



lentevent

**COORDINATOR'S GUIDE**

lentevent<sup>+</sup>



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# AN INVITATION

## Welcome to Lent Event 2012!

Thank you for your interest in supporting Lent Event's mission to help eliminate global poverty.

Through Lent Event, we respond to God's call to share the gifts of God so that everyone is able to live a life of dignity: clean water, enough food, education, viable employment and good health. In the 40 days leading up to Easter, participants forgo an item or items from their daily lifestyle and donate the money saved for vital development work through UnitingWorld Relief and Development.

To deepen our engagement through Lent, communities participate in education, worship and prayer using the **Lent Event** resources created to build genuine connection with those who live in poverty, and journey with them into a future of hope.

**Lent Event** depends on the involvement of dedicated Coordinators organising their faith communities to participate. You can make a significant contribution by promoting and encouraging your community to get behind this growing movement. Your workload as a Coordinator should not be heavy or difficult - the most important requirements are willingness and enthusiasm.

Your Coordinator's responsibilities are to **PEP**:

- 1. Plan for the event**
- 2. Encourage participation**
- 3. Process donations**

This Coordinator's Guide, along with the data disc contains all the promotional and spiritual resources you'll need to help your community get the most out of its Lenten journey. We encourage you to examine the resources on the disc for a deeper understanding of **Lent Event** and the opportunity that this event offers.

Let's together embrace 40 days of action, reflection and connection for the world we long to be.



**Sarah White**  
Lent Event Program Director

# INTRODUCTION to Lent Event

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## What is Lent Event?

Lent Event is part of a movement that aims to help eliminate global poverty by challenging those of us who live in developed countries to reevaluate our priorities. We are responding to God's call to share the gifts of God so that everyone is able to live a life of dignity: clean water, enough food, education, viable employment and good health.

Through Lent Event we build genuine connection with those who live in poverty, and journey with them into a future of hope. Along the journey, our eyes are opened to glimpse God's now and coming kingdom.

## How Does Lent Event Work?

During Lent, individuals and communities:

- forgo items from their daily lifestyle and put aside the money saved.
- immerse themselves in education, worship and prayer to nourish their spiritual journey through Lent.
- learn about international development projects transforming communities.
- donate the money saved to vital development projects.

## When is Lent in 2012?

Lent is the forty day period (excluding Sundays) before Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (22 February 2012) and ends at sundown on Easter Saturday (7 April 2012). Traditionally, the forty days excludes Sundays because they commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

## What is Lent?

The season of Lent is a period of reflection and prayer. Traditionally, it is a time for Christians to renew and deepen their faith. The forty day period mirrors Jesus' forty days of testing in the wilderness prior to commencing his public ministry. As such, the Lenten tradition of abstinence is not a form of penance, but rather a way of intentionally focusing our spiritual life.

In his period of testing in the harsh wilderness, being without any earthly comfort, Jesus found sustenance in his identity as the beloved Son of God, and meaning in his purpose as the servant Messiah. Through prayer and sacrifice, we too are invited to find our identity and purpose and focus on our relationship with God. We are invited to participate in mission as an expression of mercy and grace.

## What are the Lent Event Projects?

Lent Event is a program of UnitingWorld, supporting international development projects with partner organisations in Asia, Southern Africa and the Pacific. As Lent Event has grown over the years, we've extended our support to an increasing number of projects. The activities of the projects are sustainable in the long term and are in response to needs expressed by the assisted communities. The projects areas are described in detail on pages 11 through to 16.

UnitingWorld is a division of the Uniting Church's national agency, and works through overseas partner organisations delivering health, education, economic empowerment, water, sanitation and emergency relief programs.

UnitingWorld is fully accredited by AusAID (see [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)). AusAID is the Australian Government agency for international development. Accreditation provides assurance to donors and the general public that funds are being used in a professional and ethical way to deliver quality community aid and development.

UnitingWorld is also a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct governs how organisations are managed, how they communicate with the public and how funds are used. The Code helps to ensure public confidence in how money that is raised in Australia is being used overseas.

Donations to Lent Event of \$2 and over are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE**.

# Your Role as the Lent Event Coordinator

Thank you for volunteering to coordinate Lent Event in your community. We hope you enjoy this experience of servant leadership. The workload should not be heavy or difficult – the most important requirements are willingness and enthusiasm.

The Lent Event Coordinator's responsibilities are to **PEP**:

- **Plan for Lent Event** to ensure spiritual growth by sharing Lent Event resources among the community.
- **Encourage participation** by making Lent Event widely known.
- **Process donations** in a timely manner, to ensure the money reaches the Lent Event projects as soon as possible and, if requested, donors receive receipts before 30 June, 2012.

## Seeking Assistance

You may wish to share the Coordinator's role with another person, especially if you are part of a large community. It may be worth considering sharing the responsibility for processing donations with another volunteer such as the Church Treasurer. We provide instructions on processing donations in the separate booklet titled 'Process' (inserted at the back of this guide or available at <http://www.lentevent.com/resources>) If you will not be processing the donations, please pass the processing section on to the person who will need it.

Do not hesitate to contact us by phone on **02 8267 4449** or **1300 536 838** or email **info@lentevent.com** if you have any questions.

