide to CSA this year. Your gift makes it possible for us to continue our mission of building on the assets of the African Woman.

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