



CRAFT: Cards of Hope



Kids like Rene experienced incredible hope when things were difficult. Now it's your turn to design the front of a card with images of things that give you hope! It could be a picture of food, your family, friends, teacher, school, or your favorite book.

It can be a Christmas card, birthday card, thank-you card, Mother's Day card - any kind of card will work.

MATERIALS: Paper, pencils and erasers, crayons, markers, pencil crayons

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Provide each student with a piece of paper.
2. Fold it in half, or a quarter, then cut and design it however you choose.
3. Invite students to think about and draw what gives them hope.
4. Share with one another what they've chosen to draw, and lead a discussion on it.



FUNDRaiser: Fruity Challenge

Give your class an opportunity to share what they have learned with others, combining it with a special fundraising activity to raise support for one of the many CBM projects from any of the countries explored during this mission adventure!

Have teams of children compete to create the most original desert or dish incorporating one or more kinds of fruit, for an "Iron Chef"-style competition. Hold a fruit market one day at church and sell their items to raise funds. Host a potluck and invite student's families and friends!



PRAYER: God Always Provides For Us



Dear God, thank you for teaching us so much about food and what it means. Thank you for giving us the chance to participate in ending hunger. Please give leaders in all countries the wisdom and compassion to make decisions which work towards ending hunger. Please help us share ideas and work as a community to end hunger. Amen.



PRESENTED BY



CBM

Hunger Bites in Rwanda



Contact us to order additional copies of Kids Care at:

Canadian Baptist Ministries
7185 Millcreek Drive
Mississauga ON L5N 5R4

PHONE: 905.821.3533

FAX: 905.826.3441

EMAIL: communications@cbmin.org

cbmin.org

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CBM *embracing a broken world
through word & deed*

LEARNING OBJECTIVE For children to learn about food justice

KEY CONCEPT God Always Provides For Us

BIBLE APPLICATION Genesis 9:3

MISSION ADVENTURE Rwanda



BIBLE VERSE:
Genesis 9:3

God Always Provides For Us



INTRODUCTION:

Being thankful, showing compassion and love to others, and being generous - what do these actions all have in common? We practice them in community! A community is a group of people, like our class here, or it can be a whole town or city. There are many ways God lets us build a community, and eating is one them! So every time you sit down to eat food, remember how much God delights in providing food for us, and how thankful we should be. Because God has provided us with food with love, we are to share our food with others with just as much joy.



BACKGROUND:
Rwanda

Rwanda is a nation diligently working to heal from a traumatic past. In 1994, approximately one million men, women and children were systematically killed in ethnic violence. The effects of the genocide continue to be felt at many levels today, particularly among the generation left orphaned and traumatized by the atrocities of the conflict.

Currently the most densely populated country in mainland Africa, roughly half of the population is under the age of 18. The nation has made remarkable progress towards good governance and helping the poor. Despite good efforts, poverty remains one of the main issues affecting nearly half of the population. Geographically landlocked, the country has set its sights on transforming their economy from agricultural-based to becoming a hub for information technology and business. However, the vast majority of employment is still within the agricultural sector.

Issues of food security, particularly among the most vulnerable populations, have come into the forefront in recent years. CBM's partner, the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda (AEBR), has been working in this area for several years. With limited resources, populations living in drought-prone regions are particularly susceptible to food shortages. The AEBR has worked closely with local communities and agricultural experts to identify and promote crops, seeds and technologies that can mitigate issues surrounding food security.

Some specific activities towards this include training farmers on appropriate practices to improve their crop yields (conservation farming), distribution of select seed varieties, training on livestock development, and post-harvest and sales marketing. Environmental issues are also addressed through programs such as conservation agriculture and agro-forestry to prevent soil erosion and reduce the effects of inconsistent rainfall patterns. The AEBR is currently working in partnership with CBM to help thousands of farmers provide food for their families.

As Rwanda is slowly rebuilding its community, working together on food security projects are helping people to not only grow food, but to build stronger communities.