# Plan for Lent Event

**Lent Event** provides spiritual resources for reflection and growth for individuals and communities. Please review and distribute the resources provided:

- Journey Guide - Bible Study & Prayer Book
- Lenten Worship Resources (provided electronically only- see data disc or website)
- Children's Resources

Please make these resources available to the appropriate leaders in your community as soon as possible (i.e. Minister, Small Group Coordinator, Children's Ministry Leader, etc...). Experience shows that church leaders appreciate having resources well in advance of Lent for planning purposes.

The resources for Lent Event 2012 are as follows:

**'This One Life' Lent Event 2012 Journey Guide Bible Study & Prayer Book**  
(available for purchase from <http://www.lentevent.com/resource> or provided electronically on data disc or website)

*"We all feel richly blessed by these studies and prayers."*  
**Study Group Leader**

Through this six-session lectionary based Bible study we open ourselves to God's transforming work as it guides our journey through Lent. Along the way, we are encouraged to enter into conversation with a small group and to together explore options for walking more closely in the way of Jesus Christ. Through prayer, we engage in a spiritual discipline and share a daily devotional time with Lent Event participants everywhere. We also experience stepping deeper into the flow of God's grace by dwelling in the way of Jesus Christ and opening ourselves to the transformation of the Holy Spirit. By the end of the forty days, participants find themselves opened to a new or deepened relationship with God and with God's people living in poverty.

**Lenten Worship Resources**  
(provided electronically only – see data disc or website)

*"The full package of giving up something, link to worship, project information and studies has made our Lenten journey more integrated. I find Lent Event an excellent resource for the Lenten Season."* **UCA Minister**

Faith communities are invited to embrace multi-sensory worship elements for the six Sundays of Lent to draw us more

fully into relationship with each other and with the international communities with whom they are partnering. Each week our partner churches will lead us into worship via DVD. All age groups (especially the children) will engage with stories that relate the lives of children around the world and the gospel message. Communities will join their hearts with our partners in prayers of praise and adoration, thanksgiving, confession and intercession.

### Children's Materials (provided electronically only – see data disc or website)

*"The congregation owns the Lent Event program. It is used in worship and children's ministry. The children feel connected to the projects and the children there."* **Church Administrator**

Children will engage through story in worship; a related creative and fun activity; prayer for themselves and for their Lent Event partners and an at-home challenge activity to put into practice what they are exploring at church. Children will connect with children from six partner communities and become familiar with development objectives including: water, nutrition, education, healthcare, employment/livelihood and peace.

Sharing God's gifts is a crucial part of participation in Lent Event. Experience has shown that near the end of Lent, it is important to announce the closure date and then repeatedly encourage people to return their donations as soon as possible. We suggest the following:

# Encourage Participation

Promotion is vital to the success of Lent Event in your community. People will be influenced by your energy and enthusiasm – excitement is contagious! Please 'talk up' Lent Event whenever you can.

Lent Event promotions should begin on **Sunday 5 FEBRUARY**, and run for the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday, to ensure that as many people as possible hear about it. The Lent Event Activity Timeline (see pages 6-7) will help you coordinate promotions.

## Promotional Resources

Lent Event provides the following promotional materials:

- **Promotional DVD** lasting 4 minutes, to show to your community. It explains why Lent Event is so important and how it works.
- **Community Notices (1-4)** for inclusion in your community notices before and after Lent. See page 8.
- **Announcements (A-D)** to be given during worship before and after Lent. See pages 9–10.
- **Prayer Points** for inclusion in your community notices. See the Program Information Sheets on pages 11–16.
- **Data disc** containing electronic files of the promotional and spiritual growth resources. All electronic files are also available at <http://www.lentevent.com/resources/>

In January you will receive the **Promotion Pack** which includes:

- **Promotional Posters** to post on community notice boards.
- **A World Map** showing the location of the UnitingWorld projects.
- **Brochures/Donation Envelopes** to distribute.
- **Money Boxes** to distribute to the children.

We encourage you to tailor the use of the promotional materials to your community's needs.

## Community Engagement during Lent

It can be a challenge to maintain motivation and inspiration over 40 days! In addition to the suggestions contained in the Lent Event Activity Timeline, we encourage you to be creative in engaging your community during Lent. Some ideas include:

- invite participants to share during worship about what they are experiencing/learning from their journey.
- encourage the community to give something up as a body– for example, use of electricity in the church or biscuits at morning tea. This can be a statement of the group commitment to Lent Event and can deepen the journey of the whole community.
- talk with people about how they are going and encourage them.
- Invite people to record their sacrifices on a notice board and encourage the congregation to support each other in prayer and conversation.



# Process Donations

- Include **Announcement D** and **Community Notice 4** on 25 March and 1 April to remind the congregation to bring in their donations on the day you will be holding the closure (if not 8 April, then suggested 15 or 22 April).
- Include **Announcement D** and **Community Notice 4** again on 15 April if you will be holding the closing liturgy on 22 April.
- Tell people exactly where to bring their donations, i.e., offering plate, collection basket, church office, direct delivery to Coordinator, etc...
- Remind people that to receive a tax receipt, they **MUST** fill in all their details on the donation slip (part of the brochure) and enclose this with their donation in the detachable envelope (also part of the brochure).
- Advertise the fact that donations must be received by 6 May to be included in the group mailing to Lent Event.
- Explain that donations made after the cut off date should be sent directly to Lent Event: PO Box A2266 Sydney South NSW 1235.

