

**Enclosed you will find all the information and sample materials you need to participate in CBM's *Solidarity Sunday* on Mother's Day, this May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Every Mother's Day\*, Canadian Baptists across the country come together for a very special reason: ***Solidarity Sunday***. This symbolic event enables us to stand in unity with our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

This year we are focusing on providing hope and healing to vulnerable families in Rwanda who struggle with such vital issues as poverty, HIV/AIDS and the legacy of the genocide. In the midst of these enormous challenges are dedicated pastors who need encouragement and training to continue reaching out to these men, women and children. Through ***Solidarity Sunday***, you can help better equip these remarkable men and women and help care for families in need.

Enclosed is material that will help your church show solidarity with our Rwandan brothers and sisters. For a more meaningful event, distribute Solidarity ribbons to everyone in your congregation. Encourage people to make a donation and to wear their ribbons for the entire day (or even month) as a symbol of their personal solidarity with Rwanda and other Canadian Baptists across the country.

We prayerfully ask that your church join us. Below are helpful suggestions. Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information and assistance at [communications@cbmin.org](mailto:communications@cbmin.org).

**This Mother's Day, share God's love. Say "Yes" to your neighbours in Rwanda.**

**\*Please note:** *In past years, some churches have indicated that they are unable to participate on Mother's Day due to other commitments. This does not mean that you cannot take part in Solidarity Sunday! You may participate on any Sunday throughout the year. Simply order your supplies and use them at a later date. Solidarity comes from the willingness to stand in unity with our global neighbours. Dates are not important.*

#### **How to use the materials provided:**

1. Review the information on *Solidarity Sunday* enclosed. Give the materials to your pastor and/or other relevant church members. Determine that as a church, you will join other Canadian Baptist churches across the country in marking *Solidarity Sunday*.
2. Determine which supplementary materials you will need to promote *Solidarity Sunday* in your church. **Return the enclosed order form to CBM by April 23 to get your materials in time.**
3. Start preparing the congregation for your special collection. Announce it in the week(s) leading up to May 9. Hang the CBM poster (sample enclosed) on the bulletin board or other strategic location. Have fun and be creative as you raise awareness about the issues faced by our Rwandan brothers and sisters.
4. On May 9, use the CBM inserts (sample enclosed) in your church bulletin.
5. Provide some background on *Solidarity Sunday* and the needs in Rwanda before taking the collection. **Photos and project info may be downloaded from [www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org) to help in your presentation.** Either during or after the collection, distribute the ribbons and ask the congregation to wear them for the entire day. Explain the symbolic meaning and ask that each participant offer a minimum of a toonie or two per ribbon.

6. Collect all donations and send a cheque or money order made payable to "Canadian Baptist Ministries." Clearly mark on it "Solidarity Sunday 2009". **Please send directly to CBM in the postage-paid envelope enclosed for your convenience.** Please do NOT send cash.