

No 'cool clear water' in Somalia

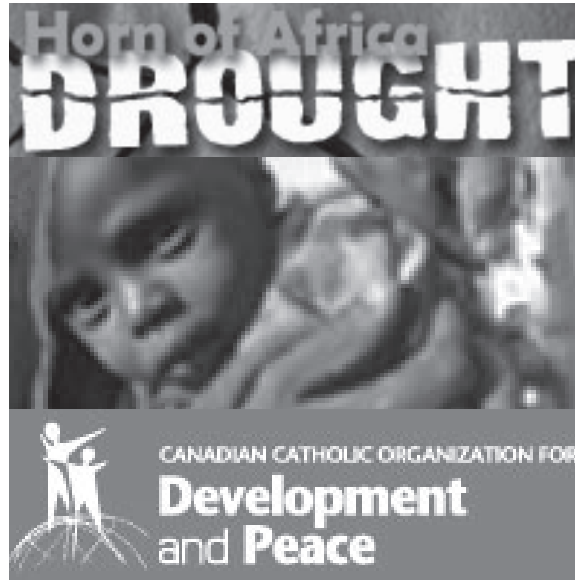
The procession of Somali people searching for food continues unabated. The way is difficult and bodies of small children lie along the route, children who were too undernourished and or tired to complete their journey looking for food. Mothers arrive at their destination without all their children, numb to the sorrow, depleted of energy.

It is these same people who were the subject of a poll in Winnipeg. Seventy-five per cent were unwilling to donate to the humanitarian crisis in Somalia citing a number of reasons, one of them being the need here at home. There was no follow-up question: Do you donate here at home?

The lack of desire to make a donation reminds me of an Aesop fable:

Once upon a time there was a Miser who used to hide his gold at the foot of a tree in his garden; but every week he used to go and dig it up and gloat over his gains. A robber, who had noticed this, went and dug up the gold and decamped with it. When the Miser next came to gloat over his treasures, he found nothing but the empty hole. He tore his hair, and raised such an outcry that all the neighbours came around him, and he told them how he used to come and visit his gold. "Did you ever take any of it out?" asked one of them. "Nay," said he, "I only came to look at it." "Then come again and look at the hole," said a neighbour; "it will do you just as much good."

Wealth unused might as well not exist.



There will always be needs. What need do you find worthy of your gift?

Development and Peace

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace has been responding to humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa for more than 35 years.

In the last ten years, it has contributed close to \$2 million to food security projects in the region, including \$450,000 in 2009-2010 for projects in Ethiopia and Somalia.

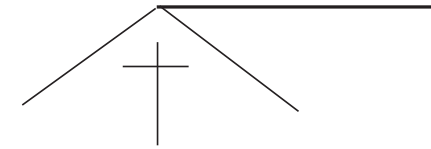
Donations can be made by telephone (1-888-664-3387), on their website at www.devp.org or by mailing a cheque made out to Development and Peace and indicating Horn of Africa Drought to:

Development and Peace
1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West. 3rd Floor
Montreal QC H3G 1T7

Micah House 1039 Main St. Winnipeg Ph: 589-5393 www.archwinnipeg.ca



Catholic Centre for Social Justice



UPDATE

MICAH HOUSE

ACT JUSTLY + LOVE TENDERLY +
 WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

September, 2011

Greetings of Peace!

Peace is such a huge concept in Scripture. It's beyond our understanding but not beyond our experience. It is not the absence of violence. It encapsulates blessing, well-being, joy. Ultimately, it is gift.

September 21st has been declared the International Day of Peace by the UN. We stand so much in need of peace, peace in our hearts, our community, our country, our world. In the encyclical of 1974, Pope Paul VI states that without justice there can be no peace. The roots of violence, envy, anger, greed, and war so often thrive on injustice.

Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day.

Light a candle, sit in silent meditation for a while, invite co-workers, organizations, or local communities to come together on this day to pray for peace. You could also gather at St. Joseph's Parish on Mountain at 7:30 p.m. September 21st and join Archbishop James Weisgerber, refugees and community members who live in fear of violence.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you." John 14:27. Let us together ask for this gift of peace and work for a lasting and just peace.

Small, but beautiful

In July, a small but very visible justice drama played itself out. Tom Denton, the CEO of Hospitality House Refugee Ministry, commented to Gordon Sinclair of the *Free Press* that the planters on Main Street between Higgins and Inkster were without flowers while planters on thoroughfares in other parts of the city had flowers in them. When Mr. Sinclair investi-

gated, City Staff explained it was "too dangerous" to plant and maintain the planters (which the city had placed there.) In reply, Ross Eadie, a city councilor who has a disability, organized "The Planting of Main Street Planters." Perhaps, he, more than anyone, recognizes discrimination



and exclusion when he sees it. "Why beautify the North End?" seems to be the attitude. It's too much bother, or too expensive for city administrators. But North Enders KNOW that little things mean a lot! On a Saturday morning, a determined group of neighbourhood people gathered at 8 a.m. to beautify Main Street with donated plants.