## LENT EVENT Activity Timeline 2012

Feel free to tailor the timeline as needed for your community.

<p><b>November 2011 – early February, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a small team to coordinate Lent Event in your community.</li> <li>• Review timeline and assign responsibilities outlined in this guide.</li> <li>• Meet with Ministry agents who'll be involved in Lent Event (Minister, Children's Ministry Leader, Worship Leaders, Small Group Coordinator etc...).</li> <li>• Pray for organisers, Ministry agents and for your community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 February, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include '<b>Community Notice 1</b>' in community notices – see pg 8.</li> <li>• Put up posters.</li> <li>• Give '<b>Announcement A</b>' at Sunday services – see pg 9.</li> <li>• Show <b>promotional DVD</b> during worship.</li> <li>• Hand out <b>brochures</b> to congregation or insert brochures into notices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12 February, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include '<b>Community Notice 2</b>' in community notices – see pg 8.</li> <li>• Give '<b>Announcement B</b>' at Sunday services – see pg 9.</li> <li>• Show <b>promotional DVD</b> during worship.</li> <li>• Hand out <b>brochures</b> to congregation or insert into notices.</li> </ul>

<p><b>19 February, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include '<b>Community Notice 3</b>' in community notices – see pg 8</li> <li>• Give '<b>Announcement C</b>' at Sunday services – see pg 10.</li> <li>• Use <b>Commissioning Liturgy</b> during worship (accompanying PowerPoint available).</li> <li>• Make <b>brochures</b> available for those people who missed out.</li> </ul>
<p><b>22 February, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ash Wednesday – Lent begins.</li> </ul>
<p><b>26 February, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use selected <b>Worship components for Lent 1</b> – accompanying PowerPoint provided.</li> <li>• Include <b>prayer points</b> in notices – see Program Information Sheets on page 11.</li> <li>• Children's and Adult's programs begin.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 March, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use selected <b>Worship components for Lent 2</b> – accompanying PowerPoint provided.</li> <li>• Include <b>prayer points</b> in notices – see Program Information Sheets on page 12.</li> <li>• Second week of Children's and Adult's programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11 March, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use selected <b>Worship components for Lent 3</b> – accompanying PowerPoint provided.</li> <li>• Include <b>prayer points</b> in notices – see Program Information Sheets on pages 13.</li> <li>• Third week of Children's and Adult's programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>18 March, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use selected <b>Worship components for Lent 4</b> – accompanying PowerPoint provided.</li> <li>• Include <b>prayer points</b> in notices – see Program Information Sheets on page 14.</li> <li>• Fourth week of Children's and Adult's programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>25 March, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use selected <b>Worship components for Lent 5</b> – accompanying PowerPoint provided.</li> <li>• Include <b>prayer points</b> in notices – see Program Information Sheets on page 15.</li> <li>• Fifth week of Children's and Adult's programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1 April, 2012 Palm Sunday</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use selected <b>Worship components for Lent 6/ Palm Sunday</b> – accompanying PowerPoint provided.</li> <li>• Include <b>prayer points</b> in notices – see Program Area on page 16.</li> <li>• Remind people that the Lent Event payment slip and donation envelope are part of the Lent Event brochure.</li> <li>• Give '<b>Announcement D</b>' at Sunday Services to remind participants to bring in donations for the Lent Event closure service on nominated date – see pg 10.</li> <li>• Include '<b>Community Notice 4</b>' in community notices re collection of donations – see pg 8.</li> <li>• Final week of Children's and Adult's programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8 April, 2012 Easter Sunday</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include '<b>Community Notice 4</b>' in notices re collection of donations – see pg 8.</li> <li>• Give '<b>Announcement D</b>' at Sunday Services to remind participants to bring in donations for the Lent Event closure service on nominated date – see pg 10.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Your nominated date Suggest 15 or 22 April, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lent Event <b>Closing Liturgy</b> during worship – accompanying PowerPoint provided.</li> <li>• Collect donations during service.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6 May, 2012</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last date for group donations to be received by Coordinator. Late individual donations should be sent direct to Lent Event, PO Box A2266, Sydney South, NSW 1235.</li> </ul>

# Community Notices

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## Community Notice 1 for Sunday 5 February, 2012

Today in our Service you'll hear about Lent Event, which begins on Ash Wednesday, 22 February. Lent Event provides us with an opportunity to sharpen our vision by reflecting on our spiritual journey and learning about the Development Projects of the Uniting Church International Relief and Development Agency, UnitingWorld.

In 2010, more than 11 million people were affected by drought, conflict and severe food shortages in the Horn of Africa. Images of malnourished children provoked an immediate response from the government and public alike. But the problem of drought and famine is not a new one, and it's the commitment to ongoing development work that really makes the difference. In Muzurabani, through UnitingWorld's partner the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, Kali has been trained to build and maintain her family's water tank. Equipping communities with the skills to construct their own safe water sources is an important part of the long term process of building sustainable communities.

"Without the tank I would walk many hours for water," Kali says. "Not so many of the children get dysentery now."

