



2017 Christmas Appeal

“GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL”



“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour.’”

Luke 2:8–11

CJI VISION AND MISSION

The **VISION** of Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) is a world of peace, justice and integrity of creation, transformed through active commitment and finding God in all things.

The **MISSION** of CJI is to love and to serve by working with people struggling for social justice and dignity in the world. Together with Jesuit and other partners, CJI responds in solidarity, through awareness-raising and advocacy in Canada and supporting partnerships in the Global South.

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“GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL”

A goatherd and his flock in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia.

At Canadian Jesuits International, we believe that “good news for all” includes, in a very special way, good news for poor and marginalized people – people like the shepherds, who earned a meagre livelihood in difficult conditions and were not highly regarded by society.

Jesus was poor and marginalized too. With no room for his family at the inn, he was born in a stable. With danger in Bethlehem from King Herod, his family fled to Egypt. Later, in his public ministry, he was practically homeless. He told one person who wanted to follow him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Mt 8:20).

Yet Jesus did have a livelihood. He probably worked first as a carpenter with his father Joseph and later he was an itinerant teacher and healer with numerous disciples. People likely gave him gifts to carry on his work, and some of the women who followed him also provided him with **livelihood support** (Mk 15:40–41).

Like Jesus, millions of poor and marginalized people today need livelihood support, that is the means to secure the necessities of life – food, water, shelter, education, skills training, employment. **Livelihood support is GOOD NEWS FOR ALL!**

Please join CJI this Christmas to help bring the GREAT JOY of livelihood support to others.

First Sunday of Advent 3 December

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news.” — Is 52:7

COLOMBIA: Livelihood support for internally displaced people

Magdalena Medio is a long, fertile valley in the Andean mountains of Colombia. It is one of four regions in Colombia where the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) accompanies some of the 7 million people who have been forcibly displaced by five decades of armed conflict. Late in 2016, a peace agreement was signed with the largest armed group and a process of disarmament and reintegration began. In the midst of this hopeful yet fragile process, livelihood support for displaced civilians continues to be an urgent need. CJI supports the work of JRS in Magdalena Medio, which includes small production initiatives, skills training, community gardens for increased food security and environmental protection.

Reviewing production techniques in the village of Bella Doris, Colombia



Cindy Jimenez/JRS

Second Sunday of Advent 10 December

“He went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God.” — Mt 8:1

INDIA: Livelihood justice for marginalized communities

In 12 states across India, a movement of dalits, adivasi (ethnic minorities), women and the urban poor promotes livelihood justice for thousands of marginalized people through a network called *Lok Manch* (People’s Forum). Numerous Jesuit organizations play a key role in Lok Manch, building leadership capacity, engaging in policy interventions, educating citizens about their rights and advocating with them. This enhances quality of life and livelihood prospects for many families and minority communities. CJI supports the livelihood initiatives of Lok Manch.

Weaving provides livelihoods for some former tea estate workers in Darjeeling, India.



J. Caffiso/CJI



Andrew Ash/JRS

Displaced South Sudanese men work on building a new home in Gendrassa refugee camp, Maban, South Sudan.



Salatah Ibareed/JRS

School-age children in Aleppo, Syria, need education for their future livelihoods.

Third Sunday of Advent 17 December

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor ... to let the oppressed go free.” — Lk 4:18

SOUTH SUDAN: Livelihood assistance for civil war victims

In South Sudan, where a civil war is displacing millions of people and causing widespread hunger, the Jesuit Eastern Africa Province is providing livelihood support to hundreds of people, especially in areas around its schools and in the vicinity of refugee camps. Assistance for South Sudanese who have fled to Kenya is also being provided. CJI helps to support the feeding programs, and this complements the livelihood support of other organizations in initiatives such as seed distribution, agricultural training, psychosocial outreach and education.

Fourth Sunday of Advent 24 December

“They went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.” — Mk 16:20

SYRIA: Livelihood essentials for internally displaced children

Meeting the physical, psychosocial and educational needs of internally displaced civilians in Syria continues to be an enormous challenge. A prolonged civil war with no end in sight makes it easy to forget the terrible trauma and urgent livelihood requirements that millions of Syrians face every day. The Jesuit Refugee Service in Aleppo, Homs, Kafroun and other centres is focusing on psychosocial support and education for children, in order that they may one day have livelihoods of their own when there is peace. Donations made through CJI for the education of displaced Syrian children are tangible signs of good news.