



Please copy or edit, and paste these notices into your weekly bulletin or newsletter. The images for each week are downloadable from <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/our-featured-partners/> or <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/for-churches/> (Week by Week partners).

Church Notices (Shorter)

When I was Hungry...

Aarav sits on the steps of his home on the outside his home in Suva. He proudly holds the lunch he will take to y the Vunalagi Book Club. For a hungry boy, the gift of lunch is love in action, a response to the words of Jesus, “When I was hungry...”

Recalling the words from the first Christmas Appeal in 1945, Christian World Service invites you to give what you can for “the millions in the east and the west, who are hungry, cold and homeless.” Let’s make sure families like Aarav’s struggling to feed their children during the pandemic, get the food they need to thrive.

Please make your donation in the envelope provided or donate on line at: <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/donate/>.



Church Notices (Longer)

When I was Hungry...

During Advent we prepare for Christmas celebrations and focus on God's love for the world. We think of family and friends, and reach out with love to our neighbours in need.

The Christmas Appeal is a 75 year tradition, a practical way of sharing what we can with people who have been denied the basics of life: water, food and justice. The need is great.

The 2020 Christmas Appeal will assist families who do not have enough food to feed their families. Already poor, they have seen their challenges multiply during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children like Aarav in Fiji can take lunch to school, because the Pacific Conference of Churches are sharing produce from their Food Bank in downtown Suva with the Vunalagi Book Club. Fiji has been hit hard by the loss of tourism. PCC is encouraging churches through the Pacific to use their resources to help and in response to Jesus' words in Matthew 25.

Every time PCC gives Aarav food, love goes around. With more love, justice can grow. It is a message they want to share.

This year's appeal links with the first Christmas Appeal made by Archbishop West Watson for the then National Council of Churches. December 1945 was a difficult time here in New Zealand but more so for Greece which benefited from that appeal. Those first donations were the beginning of something big, 75 years of expressing our love, in the words of that first appeal, "the millions in the east and the west, who are hungry, cold, and homeless". Through the Appeal your gifts have touched three generations of people, sharing food, warmth, shelter and justice. There is more to be done.

Your donation will support communities grow more food and improve family incomes. Our local partners will be able to tackle the hunger that is spreading fast in their communities.

You can read their stories at: <https://christmasappeal.org.nz/>.

Please make your gift in the envelope provided or [donate](#) on line. Help families struggling to feed their children especially in this pandemic. Thank you.



Advent One - Hope

29 November

Rasu puts the freshly picked leaves into the sack on her back. When it is full, she climbs down the steep hills so the manager can weigh what she has picked. The pay is not good and some days there is no work at all. She lives with her family in a cramped line house built decades ago. In Sri Lanka, women like [Rasu](#) have been picking tealeaves by hand for more than a century. There is no land to grow food or start the mushroom business of her dreams. This year's Christmas Appeal supports MONLAR to create a pathway of hope for small farmers and labourers, based on regenerative agriculture, sustainable livelihoods and care for the land.

Please support the [2020 Christmas Appeal](#) to give small farmers and plantation workers like Rasu the hope of a better income and a good garden.

Advent Two - Peace

6 December

In South Sudan, Jenty is hard at work in her new garden. When the conflict between the army and rebel fighters reached her home village, she fled. Thanks to the people of Maridi County, she and her five children have been made welcome. She rented an old house and borrowed an old digging tool from a kind neighbour. Maridi Service Agency has provided her better tools, seeds and some training. Her garden is flourishing. This year's Christmas Appeal supports MSA building peace through the work they do with displaced people, children, young people, the community and their country.

Please support the [2020 Christmas Appeal](#) so displaced mothers like Jenty can find peace, planting new gardens so their families will thrive.



Advent Three - Joy

13 December

In Haiti, Covid-19 is a new challenge for Mirande and Diana's families. Small farmers, they eat what they grow so when the island is hit by hurricanes, drought or disease, they worry about food. Thanks to donations of seeds and tools from ACT Alliance after the last hurricane, Mirande had a good harvest and the chance to put a little aside for the next emergency. The great joy in Diana's life is to go to school where she learns skills that are already helping her sell baskets at the local market. This year's Christmas Appeal supports ICKL's work with isolated rural communities on their priorities – schools, seeds and livelihood assistance.

Please support the [2020 Christmas Appeal](#) so rural families like Diana's can find joy in growing enough to eat, and protect themselves from Covid-19.

Advent Four - Love

20 December

In Fiji, Aarav feels the love from the Pacific Conference of Churches' Food Bank and the Vunalagi Book Club. Three days a week, he gets a healthy lunch made with food from their garden in downtown Suva. He and other children from the swampy Nanuku Settlement can now concentrate at school. PCC is spreading the Food Bank message through the region as part of their plans to meet the need for food, strengthen cultural traditions and prepare communities in case of disaster. This year's Christmas Appeal supports the work of PCC and other groups addressing the causes of hunger and people's right to food.

Please support the [2020 Christmas Appeal](#) so groups like PCC can share love, helping families eat well now and campaigning for a better future.

Christmas Day - Celebrating the birth of Christ

25 December

When young Syrian and Palestinian refugees heard about the damage after the explosion in Lebanon, they wanted to help. Within days, they were cleaning up the streets and comforting those who were traumatised. Months later, they are helping people in their homes while others are bringing food. When harm comes, love springs into action. The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees Lebanon is sharing their love with the refugees who are sharing it with their new neighbours. This year's Christmas Appeal supports DSPR Lebanon providing emergency assistance, education including food production, and a warm welcome to anyone who comes to their Centres.

Please support the [2020 Christmas Appeal](#) as we pray and work together for a world where no one goes hungry and justice prevails.

When I was hungry

Support the 2020 Christmas Appeal to give hungry families good food and the basics of a sustainable life.

 Christian World Service

donate now

christmasappeal.org.nz