Take home a Lent Event brochure this week and keep Muzuranbani in mind as you shower.

## Community Notice 2 for Sunday 12 February, 2012

A new report issued by Investment Firm Credit Suisse ranks Australians amongst the wealthiest individuals in the world. The average Australian is worth almost four times as much as the average American, and in terms of life expectancy, income and education, only Norway ranks higher than Australia on the United Nations Human Development Index. While life is certainly a struggle for some, this shows that there can be quite a large gap between perception and reality, with many Australians feeling that we are falling behind in the economic race and worried about changes to our lifestyle.

Perhaps it's all just a matter of relativity. When more than 2.7 billion people on this planet live on less than \$2 a day, the rest of us have much to be grateful for. One expression of that gratitude is generosity. How generous will we be with our time, our possessions and our money this Lent? What will we choose to give up in support of income generating projects in West Papua, Bali or Timor Leste? The provision of fishing nets for farmers in West Papua- a modest investment – nets an income for a family that transforms their existence – access

to medical supplies, school for the children, a sustainable business and way of life.

Lent Event begins on Ash Wednesday, 22 February. Consider how you'll invest your time, thought and possessions over this period. If you haven't already done so, get your copy of the Lent Event Journey Guide 'This One Life' to embark on the six part Bible study and daily prayers and reflection.

## Community Notice 3 for Sunday 19 February, 2012

Solidarity. It's a word with a powerful ring to it. When we choose to go without material items during Lent, we choose to stand beside people who cannot exercise that choice. People like Anik, who is a member of the Untouchable class in Amritsar, India. Untouchables, even today, are considered impure, less than human. They are tainted simply by their birth, and are routinely excluded from schools, temples and the workplace. Most of India's unemployed and illiterate come from the Untouchable (Dalit) class. They have little choice in the matter.

UnitingWorld's Education Program for Disadvantaged Children in Amritsar allows Anik to send her two children to school, where they'll receive education and a nutritious snack. In the village, literacy stands at 40%. As a result of the program, children will have the choice to attend further study, find employment and break the cycle of poverty that enslaves their families.

Lent Event begins on Wednesday. When you reach for the item you've chosen to give up, remember that you are exercising a choice that many others don't enjoy. In going without, you stand in solidarity with the majority of the world's population.

## Community Notice 4 for Sunday 1 April & 8 April, 2012

Thank you for your participation in Lent Event. Every dollar you have saved will help fund transformational development projects through UnitingWorld. Please bring your donations on (INSERT DATE) and be part of our Lent Event closure service. If you need another donation envelope please contact (INSERT COORDINATOR'S NAME). If you will not be here for the closure service, please remember to bring in your contribution ASAP. The sooner we send our money in, the sooner the world's extreme poor will be closer to living a life of dignity with clean water, enough food, education, viable employment and good health.

# Announcements



## Announcement A for Sunday 5 February, 2012

Politicians today are always talking about the problem of the twenty four hour news-cycle. It's a world where a major policy can be announced, analysed and dismissed online and by Twitter critics while politicians are still coming down from the podium. In this climate, where we are constantly being pushed from one news story to the next, it's easy to see why so many of us have such short attention spans.

But this climate also allows those of us who have a different vision to really shine. We need people with a commitment to finding answers to long-term challenges around the world, like building sustainable futures for people affected by climate-change related drought. And we need people who have the spiritual depth to show real compassion and commitment to those who slide out of the headlines once the crisis has passed.

In a few weeks, as a congregation we'll be taking part in Lent Event- a movement that helps to eliminate global poverty by challenging those of us who live in developed countries to re-evaluate our priorities. We are responding to God's call to share the gifts of God so that everyone is able to live a life of dignity: clean water, enough food, education, viable employment and good health.

Some of us have participated in Lent Event before, but for those of us who haven't, here's a quick explanation of how it works:

Within the Christian calendar, Lent is a time of reflection and prayer- a focused opportunity for Christians to grow in faith. Based on Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness, Christians have often undergone a time of fasting or abstinence during Lent. However Lent is not a time of penance, but a time to focus on our spiritual life, and we are invited to participate in mission as an expression of mercy and grace.

During the 40 days of Lent, Lent Event invites us to give up items from our daily life and put aside the money we have saved. At the same time, throughout the Lent period we nourish our spiritual journey through education, worship and prayer. As a congregation we'll be starting a series of Bible Studies, 'This One Life'. Over the next few weeks, we'll spend some time together learning about the development projects of the International Relief and Development Agency of the Uniting Church, UnitingWorld. These projects include education and vocational training, economic empowerment, peacemaking, nutrition, health care, water and sanitation.

These are long term projects, developed in partnership with Churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. They allow us to keep our attention focused on the needs and potential of our brothers and sisters around the globe, long after the media spotlight passes.

This year Lent Event begins on Ash Wednesday, 22 February. Please spend some time this week, considering what you might be able to give up for Lent- coffee, chocolate, alcohol, morning tea... you're only limited by your imagination. Our participation in Lent Event will help us focus on a vision of a world where all experience God's fullness of life.

