

As walkers take a leisurely stroll past farms, pastures and grazing cattle, their conversation is as casual and familiar as the gathering of friends who meet in the large tent pitched for a time of singing and fellowship at the conclusion of the walk. Grandmas and grandpas, mothers and fathers, children and toddlers all seem to catch up on the year's events during the afternoon of refreshments and singing. Marriages, births, deaths and the cadence of life are the topic of conversation, and for someone new to the walk-a-thon, it truly feels as though one is amongst lifelong friends.

In such an atmosphere, it is hard to imagine that there is a serious-as-life mission going on. Yet for the three mission organizations for which the walk is organized, they know that the funds raised in this event will help them to continue the important work of reaching lives for Christ. The walk-a-thon is a large part of providing resources so that hungry bellies are filled with hot and nutritious food, orphanages are built and maintained, and quality education for a better future is delivered.

What would happen if next spring, the seniors who have faithfully participated said, "This year it is someone else's turn. I am not going to walk"? It would make a difference in the lives of the children who so desperately need the support and care, but it would not be a change for the better. Seniors who faithfully call their friends and relatives for sponsorship are the key to the enduring success of this event. An event that started over three decades ago continues today to enable Christ-centred ministry in lands far removed from the idyllic rural pasture land of Canada. Even though most walkers will never travel to India, Romania or



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Mozambique, the changed lives they have helped to shape are the testimony to their faithfulness to the vision of a small Sunday school class.

What started as a challenge to "make Sunday school more interesting" through sponsoring one little girl overseas has raised over \$1 million to help feed the hungry, provide homes for orphans and show the love of Christ to boys and girls who have nowhere else to turn. As the song says, "Little is much when God is in it," and every October God demonstrates His faithfulness to the original organizers as once again the walkers gather to announce the grand total of the funds raised. This year will be no different. The walk-a-thon is over and the final totals are not in yet. In October, the faithful will once again gather to learn the total funds raised and rejoice at this year's contribution to the work of making a difference in the life of a child somewhere in the world.



Recipients of the support provided by Global Care-A-Thon

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