



ALL TOGETHER

Winter 2022 Update

Listening to wisdom





Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with those living in some of the world's most marginalised communities.

Your regular gift is more vital than ever during this ongoing global crisis. With your committed support, All We Can is working with talented local partners to help the most vulnerable as they continue to face coronavirus and look towards a better future.

Being a part of the All Together movement sends a powerful message – that communities are not alone in their struggle against poverty and injustice. It says that you are there, standing alongside them, working together to inspire lasting change.

Let Wisdom Speak Lent 2022

At a time when women and girls are especially impacted by the global pandemic and the subsequent fall out, All We Can is again championing the voices of women around the world. In this All Together update, you'll be able to read about the amazing work of some of our female-led partners in Zimbabwe, and learn about Lent resources for 2022, available to download and order from allwecan.org.uk/lent

All We Can's 2022 Lent devotional is called 'Let Wisdom Speak', and features all-female contributions from around the world, including All We Can's partners in Zimbabwe. Alongside the work that HEFO (Health, Education and Food Security Organisation) are doing – that you read about in your last update – we are pleased to introduce you to the Zubo Trust, who are also working in Zimbabwe to help communities take their next steps towards fulfilling their potential.



Whilst we have been questioning what our next steps are, we continue to manage the uncertainty of life in a pandemic, we invite you to listen to the Biblical voice of Wisdom and learn from her. This All Together update features one of the reflections from the Lent devotional, written by Alison Judd, the world President of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. If that whets your appetite, do order or download a copy of the devotional and share with those in your church or community.

Top image: Patience (from HEFO, one of All We Can's partner in Zimbabwe), walks alongside Vaite, 73, one of the women HEFO is working with to help adapt and develop farming practices. Image: All We Can/ C Media Africa



Weaving Wisdom

'As a woman, there will always be challenges,' reflects Maritha – a basket weaver who is part of the Buniswa Women's Co-operative in Siachilaba, north-west Zimbabwe. The group is organised by All We Can's partner, Zubo Trust, and it aims to give women an alternative income source that can provide them with financial stability, as well as mutual support and friendship.

Maritha continues, *'Through this work I have been able to pay school fees for my children and buy some goats through the project. I keep some of the goats and from time to time I sell them so the family and I get a little extra money... This project has opened many doors for me.'*

As communities like Maritha's in Zimbabwe continue to respond to the impact of Covid-19, and each of us takes our next steps, we want to say thank you for your support for All We Can's work. It is thanks to your commitment and generosity that Zubo Trust can support people like Maritha to thrive and flourish.

Maritha's community are journeying together through these challenging times. Thank you for travelling with them as a regular giver and friend. As Maritha wisely puts it: *'In our group, we're also able to help each other if one of us faces a challenge or there is a family emergency, it is our duty to help each other...when you're in a difficult position and you don't know which way to weave yourself out, another person can help you figure it out.'*

Image: Maritha, 44, finishes off a basket in Siachilaba, Binga, a remote village in north-western Zimbabwe. Image: Tendai Marima / All We Can

Cover image: Vaite's husband and their two grandchildren, Thandiwe (19) and Nothando (10), plough the field in the early morning. Image: Tendai Marima/All We Can



Listening to the voice of young women



Written by Alison Judd, World President of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (2016-21), as part of All We Can's Lent devotional – Let Wisdom Speak.

There, in the crowded Harare sports stadium, a young girl sought me out and issued me with a challenge. 'Will the World Federation campaign against domestic violence?' she asked. I assured her we would continue to do so especially through the Thursdays in Black campaign. Even now, five years later, she still contacts me from time to time.

Image: Women head home after filling up their buckets with water from the solar borehole set up by HEFO. Image: Tendai Marima/All We Can

I think of this young woman every Thursday, as I dress in black clothes in support of the campaign to eradicate violence against women. For me this memory is a personal reminder how important it is that we listen to young women.

The World Federation came into being because of the vision of a young Korean woman named Helen Kim, then a student in the USA. Now we run a scholarship programme in her memory for two young women chosen from each of our nine geographical areas, to affirm and include them in our movement. The investment has borne fruit as we have witnessed so many women realise their potential. For example, a former Helen Kim Memorial Scholar is currently our World Secretary.