Check out the DVD to find out more, or contact our coordinator

## Announcement B for Sunday 12 February, 2012

Harmony Day will soon be celebrated around Australia, with people of all faiths and cultures sitting down to share meals together in a bid to discover the things that unify rather than divide us as a nation. All around the country, simple meals and conversations will reveal everything we have in common, in spite of all the stereotypes that tell us otherwise! In Mindanao, an area of the Philippines where conflict has claimed more than 60,000 lives over the last 10 years, there's a similar dynamic at work in UnitingWorld's Young Ambassadors for Peace (YAP) workshops.

Yogi, a young man from the Subanen tribal group, explains that for decades his people have been denied access to their traditional lands, and have been unable to make a living through fishing or farming. Christians, Muslims and the Subanen exist uneasily in Mindanao, and many are poor because of the conflict. But recent YAP workshops are breaking down the stereotypes and helping the community of Josefina in Mindanao to map out a way forward.

"As a result of the workshop we have been given a plot of land to develop for ourselves," says Yogi. "We can grow our own food. This will make a huge difference to us."

Lent Event challenges us not only to give up an item or two from our daily lifestyle, "living more simply so that others may simply live." It encourages us to rethink- and give up- our prejudices and stereotypes. The Mindanao Development Project is only possible because Muslims, Christians and indigenous Subanen were prepared to allow their thinking to be transformed by participating in the YAP Workshop.

## **Announcement C for Sunday 19 February, 2012**

"Lent Event is about to begin. For those who choose to join this profound movement it is a special time of lifestyle change, personal challenge and spiritual exploration. By forgoing an item for the forty days of Lent and donating the savings to life-changing projects in developing countries, you are choosing to help transform the lives of those living in poverty.

To deepen our Lent Event engagement, we are encouraged to participate in education, reflection and prayer throughout Lent. This year's Lent Event Bible study, 'This One Life', guides participants as they journey with Jesus through Lent. Along the way, they are encouraged to enter into conversation with a small group and conversation with God through prayer and engagement with scripture. The studies purpose is to help participants find a new or deepened relationship with God and with God's people living in poverty."

(NB. For communities that have participated in Lent Event before: "If you have participated in Lent Event before, we encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might further your engagement with your Lenten journey by challenging yourself to forgo a new or more challenging aspect of your everyday lifestyle. Many find that they look forward to this enriching and challenging experience year in and year out, in order to restore focus and discipline to their spiritual journey. We call this 'Lent for Life!'"

"Some find it easier to decide what to give up when they hear from others what they have decided to forgo. Would anyone like to share what you plan to give up?" (allow responses, perhaps share your own decision if you are comfortable)

Suggestions if ideas are not flowing: newspaper, coffee, snack foods, take away meals, dining out, driving or catching public transport to work (walk or bike instead), junk food, alcohol, meat, magazines, discretionary spending or a 24 hour fast.

"Lent starts on Wednesday."

(NB. If your group is running the commencement liturgy on the same day as this announcement:

"We will be celebrating the Lent Event commencement liturgy later in the service today.")

## **Announcement D for Sunday 1 April & 8 April, 2012**

"On behalf of the many people living in extreme poverty who will benefit from your sacrifice, thank you for your participation in Lent Event. Every dollar you have saved will help fund transformational development projects. We hope that you have found your Lenten journey to be challenging and spiritually enriching.

Please bring your donations on (insert date) and be part of our Lent Event closure service. If you need another donation envelope, please contact (insert coordinator's name). If you will not be here for the closure service, please remember to bring in your contribution."



# PROGRAM AREAS for 2012



## Nutrition

### The Wider Picture

During the Millennium Summit in 2000, Australia along with other members of the United Nations, made a commitment to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. This goal was recognition by the developed world of the injustice experienced by 1.2 billion people in the world suffering from hunger and malnutrition<sup>2</sup>. It also recognised that people in developing nations are the segment of the population most at risk during food shortages and famines.

### The Issue

In developing countries, gaining access to adequate nutrition can be difficult for numerous reasons including:

- Often 70% or more of the population lives in rural areas where land ownership is rarely available.
- Poor quality land and changing climate conditions are problems facing many poor farmers. The timing and length of growing seasons are changing causing food shortage and loss of income because overall produce is falling.
- Factors such as increasing world oil prices, population expansion, climate change, loss of agricultural land to development and surging consumer demand in China and India are pushing up the price of grain and other basic agricultural needs making them unaffordable for many farmers and consumers

For people who do not receive adequate nutrition, ill health and a reduced life expectancy are real risks. Children will not develop fully without sufficient nutritious food. They are likely to be less able physically and intellectually because of poor nutrition, diminishing their future prospects.

### The Solution

Working closely with our international church partners and listening to the needs of the people in local communities, UnitingWorld is involved in finding practical solutions to ensure people can access their right to adequate nutrition.

One such approach is to invest in agricultural development that builds the capacity of smallholder farmers and landless people. Through the provision of essential equipment, supplies and training, farmers can create sustainable livelihoods that ensure food security for their communities.

Another approach of UnitingWorld is to provide essential daily nutrition as part of a holistic approach to supporting the young and vulnerable. This ensures that children grow up to be strong and healthy and able to embrace the educational opportunities being offered to them through UnitingWorld.

