

# AUTUMN

2019 Newsletter



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# A TIME FOR Everything

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” –ECCLESIASTES 3:1*

**A**s the seasons change we are reminded about what an awesome God we have - He created all things to work perfectly together. There is a time for everything; the Lord tells us that in Ecclesiastes. The board of CRWRF recognizes that this is a time when we need to work together with our supporting churches, delegates and deaconries to ensure that we are using our donations in the best way to support the many needs across the globe. Not only are we embarking on a new season but we are also looking at new opportunities and partnerships, and we are looking forward to our upcoming strategic planning process.

## A Time to Reflect

CRWRF started in 1965, for the purpose of helping relieve hunger and needs in the name of Jesus Christ. All these years later the Fund continues to be a bridge for individuals and churches as they act on their conviction that ‘all gifts are bestowed by God and entrusted to us on the condition that they be distributed for our neighbor’s benefit’ (from *Calvin’s Institutes* III, 7,V). Through the years we have been abundantly blessed with ever-increasing donations and volunteers to support the work of CRWRF, Faithworks, and more recently BOMA (Board of Mission Aid, Smithville).

In 2002 CRWRF worked with churches to develop a General Policy to guide CRWRF decisions. The existing version needs to be reviewed and renewed. Over the winter the Board will be soliciting input from churches and individuals as to what is working well and should continue, and what should be changed or added to our work. The goal is to receive approval for an updated General Policy at the 2020 AGM that will guide the work of CRWRF well beyond its 55th year.



SYRIAN FAMILY



RECESS IN TIMOR



RECESS IN KENYA



STUDYING HARD IN KENYA

## A Time for Education

Most of us could not even picture what it might be like for our children to never go to school or read a book. Yet there are millions of children around the world who are illiterate; who have never had access to school or if they have, for just a short time. Their parents may not have the money to send them to school, or maybe at a young age they are already orphans and have been forced to care for themselves, scrounging just to find food and water, leaving no time for school. Worse still, some are just abandoned by their families because they cost too much. Can this really be happening in the twenty-first century?

CRWRF sponsors three homes in Kenya: Achego, Tumaini and Mufu. Each home takes in children who have been abused or have no one to take care of them. Sometimes these are short-term situations; other times these children will be there until they complete elementary school. When children leave these homes, they continue to have needs;

one of those needs is education. While both primary and secondary school are considered compulsory, the government only subsidizes a portion of the cost. And for many of the very poor children, that portion to be paid by the family or guardian is well beyond their means.

At the end of primary school, each child is required to write the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Exam, which will determine which category of secondary school they join. The children often work very hard in school in an effort to do well on this exam, but sadly, hard work is not enough. Those who score 400-500 marks are supposed to attend National School, but this would be very expensive. Those who score between 300-400 are to attend Extra County School, a slightly cheaper option. And those who score between 200-300 are to attend County School. The fees (at all levels) are often unattainable for families.

## A Time to Pray

CRWRF asks that you pray for the board as they embark on the update of the General Policy, and that many churches and individuals will take the time to provide their comments and suggestions.

While we have been blessed with a full slate of board members, many are new. We ask for prayers for these new members; that they may quickly become comfortable in their roles.

We also ask that you keep our partners in your prayers as well. Changes in leadership are happening at Khothatsong and Zisize. New Hope Orphanage is accepting new arrivals; pray for them as they settle into new surroundings and routines. Faithworks is preparing for many different short-term volunteer mission trips. The partnership in Syria is continuing to aid those displaced because of war.

## A Time to Give

Ecclesiastes 3 begins with the familiar passage "For everything there is a season, and a time for every activity under the heavens..." In Christian circles the Thanksgiving holiday often includes taking time for reflecting on the blessings we have received from our heavenly Father. And when we reflect on many passages in Scripture that speak of God's concern for the needy, we can also come to realize how he does that work through people like ourselves who use his blessings as faithful stewards, doing his work of caring for those in need. Times when we are blessed are also times for us to give.

## SO, WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

CRWRF would like to start up a **BURSARY FUND** to help these children in need, so they can stay in school and obtain an education. The goal is to raise sufficient funds to establish a bursary from which a portion can be used each year to send needy children to school. ***If we all work together, we can make a difference.***