Housing Options For People With A Mental Illness

Housing is crucially important to people with a mental illness. All of the efforts put in place for supports and resources are drastically undermined if there is a failure -- and there is -- to provide reasonable housing at affordable prices.

There are a number of areas in Manitoba where experiments in housing for people with a mental illness is taking place.

Lac de Bonnet has a renovated duplex which will accommodate three women. Support services will be available to them.

In Brandon, parents of a mentally ill person who could function in the community if there were supports available, have bought a house and rent it out to several people. It is impossible to identify

the house from outside appearances. The neighbourhood provides the women or men with a normality which encourages recovery.

There is another solution for housing. A family or a couple may

invite someone to stay with them. It is healing to be part of a family and to be supported by a mental health worker. Often it is difficult for people with a mental illness to live at home. The investment in one another is too great.

Will you help?

In the weeks and months to come,

Micah House is asking for support in a variety of areas.

1. Would you or someone you know be interested in providing housing for a mentally ill person? Eligible people for this type of housing would have a mental health worker and there would be no history of violence.

2. Would you be willing to make a contribution to help cover food and respite costs?

3. Spend some time and energy being present to the 'client'?

Please call Micah House at 589-5393 or email sjustice@mymts.net if you are at all called to this ministry. More information will be provided at that time.

Jacob's Wound: A Search for the Spirit of Wildness



As summer ends many feel the urge to connect with nature, to experience the green of a forest, the blessing of winds and the soothing balm of water and the dangers of sunburn. Nature heals and focuses, it reenergizes and feeds our imagination and our souls.

Jacob's Wound is a book by Saskatchewan author

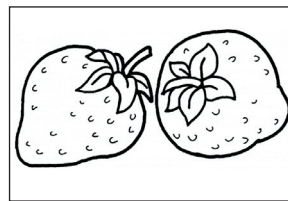
Trevor Herriott. It is a "prayer for wholeness in the face of fragmentation and scattering; an appeal for spiritual unity, a lament for our threadbare connection to the wild, a steadfast assertion of the human need for the earth's blessings."

Fruit Share is just that!

Fruit Share is a volunteer organization dedicated to picking, sharing and enjoying fresh fruit throughout Winnipeg.

We connect fruit-growing homeowners with volunteer fruit pickers who share the fruit three ways; 1/3 to the homeowner, 1/3 to the volunteers and 1/3 to food charities throughout the city.

This is a three way ben-



efit among homeowners, pickers and food banks.

Please call Margo Malabar at 927-2342 or contact her at margo@necrc.org if you are interested in participating in any way.

Walking the Talk

When we read Scripture with care, it becomes evident that Jesus, who we believe is the Son of God, spent a lot of time connecting with suffering people: the ill, the lonely, the old, the despised. To walk in his footsteps, we too, must connect with these

same people, not through reading or documentaries, but walking in the ways of people who are vulnerable.

It is to this end that seven walking pilgrimages have been organized. As you can see, each place on the list has a limited number of people it

can host. This is to facilitate meeting with people.

The first pilgrimage occurs on September 15 at 11:00. Please contact Micah House to register. (589-5393 or sjustice@mymts.net.)

Walking pilgrimages in our city

All begin at Micah House, 1039 Main St. at Magnus Ave.

North Point Douglas Women's Centre

Drop-in Centre for women

221 Austin

Sept. 15, 11 a.m Limited to 18 people

Siloam Mission

Shelter, food and programs for people having a hard time

300 Princess

Oct. 13, 2:00 Limited to 12 people

L'Arche Winnipeg

Home for the physically or mentally handicapped

525 Bay St.

Nov. 10, 7:00 Limited to 10 people

Artbeat Studio

Art studio space for people with a mental illness

4-62 Albert St.

Nov. 17, 1:00 Limited to 24 people

House of Hesed

Hospice for people with HIV/AIDS

45 Edmonton

Jan. 18, 2:00 Limited to 10 people

Main Street Project

Homeless shelter, Addiction program

75 Martha St.

Feb. 16, 1:30 Limited to 8 people

Rossbrook House

Safe drop-in for children and young adults

658 Ross Ave

March 15, 2:00 Limited to 20 people