### Project in focus:

#### Community Development – Sarenga I India Church of North India

The project provides support to school children in ten villages in the Sarenga region to reduce the school dropout rate and increase literacy. The holistic support offered to the children at the education centre includes a nutrition program, study materials, uniforms and recreational outlets to help to ensure children can receive maximum benefit from their education. The project provides a community health and sanitation program. Additionally, a supply of safe drinking water for villages is being provided where none currently exists.

### Other Nutrition Projects in 2012:

- Phillipines, Baguio City – Food security / United Church of Christ, Phillipines
- India, Amritsar – Disadvantaged Children / Church of North India

### Prayer Points

- Pray for people who are unable to obtain the basic sustenance needed for a healthy life and particularly for those communities experiencing food shortages due to famine and natural disasters.
- Pray for the impact of UnitingWorld's holistic projects that include access to adequate nutrition as a foundation for good development.
- Pray that our Australian church communities will work to ensure all God's people share in God's provision for all creation.
- Pray that God will grant guidance to world leaders and that they will respond to the call to do justice without fear of the financial implications.

2 Statistic from <http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm>



## Education and Vocational Training

### The Wider Picture

The UNESCO 2010 Education for All Global Monitoring Report indicates that developing countries are falling behind the Millennium Development Goal for all children to receive a primary education by 2015. With 72 million children still out of school, a combination of slower economic growth, rising poverty and budget pressures could erode the prospects of achieving this goal<sup>3</sup>.

### The issue

Restricted access to the fundamental human right to education contributes to the ongoing cycle of poverty which entraps so many.

Limited access to education occurs for reasons such as:

- Many people who are economically poor live in rural communities and the nearest school may be too far away to attend.
- Children of parents who are very poor may need to assist their parents with farming or small businesses, preventing them from going to school.
- Students may be excluded from education on the basis of race, ethnicity or gender.
- Families are not able to afford school fees, books or uniforms, prohibiting children from attending school.
- Poor communities often speak a different local language to the one used in schools meaning children often struggle to understand the curriculum and gain no additional reinforcement or support from their families

Without an education, access to employment and other livelihood opportunities are restricted. This in turn restricts access to health care, nutritious diet and education prospects for future generations. People with limited education are also less aware of their rights and are unable to access the services and resources needed for their well-being.

### The solution

UnitingWorld is working closely with church partners to provide education and vocational training opportunities that enable local communities to build a more viable future by:

- establishing primary schools in rural areas where schools do not exist.
- providing financial assistance to cover the costs of transport, fees and accommodation so that students can attend existing schools.
- delivering vocational training to develop practical skills such as carpentry, sewing, cooking, driving and electronics.
- providing tutoring to children who need extra language support to cope at school.

Some projects focus on literacy skills, enabling community members to access rights and services and increase participation in community decision making.

### Project in focus:

#### **Mwandi, Zambia – Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) United Church of Zambia**

Achieving universal primary education and securing the well-being of children is crucial to the future of communities. In Mwandi, Zambia, the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Centre (OVC) provides nutritional, educational, social and spiritual support for 1300 children. The project covers the education costs such as school fees, uniform, stationery and boarding costs to enable over 700 OVC children to receive a primary education, more than 100 youth to attend senior secondary school and a further 70 students to undertake tertiary studies. Sewing and carpentry centres have also been established at the OVC Centre to teach essential vocational skills to young people with a view to securing them a livelihood for their future.

### Other Education and Vocational Training

#### Projects in 2012:

- Sarenga, India – Community Development –/ Church of North India
- Jordan , Zambia – Open Community Schools/ United Church of Zambia
- Amritsar, India – Education for Disadvantaged Children / Church of North India
- Tonga – Early Childhood / Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

### Prayer Points

- Pray for marginalised communities around the world for whom education is unavailable or who are being denied the fundamental right to education.
- Pray that children connected with UnitingWorld's education projects will receive the joy and opportunities that come with receiving an education.
- Pray for Australian church communities' involvement in education projects so that a growing number of children will escape poverty.
- Pray that the children being educated may become community leaders who ensure that future generations also receive their fundamental right to education.

3 <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/GMR/pdf/gmr2010/gmr2010-pr-short.pdf>



## Economic Empowerment

### The Wider Picture

In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly recognised “that people living in poverty are innately capable of working their way out of poverty with dignity, and can demonstrate creative potentials to improve their situation when an enabling environment and the right opportunities exist.”<sup>4</sup> Economic empowerment and participation are recognized as a necessary step if a country is to overcome the obstacles associated with poverty and development.

### The issue

Many people who are economically poor live in rural communities and have little or no access to employment or opportunities to generate a livelihood. Prospects for economic stability are few as:

- The vast majority of people in developing countries are engaged in agricultural initiatives that are susceptible to fluctuating climatic and environmental problems.
- People who are poor often do not have access to loans to establish and build commercial enterprises. Where banking services are available, banks almost always require some form of collateral as security, making loans beyond reach.
- Those who are self-employed live day to day to survive. They do not earn enough income to put aside savings for the hard times that inevitably come. Frequently, they also lack access to safe, appropriate opportunities to save their money.

Insufficient income due to lack of employment leads to people being denied adequate nutrition and access to education, health care and decent housing.

### The solution

Economic empowerment programs often give people skills, resources and access to services that can have a transformational impact on the lives of whole communities.