Over recent years, these young Federation women have courageously and persistently raised awareness of issues including female genital mutilation, the climate crisis, and the right of every child to access quality education. They have each chosen a particular United Nations'

Image: Thandiwe inspects a tap in a field in Zimbabwe. Image: Tendai Marima/All We Can



Sustainable Development Goal to work on. They have shared with others what they have learned and they have been an inspiration.

God chose a young woman to give birth to the Saviour of the world. Affirmed by the angel and her older cousin Elizabeth, Mary sang out a prophetic song of justice, that we know as the Magnificat.

Elizabeth was there to listen. I wonder what she made of it. Did she become newly aware of justice issues that she would pass on to her own son?

To ponder:

- How could you and your community listen to the voices of young women?
- What issues are important to the young women you know?
- Might you offer to pray with them about these issues?

Pray: Lord, Help us to listen and respond appropriately to the prophetic voices of younger women. Help us to mentor them so they realise their potential. Give us open minds so that we learn from our daughters in the faith. Give us courage to speak out for justice. Amen.

MWiB supports the global campaign of Thursdays in Black to highlight the need to stand against gender based violence. Find out more at mwib.org.uk

Praying for 2022

As you enter a new year, perhaps you have taken on a new resolution or a commitment for 2022. One thing you might like to do this year is to commit to praying for All We Can, our work around the world, and the communities and partners you are helping to support with your regular gift.

Here are a couple of prayers you might like to offer.



Image: A hand holding seeds. Image: Tendai Marima/All We Can



You might like to light a candle.

Lord of light,
In the darkness of the winter months,
You are the light of the world.
In the darkness of injustice and oppression,
shine your light.

We give thanks for the work of all those involved in the All We Can family,

From supporters and churches in the UK to community members in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Jordan, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and all the other places where All We Can's work and commitment to partnership continues.

May those partnerships, the relationships, the connections that hold us together across the world,

May they be a light in dark places,
This winter season and on into 2022.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Gracious God,
In this time of global uncertainty and fear,
When news channels are filled with pandemics and pain,
We turn to you, the God who is making all things new.
In the doubt and the anxiety,
Amongst the poverty and injustice,
Come, by your Spirit.
This day, we hold before you the people of Zimbabwe,
And the work of All We Can's amazing partners in that country, including HEFO and Zubo Trust.

As they work with people living in rural farming communities in Zimbabwe,
We pray that you will bless their work and guide their hands,
By your grace.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



Order or download free Lent resources

Let Wisdom Speak is a free Lent devotional for 2022, available from All We Can, in partnership with Methodist Women in Britain.

'Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.' (Proverbs 1:20)

You are invited to listen to the voices of Joanna Adeyinka-Burford, Dr Selina Stone, Revds Sonia Hicks, Helen Cameron and Cham Kaur-Mann, the stories of All We Can's partners and the reflections of several Methodist Women in Britain, in a devotional resource designed for you to journey with throughout the Lenten season.

Take your next steps as you pray, read, reflect, respond and grow with this new resource focusing on issues of gender justice and the role you can play in helping every person's potential to be fulfilled.

Visit allwecan.org.uk/lent to order or download your Lent resources, and sign up for weekly emails throughout Lent.



Image: Vaiter, a farmer from Nkayi, smiles outside her home. Image: Tendai Marima/All We Can

Celebrate International Women's Day with us!

8 March 2022, in the evening, exact time TBC

Let Wisdom Speak event, featuring All We Can's partners, Revd Sonia Hicks (President of the Methodist Conference) and Rachel Allison from Methodist Women in Britain.

Sign up for your Zoom place at allwecan.org.uk/lentgroup



ALL  TOGETHER

allwecan.org.uk

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Every
person's
potential
fulfilled

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All We Can is the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund, a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291691

Image: A member of the Buniswa women's co-operative organised by Zubo Trust makes the base of a traditional woven basket. Image: Tendai Marima /All We Can