



Boaz instructed his young men, “Let Ruth glean even among the standing sheaves...You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles and leave them for her to glean...So she gleaned in the field until evening.... Then she took out and gave her mother-in-law what was left over after she herself had been satisfied.

— Ruth 2:15-18

In the face of obvious needs, practical acts of kindness can bring a sense of value and well-being into people’s lives, as well as provide for those basic needs.

The Anglican Church of Burundi, in association with its partners, has been able to distribute tools and materials for digging trenches. Erosion of the soil is a challenge many farmers face, and it contributes to their poverty and that of their communities. Simple trenches have increased the fertility of the soil. The grasses grown for fodder on the edges of the trenches not only help to prevent erosion, but also become sources of income. One mother of five children described how the sale of the grass enabled her to buy two goats, some clothes, oil, salt and sugar. She and others in the community have seen hunger reduced, as households are now able to provide meals twice rather than once a day.

Boaz gave Ruth the basic assistance she needed so she could provide for herself. We too can supply the right tools and opportunities to solve an immediate problem, and perhaps also bring unexpected blessings.

— Léonidas Niyongabo