UnitingWorld is working with partner organisations to implement other economic develop strategies such as whole community livelihood initiatives that empower local people to work together to produce sustaining income streams for the community to use.

One highly successful economic empowerment scheme is micro finance – the provision of small, low interest loans that people can use to establish income generating projects. In urban areas, this often involves setting up or expanding a small shop or producing clothing or goods for sale. In rural areas, livestock fattening and sustainable agricultural projects aim to build the capacity of farming communities. Livestock and produce can be sold at markets, and the money then used to access vital services such as health care and education. After four to five successive loans, the majority of clients become self-sufficient and are able to continue to build their businesses independently, thus breaking the cycle of poverty.

### Project in focus:

#### Rural Bali, Indonesia – Women’s Empowerment Project MBM Foundation, Protestant Christian Church in Bali

By partnering with the indigenous MBM Foundation, UnitingWorld is supporting the economic and social empowerment of women in rural Bali. The Village Skills pilot project focuses on key areas such as a microfinance training and a small loan scheme; livelihood development such as cow fattening; training for village leaders to build local community capacity, participation and evaluation processes as well as improved community health services. The goal is to extend the program to ten rural villages, where opportunities can be made available to the community of 58,000 people. Many of the direct beneficiaries will be women.

### Other Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Projects in 2012:

- Papua New Guinea – Women’s Micro Finance / United Church in PNG
- Microfinance – Betun | West Timor (Indonesia) / Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (TLM)
- West Papua, Indonesia – Livelihood / GKI – Tanah Papua, Evangelical Christian Church in the land of Papua
- Solomon Islands – Women’s Livelihood / United Church in the Solomon Islands<sup>1</sup>

### Prayer Points

- Pray for families living on less than \$2 (US) per day whose income is insufficient to meet their families’ most basic needs.
- Pray for Australian church communities to support their brothers and sisters in Christ in Bali resulting in sustainable incomes for families and communities.
- Pray for UnitingWorld’s economic empowerment projects to prosper helping many families and communities to escape the cycle of poverty.
- Pray that other creative initiatives may be forthcoming to resource new ventures for families excluded from their fundamental right to earn sustainable incomes.





## Health Care

### The Wider Picture

Throughout the world, poor and vulnerable people have less access to health-care, are more likely to become sick, suffer from more severe illness and die earlier than people who are more privileged. At the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, 191 countries set themselves the task of tackling poverty and ill-health by 2015. Three of the eight goals agreed to – cutting child deaths, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases – are directly related to health.

### The Issue

In developing countries, gaining access to health care can be difficult for a number of reasons including:

- In rural areas, health care simply may not exist, or may require travelling long distances to urban centres to gain treatment.
- Often even basic health care can be extremely expensive, meaning that only a small number of people are able to afford it.
- Poor nutrition can leave already vulnerable people – such as children and the elderly – further at risk of health problems.
- Even hospitals in urban centres may have insufficient resources or trained medical professionals to treat certain conditions or perform more complex surgeries.

People suffering sickness are often unable to work, earn an income and support their families. Sickness for the family breadwinner can plunge a whole family into poverty with all the consequences that can have, especially on children.

### The Solution

By working through our international church partners and understanding the issues faced by local communities, UnitingWorld is involved in addressing major health issues and working to ensure people can access their right to basic health care.

In cases where health facilities do exist, UnitingWorld works to increase the capacity of existing local services. A key objective is ensuring the building up of local expertise and resources so that the benefits are lasting and transferable to other regions. Another focus is on preventative strategies to avoid disease and health problems, through strategies such as HIV/AIDS education, prenatal care and promoting sanitation practices.

In more remote areas where health services are inaccessible, such as rural and small island communities, mobile health clinics are undertaken by travelling health teams made up of local and visiting health professionals. These clinics not only provide treatment of common medical conditions, but also take a preventative approach to medical problems through immunisation, education on healthcare, sanitation and avoiding serious disease.



### Project in focus:

#### Zimbabwe – HIV/AIDS Education Methodist Church of Zimbabwe

Gutsa-Warambwa lies in the Mashonaland Central Province of Zimbabwe. The area has experienced economic depression, political instability and endured HIV/AIDS and cholera epidemics. This project addresses the impact of HIV/AIDS by teaching vocational skills that can be used to generate income to support the 300 HIV/AIDS orphans who have been integrated into the community enabling the provision of access in to health care, education and essential goods for the orphans.

This project incorporates health awareness training for the whole community covering topics that include HIV/AIDS, water-borne diseases and good hygiene and sanitation practices.

### Other Healthcare Projects in 2012:

- Fiji – Eye Care Initiative/ Methodist Church in Fiji & Rotuma
- Vanuatu – Eye Care Initiative/ Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu
- Timor-Leste - Health Clinics / Protestant Church in Timor-Leste
- Solomon Islands – Helena Goldie Hospital & Mobile Clinics/ United Church in Solomon Islands

### Prayer Points

- Pray that sufferers of HIV/ AIDS and their families are able to access the medicine and support they greatly need.
- Give thanks for the progress being made in the combat of malaria, tuberculosis and other preventable diseases.
- Pray for medical professionals and workers in partner communities caring for the sick and needy people in their midst.
- Pray that we who live in developed countries may not be overwhelmed by the task ahead of us and instead concentrate on God's call to reach out in love to care for the sick and suffering people of our broken world.