Currently, within the AEBR there are 189 local churches with membership greater than 75 people and roughly 300 chapels from church planting efforts. Established in 1966, the AEBR has become active in social and economic activities such as education, health, literacy and sustainable community development, working to alleviate the affects of HIV and AIDS, as well as food security and peace and reconciliation ministries. It also runs 24 secondary schools and 26 primary schools, a vocational training centre, and two health centres.

Despite many challenges, churches and the government have successfully brought people together in working towards a better future. Peace building efforts are run in target schools and local church communities. They underlie the basic programming of other development programming such as *Guardians of Hope* (HIV and AIDS ministry), food security, and *Orphans and Vulnerable Children*. These are just a few of the many community development programs CBM supports in Rwanda.



MISSION
ADVENTURE
STORY:

Hunger Bites in Rwanda



Muraho! Hello! Greetings from Rwanda. My name is Rene, and I'm 10 years old, from the Eastern province of Rwanda, in Murehe. I live on a farm. I just came back from school - it was so fun today. We learned math and English, which are two of my favorite subjects. I am the second best student in my class! I always make sure I finish my homework and understand everything I am taught. I must study very hard at school, because one day I want to become a doctor. Then I can treat people who are sick.

Because my family lives on a farm, part of my chores is to carry water from the nearby spring to our house. We use this water for cooking, washing dishes, and drinking after it's been boiled. I also feed our animals, and help my parents however I can.

My parents own a small plot of land for farming. My mom, dad, two sisters and I all work together on our farm to grow food and raise animals so that we can have food to eat and sell so we can pay for school, medicine, and other important things for our family. But we did not always have enough food to eat.

My family used to have a very hard time farming and raising animals. Many cassava farms, including ours, were ruined by parasites one year, and so we had very little food that year. I used to worry about whether our family would have enough to eat. I couldn't concentrate at school, and I didn't have the energy to play soccer with my friends or do my chores. It is easier to study now that I do not have to worry about being hungry. I'm happy now that I can eat three meals a day.

Things changed when our family started to participate in a program offered by a church to get training to help improve our farm. They learned how to take care of the soil for planting seeds, how to grow many varieties of food instead of just one kind so that we can be healthier, and they were also taught organic methods and how to protect the environment. With two cows that we received from the church, besides milk and meat, we learned how to use the manure from our cows to create biogas! So instead of chopping down trees and using so much wood for fire to cook, now we can use biogas instead.

We learned beekeeping too! The bees make honey which we can use to sell, and it's tasty! And bees are important to the food cycle. Many good changes have been made. I am excited that my family and I are healthier, and my sisters and I can go to school to study hard. Life has really improved. My parents were actually picked to be model farmers to help train other farmers in our village. Because they learned so much and their farm is doing so well now, other people can come to them for help and learn how to protect the earth while farming. We hope no one will have to go hungry. I am so proud of my parents, and feel very hopeful. It is nice to see everyone working together and sharing. My dad says they now



have big plans ahead to sell more crops in the market - maybe one day even to Canada!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Rene's family help their community?
2. What does Rene use to create biogas? What is it used for?
3. Name one way that using biogas helps protect the environment.
4. Rene's family helps improve their community through farming. What is one way you can help your community?
5. Share one example of something someone else has shared with you.
6. CBM helped give Rene's family hope that they no longer have to go hungry. What do you have hope for?



SNACK:

Fruit a Noir



Sometimes it can be hard to see or realize the goodness in our lives. Encourage children to keep on the look out this week for signs of God's love, a healthy life, etc. while enjoying this mystery fruit activity!

MATERIALS: Slices of a variety of fresh fruit (especially those grown in Rwanda, such as bananas, mango, pineapple), blindfolds (strips of cloth or scarves)

INSTRUCTIONS: Have children sit and put on blindfolds or close their eyes. Go around the room, serving samples of each fruit (one at a time), while they try to guess which fruit it is.