

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. John's

**A LIGHT FOR EVERY BIRTH** - this is a challenge to which St. John's has and, with your help, will respond.

Have you or anyone of your family or friends ever had to give birth to a child in utter darkness? This is what countless women - mothers and nurses - risk in rural areas of Mozambique. In 2016, PWRDF worked with our partner EHALE to install 30 solar suitcases in **Nampula** province, a project which was supported



through our *Harvest Tea*. Now PWRDF will bring solar power to 50 more clinics in areas that are not on the power grid.

For Domingas Joaquim, 38, the solar suitcase is truly a lifesaver. She gave birth to three of her six children in the Mecutamala health centre after the installation of a solar suitcase. "If it were not for the solar suitcase one of my children would have died, or I would have died because after childbirth the child needed to be resuscitated," she says. "Without lighting it would not be possible." Joaquim also had a postpartum hemorrhage, but because there was light, the nurse was able to identify the source of the hemorrhage.



Nurse Cristina Kaunda Quilossa agrees. "In the past, to deliver babies at night, we used phone flashlights, holding them in our mouths." Also, the built-in fetal Doppler helps them quickly identify the fetal heartbeat, which can be tricky in women with a history of prolonged labour or with other obstetric complications. The cost of running the solar suitcases is next to nothing because the lithium batteries last for years. There is no fuel to purchase, just free sunshine, of which Mozambique has plenty.

A solar suitcase costs \$5,800, including the cost of transport to Mozambique, installing it and replacement batteries. In July, our Treasurer transferred \$2,860 to PWRDF. There were some special designations: \$475 each to the Vaccination Equity Fund and to India Covid Relief, and \$200 to the Makueni Hand Pumps in Kenya. The balance of **\$1710 was credited to A LIGHT FOR EVERY BIRTH, where it was matched 1:1 by a PWRDF donor.** "What incredible news, thank you so much," wrote Mike Ziemerink, PWRDF Fundraising and Donor Relations Facilitator, after receiving our cheque of \$2860."

**Can we raise another \$4,090 before September 30? If so, St. John's will have furnished not one but two clinics with a LIGHT FOR EVERY BIRTH, thanks to the 1:1 matching up to \$100,000.**

**A LIGHT FOR EVERY BIRTH** PWRDF

Help PWRDF install **50 solar suitcases** in Mozambique

Give Light Give Solar

**Here's what solar suitcases do**

**PROVIDE LIGHT**  
The solar suitcases provide light for health clinics so moms don't have to give birth in the dark.

**SAVE LIVES**  
Solar suitcases are equipped with a fetal Doppler to quickly find baby's heartbeat, keeping them safe during birth.

**USE CLEAN ENERGY**  
The bright sunlight in Mozambique keeps the solar suitcases running with clean energy at almost no cost.

Some of you may prefer to designate your gift to PWRDF for a program among Canada's indigenous peoples. You can find many stories on the PWRDF website: <https://pwrdf.org/celebrating-recognizing-and-honouring-our-indigenous-partners/>. More programs for safe water and climate-related issues are currently under development. If you would like to learn more about help to indigenous communities, please get in touch with me at [mtimkulu78@gmail.com](mailto:mtimkulu78@gmail.com) or phone 226 384 1485.

You may include your gift in your usual method of donating to St. John's by cheque, e-transfer, or direct deposit, simply designating it to PWRDF. You may also go directly to PWRDF, phoning Mike Ziemerink at 416-822-9083 or clicking on <https://pwrdf.org/give-today/>. Please remember that the 1:1 matching is limited to September 30.

Gratefully yours,

Doris M'Timkulu  
on behalf of the PWRDF Group