## Water and Sanitation

### The Wider Picture

According to the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR)<sup>5</sup>, problems of poverty are inextricably linked with those of water - its availability, its proximity, its quantity and its quality. Improving the access of water has the potential to make a major contribution towards poverty eradication.

### The issue

Clean water and adequate sanitation facilities are essential for the wellbeing and development of communities. Lack of clean water and essential sanitation has extensive implications for whole communities:

- Water sources can be situated several hours walk away from a community, leaving women and children with the onerous task of collecting water each day, excluding them from other activities like earning an income, food production and education.
- Where water is contaminated, illness and disease can decimate communities. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to water-borne diseases.
- Inadequate sanitation facilities can also cause disease that detrimentally impacts the health of whole communities.

Access to a safe and reliable source of water and adequate sanitation facilities are foundational factors essential in overcoming poverty.

### The solution

By creating a reliable source of clean water within communities, women have more time to spend on procuring a livelihood for their families and children have time to attend school. Water that is free from disease means that these communities enjoy largely improved standards of health that translate to longer life expectancy and increased standards of living.

UnitingWorld is working closely with church partners to identify communities in need of an improved water source and sanitation. Projects focus on increasing the local capacity to build appropriate and sustainable water and sanitation facilities.

Community education programs are teaching members about the importance of clean water and hygiene. "Water committees" coordinate the maintenance of water and sanitation systems to ensure that water systems remain in good working condition over time.

### Project in focus:

#### Milne Bay PNG – Rural Village Water United Church of PNG

Only 32% of the population in the Milne Bay region in PNG has access to an 'improved' water supply. Poor health hinders people's livelihood opportunities with water borne diseases widespread. Water collecting remains largely the responsibility of women and children who walk long distances to collect water. Since 2000, the Water and Sanitation Program has enabled remote communities to access clean water and reliable sanitation facilities. Teams go from village to village to assess the water needs, then design and install appropriate water collection systems. Workshops are also provided to raise awareness of hygiene, sanitation and health.

### Other Water and Sanitation Projects in 2012:

- Muzarabani, Zimbabwe – Water Harvesting / Methodist Church of Zimbabwe

### Prayer Points

- Pray for our overseas neighbours who are unable to access their fundamental right to clean water.
- Pray for our Australian church communities to commit to partnering with our neighbours to gain access to clean water.
- Pray that governments of wealthy countries such as Australia will recognise the fundamental right to clean water and commit to long term programs that deliver clean water to neighbouring countries such as PNG and Timor-Leste.
- Pray for the success of UnitingWorld's water and sanitation programs to ensure that our partners can enjoy God's gift of clean water.





## PEACEMAKING

### The Wider Picture

The United Nations Charter sets forth that “everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Yet shockingly, millions of people worldwide lose their lives through violence every year. This human tragedy is then compounded by the economic effects that violence causes, leading to thousands of victims experiencing the effects of poverty.

### The issue

Many communities throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific live in situations of violence and conflict that in many cases span generations.

There are many causes of violence within and between communities such as politically motivated tension and differences arising between ethnic and religious groups within regions.

Ongoing violence and conflict has devastating effects on individuals, families and communities as:

- the death of community members affects the ability to generate income.
- significant damage to property or assets such as schools and hospitals thereby restricts community services.
- deaths often perpetuate further violence and spiraling conflict.
- communities experiencing conflict often do not work together towards common development goals.

For people living in poverty, the absence of peace within and between communities also restricts sustainable development.

### The solution

UnitingWorld’s Young Ambassadors for Peace (YAP) programs works to build a culture of peace by equipping young people and community leaders from local communities as peacemakers.

Each YAP workshop is a live-in, experiential process that enables participants to investigate and understand sources of conflict and develop a plan to help stem the conflict in their local communities. Each workshop can involve dozens of people, and while it lasts for just over one week, the outcomes are life changing.

The peacemaking programs of UnitingWorld are planting the seeds of peace in some of the regions of greatest conflict in the world, through local in-country coordinators working to establish and grow this vital work in the future.

### Project in focus:

#### Ambon, Indonesia – Young Ambassadors for Peace (YAP)

Between 1999 - 2003 in Ambon, Indonesia, Muslim and Christian communities were torn apart by prejudice, violence and killings. Young Ambassadors for Peace (YAP) has played a vital role in restoring peace through week-long reconciliation workshops, mentoring programs and community education. Recently, tension has resurfaced. In response, YAP has intensified its work, meeting with key leaders and conducting workshops to bring communities together and restore relationships.

#### Other Peacemaking Centres in 2012:

- Tari, PNG
- MaeSot, Burma
- Mindanao, Philippines
- Bougainville PNG
- Honiara, Solomon Islands

### Prayer Points

- Pray that people everywhere recognise the devastation caused by violence and commit themselves to working towards long-term peace, locally and internationally.
- Pray that our church communities in Australia will support Young Ambassadors for Peace (and UnitingWorld) in the essential work they do.
- Pray that through forums conducted by YAP, communities can build peaceful relationships that reflect Christ’s love.

