

EXCHANGE

LEARNING TOGETHER

APPETIZER – “I am because we are.”

Ubuntu is the African philosophical sense to mean the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity.

“It means my humanity is caught up and is inextricably bound up in theirs. We belong in a bundle of life. A person is a person through other people. It is not: ‘I think therefore I am.’ It says rather: ‘I am human because I belong.’” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

DINE IN – Standing in Solidarity with our Family

Malawi – Brethren in Christ

Francis Kamoto is the Conference Secretary for the Malawi Brethren in Christ Church and the Senior Pastor for the Ndirande BIC Church. Francis was born in 1968, is married and has 3 children. The Meeting House financially supports the growth and development of our BIC family around the world. In Malawi, we have contributed towards the construction costs of the Maone Centre and the leadership development of its pastors.

Mozambique – Mennonite Central Committee

Jose Madeira is the President of the United Church of Christ – American Board Mission. José was born in 1976 and has 3 children. The ICUM-American Board and MCC have partnered together to support education in the rural district of Machanga through the Machanga Girls’ Centre, which provides a residence for girls attending secondary school. Pastor Madeira is the primary person that MCC coordinates with in the planning and implementation of community projects.

Zimbabwe – Mennonite Central Committee

Kudakwashe Chirambwi is a lecturer and founder of the Peace, Leadership and Conflict Transformation Program. He was born in 1968 and has 3 children. The peace work being done in Zimbabwe is training key community members in innovative conflict management methods and non-violent conflict handling mechanisms.

Malawi – World Vision

Henry Machemba manages a cluster of three World Vision programs (including Mposa, Chamba). Henry was born in 1976 and has 2 children. The Meeting House has been partnering with World Vision since 2011 and our community sponsors over 1,800 children in both Mposa and Chamba. Sponsorship funds are used to support children and families in these communities in the areas of education, health and nutrition, clean water, income generation support, and leadership development.

TAKE OUT – We Belong to One Another

Romans 12:4

“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.”

God is at the centre. We are all connected. We belong to one another.

AIDS CARE 2014

1. **Learn**
 - 14 Projects: themeetinghouse.com/mcc
2. **Pray**
 - Grab the country prayer cards at Info Tables
3. **Reflect**
 - Simplify, fast, meditate, feast
4. **Give**
 - Set a goal for yourself, family, home church
 - Invite friends, colleagues, classmates to join
 - Assemble kits and cards by March 23

Visit themeetinghouse.com/aidscares for a shopping list, FAQs, tips and tricks.

CONCLUSION

“...You have our trust, Father, and our faith, with our bodies and all that we are and possess. Father, help us to do with our bodies what we proclaim, that our faith be known to you and to others, and to be effective in all the world.”

-- Taken from *An African Prayer Book* by Desmond Tutu



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HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. When you think of the continent of Africa, what comes to mind? Why do you think that is?
2. If someone asked you where you feel like you fit in and belong, what would you say? Why?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Recap the message, what stood out to you the most and why?
4. As a group, come up with 2 or 3 insights gleaned from what the EXCHANGE team shared for each of the following:
 - a. The context of living in southern Africa vs. Canada.
 - b. The nature of MCC, World Vision, BIC's development work.
 - c. How to live in solidarity with our family around the world.
 - d. What we can specifically be praying for as a home church?
5. Read **Romans 12**.
 - a. If you were to summarize the key theme of the chapter, what would it be? Why?
 - b. Why do you think Paul connects the notion of giving our entire selves in worship to God (vs. 1-2) with the idea that we all have gifts to give (vs. 3-8) and specific instructions about how we are to treat others (vs. 9-16)? What are some connections you can make from the passage that help inform how we should live?
6. The TAKE OUT talks about four key areas to focus on in AIDS Care season. Discuss together your plan to engage in each of these areas between now and the collection date, March 23, 2014.
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HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

7. Discuss the way our culture's values of comfort and convenience can make it difficult to Learn / Pray / Reflect / Give?
8. What is one thing you can do this week to take steps forward in each of these four areas? What will you do specifically to hold each other accountable?
9. Spend time praying for our brothers and sisters in southern Africa.

QUOTES

"The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity."

-- George Bernard Shaw

"In a world of arrogance, we are for humility. In a world of individualism, we are for community. In a world of excess, we are for simplicity. In a world of power, we are for submission. In a world of triumphalism, we are for brokenness."

-- Shane Claiborne

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-- Apostle Paul