



In this edition ...

Hello {Organization Name} (or 'Friend' if no Org name), and Merry Christmas!

The Christmas season is here, and you are probably up to your ears in activities at your church and in your personal life, while busily preparing for the Christmas weekend services. Most of us love this time of year with its sparkling trees and festive music. There is joy in the air and much to celebrate, but some of us may be feeling less than celebratory. Maybe you are feeling **overwhelmed**? Or your **heart feels heavy** because of what is going on in your congregation, or in the world?

That is ok, we were recently reminded by Danielle Strickland, speaker and author of 'The Other Side of Hope', at a recent World Vision Canada chapel service. Danielle confirmed that feelings are a sign of life. She encouraged us to **feel the feelings** because they help us to be more empathetic and to be moved with compassion. And **compassion** destroys the death-like grip of the fatalistic mindset and the despair that accompanies it.

And so, **be encouraged!** When your congregation puts hampers together for needy families, or when you preach a message at your Christmas Eve service, you are helping to **bring life and renewal** to our world. **Compassion in action unlocks life and hope** – both for the giver and the receiver. Let us remember that Jesus said He came to overcome the world, so we can sing along with the writer of the carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day":

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep; God is not dead, nor doth He sleep.
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good-will to men."*

In this edition, you will:

- Move the Line' with your congregation using the Matthew 25 Challenge
- Be updated on 'The Resilient Pastor' Webinar Series
- Bless children this Christmas through the World Vision Canada Gift Catalogue
- Take advantage of a special **partner discount code** to send your youth pastor to the East Canadian Youth Pastors Summit in March 2024
- Be inspired to **thank employees & volunteers** at Christmas
- Register to attend **World Vision Canada's AGM** in January virtually

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
John 1:14 (NKJV)*



'Move the Line' with the Matthew 25 Challenge

Want to further the discipleship journey for your congregation? To build community? To get people engaged and into action?

Jesus, in his parable about the sheep and goats in Matthew 25, was clearly saying that the defining mark of an authentic Christian is a **demonstrated compassion for those in need**.

The **Matthew 25 Challenge** is a week-long text message experience that is an immersive way to connect with those living in poverty. For seven days, families and individuals in your congregation will receive daily sacrificial challenges via text to help them step out of their comfort zones, bringing Jesus' call to life.

[Sign up](#) today for this free, transformational discipleship tool, or contact the Church Advisor at the bottom of this email for more information.

[SIGN UP](#)



An Update on 'The Resilient Pastor' Webinar Series

We are thrilled that over 300 church leaders joined us on November 15th for the "PASTORAL BURNOUT" webinar with Glenn Packiam and Jason Ballard. If you weren't able to attend, we trust you will make time to watch the replay that you should have received in an email following the event. If you don't recall receiving it, please check your Junk Mail folder.

If you aren't able to commit to joining the [cohort](#) launching January 31st, watch for "The Resilient Pastor" updates in future editions of ENGAGE. And, look for a survey coming to your inbox soon to assist us in measuring the state of resiliency in pastors in Canada.

In the meantime, here is a link to an interesting [article](#) from Barna summarizing why US pastors have said they have considered quitting ministry in the past year.

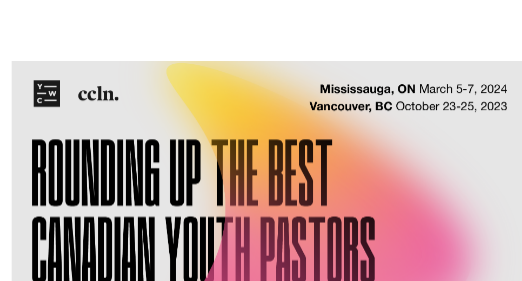
Give the Gift that Ends Poverty Through the Gift Catalogue

STEP 1: Select Gifts - Choose from over 90 Gift Catalogue items that will encourage a family in need. Gifts like animals, medicines, school supplies and more can change someone's world.

STEP 2: Choose a free greeting card - Every item purchased, or money donated, through the Gift Catalogue entitles the donor to a FREE personalized e-card or greeting card.

STEP 3: Make a difference - Your kindness will have a lasting impact, helping children, families and communities.

[SHOP NOW](#)



Discount Code for East Canadian Youth Pastor Summit

March 5-7, 2024
Mississauga, ON

31 Good Christmas Messages to Employees & Volunteers by Vera Oliveira

A three-day Summit to plan and collaborate around your next season of youth ministry. Connecting you with leading voices, fellow practitioners and most importantly, Jesus – the One who called you to serve this generation in the first place. Come along to share the future of youth ministry in Canada. To receive \$50 off registration, use the special promo code: CYPWORLDVISION

Christmas is one of the most joyous times of year, filled with festivities and gift giving. For churches, this is also a wonderful time to show appreciation to those you serve with in ministry, whether staff or volunteers, for the time and dedication they spent throughout the year. Here is a selection of messages intended to help inspire your own creativity and sincere messages.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[READ MORE](#)



World Vision Canada Annual General Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024 @ 12:45 - 4:15 PM EST

Join us virtually for our Annual General Meeting where we will celebrate the impact and Momentum we've been building this year.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

PRAY WITH US

From Chris Schroeder, National Manager of Church Engagement:

Firstly, I want to personally wish you and your family a warm and blessed Christmas season!

In this special season of Christmas, please pray with us for peace on earth and protection over the vulnerable children who are living in countries devastated by conflict and natural disasters, and for provision for their needs. If you would like to bless one of these vulnerable children in a tangible way this Christmas, please check out World Vision Canada's [Gift Catalogue](#).

Our Church Engagement team is praying for you. Please [send us](#) your personal prayer requests and the Church Team will pray specifically for you.



Many blessings, Philip Gai Your World Vision Church Advisor

If you have any questions or would like to connect with me directly, please [email](#) or book a virtual coffee on my [calendar](#).