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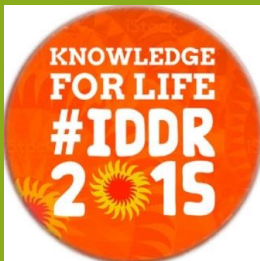
1 September—4 October Time for Creation

21- 27 September World Week of Prayer for Peace in Israel Palestine

1 October Fast for the Climate

11- 18 October Churches' Week of Action on Food

13 October - 6:30 pm Rod Oram Transitional Cathedral, Chch International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction



16 October World Food Day

29 October—5:30 pm Rod Oram St Matthew's in the City Auckland

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Christian World Service

is a member of the

ACT Alliance

(Action by Churches

Together)

CWS Update

SEPTEMBER 2015

Refugees: Help is at Hand



ACT Alliance members in Hungary distributed food and water to exhausted refugees along Hungary's M1 highway. Photo: ACT/K Tamas

In Europe ACT Alliance members are providing food, water, blankets, shelter, psycho social care and support to many refugees arriving by land or sea. They are assisting some of the people who have fled conflict in Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Libya and more. CWS partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees is providing relief assistance to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, made more urgent because of cuts in UN food parcels for refugee families. Falling UN funding is making it tougher for families pushing many more to risk the journey to Europe.

DSPR urgently needs more funds to help. DSPR Jordan distributed food and hygiene vouchers to 220 Iraqi families after finding 98% needed food, 85% lived in unhealthy conditions, 41% needed clothes and 21% of children were out of school. The nearest public schools are filled with Syrian children. In August they provided medical care to 1670 Iraqi refugees in three health days as well as Palestinian and Syrian families. Much more is needed. **If you can please donate to the Syria Appeal—\$75 will provide a hygiene pack, \$90 will provide food for a family of 6.**

CWS asks Government to do more for Refugees

CWS is supporting the campaign to Double the Quota of refugees coming into Aotearoa New Zealand plus increased funding for humanitarian aid in the region. The decision to resettle 600 Syrian refugees is the first step, but as a member of the Security Council, New Zealand needs to do more.

Christmas Appeal



A young Sudanese refugee walking to school with her chair on her shoulder is the focus for this year's Christmas Appeal. It has been a devastating year for many people and we are appealing for **help to rebuild lives**.

Worship resources will be available shortly.

The [order form](#) is available now. Resources will be posted to churches next week. Please help us make our 70th appeal count!

Anton Marcus Visit



CWS welcomed Anton Marcus patron of the Women's Centre and joint secretary of the Free Trade Zones and General Services Employees Union earlier this month. He spoke of their work with

workers to improve working and living conditions in Sri Lanka's Free Trade Zones as well as build understanding between Tamil and Sinhala workers during and after the bitter civil war. Anton noted roads and other infrastructure were being built but factory workers were not yet paid a living wage.

South Sudan: Prayer Request

When a fuel truck overturned 16 miles from Maridi town, locals rushed to collect some of the 31,000 litres of leaking petrol. A soldier disburshed the crowd with a gunshot that exploded the tanker and claimed 196 lives, including whole families. 175 people were hospitalised in Maridi and Juba with serious burns. Those involved or who lost family are traumatised. Coming after weeks of conflict in June, Maridi Service Agency's Wadalla Peter says there is no psychosocial help available. He has humbly requested "your prayers for the poor and innocent people of MARIDI who have undergone a lot of bad moments within a short time." One of the consequences of the June [conflict](#), was that people spent more time digging in their gardens so they are hoping for good crops.

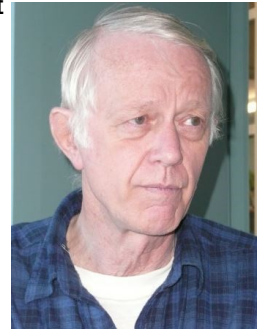


New Sustainable Agenda

On 25 September the global community will commit to a new Sustainable Development agenda. The UN will launch 17 new [goals](#) with 169 targets. The top goal is to eradicate extreme poverty. Every country will pledge to work towards the goals for the next 15 years. The [World Council of Churches](#) is supporting the multi-faith "Moral Imperative to End Extreme Poverty" and [Prayer for Everyone](#).

Remember: Edric Baker

CWS gives thanks for the life of Edric Baker, who died 2 September in Bangladesh. A medical doctor, Edric set up a hospital and medical services in Kailakuri by training local people to deliver the services. CWS helped fund this work for some years. We remember him for his deep compassion and commitment to a people-focused, interfaith community.



Climate Justice: We have Faith

Climate justice supporters are currently cycling through Southern Africa collecting signatures on an ACT Alliance initiated [climate justice](#) petition. If you support them, please [sign it](#).

Supporters' Council

CWS supporters (those who have made a financial contribution in the last two years) are invited to the annual Supporters' Council for a report back and to consider nominations to the CWS Board. The meeting is on **Saturday, 21 November at 10 am – 1pm** with lunch provided at St Andrew's on the Terrace (Conference rooms 1 and 2), 30 The Terrace, Wellington. Attendees are welcome to stay on to observe the AGM of the CWS Board. RSVP by November 13 to [Emma](#) at 03 3669 274 or cws@cws.org.nz

Rod Oram lectures

To mark 70 years since the first Christmas Appeal, prominent Anglican and journalist Rod Oram will speak at the **Transitional Cathedral, Christchurch 6:30pm October 13** and **St Matthew's in the City, Auckland 5:30pm October 29**. His topic: "How your Small Change makes Big Change". Please join us.

About Update

Update provides news, information and stories. Reproduction of items is encouraged with attribution to CWS. Current and back issues are [available](#).