



Hunger Bits

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Matthew 14:16

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

There are so many impoverished and hungry people in the world today. But what can you do, as one person, as one congregation, as one presbytery?? Following are just a few ideas for beginning the journey towards ending poverty and hunger in our world, in our time.

Contact me for further information, invite me for a Minute for Mission, a mission fair, or your Committee meetings! *Together*, we can make a huge impact against hunger!

Souper Bowl of Caring

I know that it was way back in February, but I'm really interested in knowing how many of our congregations participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring this year. If your congregation took part in the program, please send me an email (HAWestjersey@gmail.com) and let me know your donation amounts and your recipient(s). I'd like to put together a West Jersey Presbytery tally that I think will be interesting to view! It will also give me a basis for next year. *Together*, we are already making a difference!

2 Cents A Meal (Cents-Ability Program)

Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Congregations invite every member — of all ages — to contribute a few cents at every meal; we are currently using the '2 Cents A Meal' formula. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat." When members bring their offerings to church on the appointed Sunday, all of those coins "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" as they are received and dedicated.

These small acts of faithfulness can add up: One hundred persons in a congregation will contribute \$180 a month at two cents a meal. That's \$2,160 dollars a year. A 13,000-member presbytery has the potential of raising over \$280,000 annually at just '2 Cents A Meal.' Wow! What are you waiting for? I'll help you get started! We can do this, *together*.

Grant Forms

What happens to the funds collected through the Cents-Ability Program? 25% of the funds collected stay with your congregation to distribute to your choice of a local hunger action effort, the balance is forwarded to our Presbytery of West Jersey. All of the '2 Cents A Meal' donations are combined to make a huge impact in aiding both national and international hunger work. You can really help out here by supplying information on hunger projects by completing the "Application for Funding Hunger Program" found at my website: www.westjerseyhunger.org and clicking on "2 Cents A Meal Grants Available." These forms are then reviewed by the HAE and the WJP Church & Society Committee to determine distribution of funds.

Funding Granted

Our most recent funding grants were to the Greater Woodbury Food Pantry Cooperative Ministries (\$1,000), which has been providing emergency food service to needy families for the past nine years, and to the Comprehensive Development Project (CODEP) in Haiti (\$3,000). CODEP is working on self-sufficiency projects for the Haitian people, including fish farming and reforestation, while seeking to serve Jesus Christ under a PCUSA/ Episcopal Church covenant.

Bread for the World

IN 2007, people of faith have a historic opportunity to reduce hunger and poverty both here in the United States and in poor countries around the world.

The U.S. Congress will reauthorize the Farm Bill—something that happens only every five years. This piece of legislation is one of the most far-reaching sets of laws in our country and touches us all. It has an impact on everything from energy to soil conservation, from cash payments for farmers to the Food Stamp Program.

Jesus proclaimed to the synagogue, at the beginning of his ministry, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.” We bring the good news of Jesus by calling on our nation’s leaders to provide for those who are vulnerable in our midst.

Members of Congress should work to strengthen U.S. rural economic opportunities and small businesses so that rural communities will have a chance to work their way out of poverty. They should make efforts to expand and improve the federal nutrition programs that have proven so successful in reducing hunger in the United States. And they should work to improve farm policies to create a fair and just system for farmers in the United States and farmers in developing countries who are also working hard to support their families.

Bread for the World's Offering of Letters, *Seeds of Change*, supports these much-needed improvements in the Farm Bill. Thousands of local churches, campus groups and others are a part of Bread for the World's efforts to mobilize grassroots support and convince Congress to act on this legislation.

All that is needed is you! At the May Presbytery meeting, I will give you samples of letters and instructions. You will be asked to handwrite a letter to your legislators in support of the Farm Bill. *Together*, we can make a difference! If you'd like to get involved before then, please feel free to contact me for information.

“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” – Matthew 17:20

What has already been accomplished through advocacy?-

A Penny Makes A Difference to Farmworkers!

Excerpted from statement by
The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

“I commend the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), the McDonald’s Corporation, and McDonald’s suppliers on the historic agreement that they have forged to improve wages and guarantee human rights for farmworkers harvesting tomatoes in the fields of Florida... McDonald’s Corporation has taken a leadership role in moving the fast-food industry toward a more just way of doing business.

*Immediately, farmworkers will receive from McDonald’s a **penny more per pound** for tomatoes they harvest. Further the CIW will work with McDonald’s to strengthen its code of conduct for suppliers and develop a third-party mechanism for monitoring conditions in the fields and investigating workers’ complaints of abuse.*

As we celebrate...I take this opportunity to call upon other fast-food corporations to join McDonald’s and Yum! Brands [Taco Bell] in working with the CIW, to ensure true and lasting advances in human rights for farmworkers laboring in the Florida tomato fields.

Truly this agreement reflects the “good news to the poor” that was at the heart of Jesus’ ministry and is at the center of our life in faith. May it also be a harbinger of a new day in the fast-food and agricultural industries when the rights of all God’s people are respected.”

Future Newsletter Topics to Include:

Gleaning of the Fields, a Hands-On Opportunity!
Disposable Water Bottles
Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolates, etc.
Alternatives for Simple Living
Curriculums for Adults and Children
Living Wage Workshops
Electric Stewardship
Sweat-Free T-shirts
OikoCredit
Eco-Palm Project
Global Market