

UZIMA

THE GIFT OF A HERD



**1 GOAT + 1
COW +
1 PIG > 3!**

- *THE AVERAGE GOAT HAS 2 KIDS EACH YEAR!*
- *THE AVERAGE COW HAS 2-4 CALVES IN ITS LIFETIME!*
- *A PIG MIGHT HAVE 12 PIGLETS IN ONE LITTER -- AND THE BIGGEST LITTER EVERY RECORDED WAS 27!*

PIGLETS & KIDS & CALVES, OH MY!

More than 2 billion people in the world survive through **subsistence farming**, which means that they focus on growing enough food to feed themselves and their families. This is a challenging lifestyle: when weather is unpredictable, when soil grows less healthy, when people become ill or hurt, they have less to eat. If all their energy is spent growing enough food every day, there is often no energy (or time or money) left for anything else. That's why it's called *subsistence farming*. To subsist means to survive or exist. And that is not what God intends for any of us. The Bible is full of references to living and LIFE -- life in Christ, a full life, eternal life, an ABUNDANT life.

One way World Renew tries to help God's children around the world find a more abundant life is by helping them move beyond subsistence to security.

A herd is an amazing way to help a family become more secure! Animals produce food like milk and meat and eggs which can boost a family's nutrition and their income. The bonus comes when the goat, pig, and calf in a herd have babies that a family can sell for extra income for things like school books and fees, medicine, clothing, or supplies to build a house or a latrine. And World Renew doesn't just give a family a herd. Farmers get training in proper care of their animals and access to markets where they can sell things. Once they're successful, they turn around and start helping their neighbors do the same thing!

A goat, a pig, and a calf offer families a way to move from subsistence to abundant life. **Bah, oink, moo!**



**A COW CAN
GIVE UP TO
80,000
GLASSES OF
MILK IN ITS
LIFETIME.
WHOA.**

WHAT A DEAL

\$367 is a lot of money. But a herd is a LIFE CHANGER.

When your students really understand the life-changing promise of a herd, they're not going to be intimidated by a \$367 goal! Here are some fun ways to harness that giving spirit:

Recruit three teachers to **promise to dress up like a pig, a goat, and a cow** for the next assembly -- *but only if kids reach their goal!*

For a goal this size, you need 367 people to give you a dollar. How about holding a **Baby Photo Contest** where kids pay \$1 to vote for the cutest of the teachers' baby pictures? A simple **Straw Draw** works here too -- for \$1, donors draw a straw and some of the straws win a prize. This is an easy one to do in the school lunchroom or at church Coffee Time. If kids want more to do, a **Dollar Bake Sale** of items made by kids never goes wrong.

If you're already planning a holiday gathering, why not add in a **"Have you HERD This One?" Joke Contest?** Contestants pay \$1 to get in front of the mike and tell their best joke. (Hint: prizes never hurt.)

For more ideas, visit www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas



Older children can engage in a **more nuanced discussion** about giving after hearing the story of a Masai tribe's gift to America in the wake of 9/11 in Carmen Agra Deedy's book **14 Cows For America**.

Elementary info-hounds will like **4 Reasons Cows Are Awesome!** on YouTube and, if you and your charges just need a 2-minute laugh, search **"Funny Goats Screaming Like Humans"** on YouTube. You can't not laugh.



PROVISION.

There is a difference between subsistence and provision.

In the Old Testament, the book of Numbers chronicles the Israelites' 40-year journey out of slavery and into the Promised Land. After just a month on the road, the Israelites start complaining: *"If only the LORD had killed us back in Egypt. There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death."*

So God promises to send food every day — quail and flaky "bread" called manna — but there is a catch: **God tells them only to gather as much as they need.** And we learn that *"the people of Israel did as they were told. Some gathered a lot, some only a little. But when they measured it out, everyone had just enough. Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough. Each family had just what it needed."*



This is provision. To our ears it can sound like subsistence, just enough to get by. But there is a quality to subsistence living that few of us know: the taut clutch of insecurity, the protracted strain of stress. God's gift to the Israelites was the promise that food would be there every day. He didn't promise them the endless pots of meat and all-the-bread-you-can-eat of Egypt. In fact, when they took too much manna and quail, it became full of maggots and stank. God promised them enough. **Provision is the promise of enough.**

2 billion people around the world subsist. This means they live on what they can grow. **And they live without the promise of enough.** In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that God says "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." When we supply our brothers and sisters with something like a herd, we offer them trust that tomorrow will bring enough, hope that each day will provide. **Giving is not a physical act as much as a spiritual discipline. When we give, we affirm that we have enough, that God's promises are true.**

ENRICH

Books or videos can add a little something extra...

Children of many ages will love **The Goat Lady** by Jane Bregoli, a true story about the author's neighbour and her goats. This marvelous tale about taking the time to really know someone promises to **spark good conversation** among children.

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