

# International Hunger & Poverty

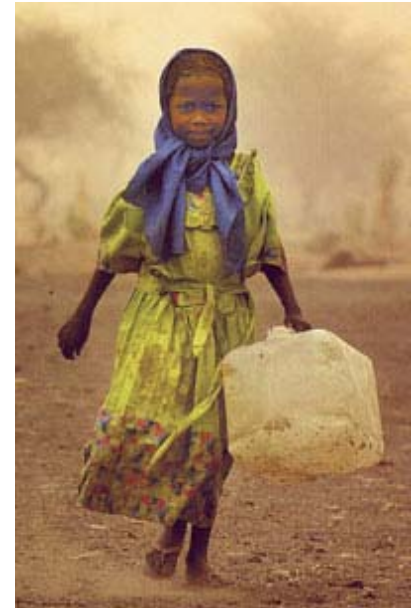
**“Poverty is therefore not an ‘out-there’ problem, but an ‘everywhere’ problem.”**

- Annual Conference 2000, *Caring for the Poor Caring for the Poor*

An estimated 1.4 billion people live on less than \$1.25 a day; in sub-Saharan Africa just over *half* of the population survives on less than \$1.25 a day, according to the World Bank. Millions of people lack the resources to feed themselves and their children a nutritious diet to achieve good health. In Africa and South Asia 30% of the population suffers from malnutrition.

## Child Hunger

About 29,000 children under the age of five – *21 each minute* – die every day, mainly from preventable causes, according to the United Nations (UN) Food Program. Poor nutrition causes 1/3 of all of these deaths. In 2009 3 million children died from hunger and malnutrition before they reached the age of 5.



**“If a brother or sister lacks food and one of you says, “go in peace,” and yet do not supply their bodily needs what is the good of that?”**

- James 2:15-17

## Millennium Development Goals

The UN, and the governments of our world, also committed to respond to these needs when they ratified the Millennium Development Goals. The Church of the Brethren, along with the broader faith community, affirmed these goals in 2000. These eight goals aim to end extreme poverty, hunger, and disease by 2015 are grounded in the same moral directives and high regard for all humankind to which Christians have committed themselves. The United States signed and committed to achieve the Millennium Declaration with 188 other countries in September 2000.

- 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
- 2) Achieve universal primary education,
- 3) Promote gender equality and empower women,
- 4) Reduce child mortality,
- 5) Improve maternal health,
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases,
- 7) Ensure environmental stability, and
- 8) Develop a global partnership.



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works to address humanitarian crisis worldwide. They have a variety of programs to reach displaced persons in civil war, natural disasters, and provide transport in emergency situations. USAID also works with the UN and other international groups to provide aid. Development assistance can take many forms; current hunger relief efforts are targeting agricultural development because 75% of the poor worldwide depend on agriculture for their livelihood. USAID works to address hunger through their program **Feed the Future** to strengthen agriculture in developing countries and through support of the UN’s Millennium Development goals.

## Hunger and Poverty and the Bible

Over and over again the Bible calls us to care for the poor. God calls us to “share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house” (Isa. 58:7). Jesus even says the impoverished on embodiment of him, saying “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matt. 25:40).

The church for generations has responded to the needs of hunger people through Church World Service and other organizations, seeking to bring relief and development to those in our world living in poverty.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” - Matthew 25:35-36*



## Global Food Crisis Fund

The Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF) is the primary way the Church of the Brethren raises funds for developing food security. GFCF grants serve community development programs in 32 countries providing upwards of \$400,000 annually for seeds, livestock, tools, and agricultural training. And also invests in initiatives including small-scale economic development, health and dietary improvement, soil conservation, and anti-hunger awareness and advocacy.

Donate now: [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) or mail to:

**Attn: Global Food Crisis Fund  
Church of the Brethren  
1451 Dundee Avenue  
Elgin, IL 60120**

***“In a world where injustice and inequities are the cause of so much suffering, misery, and death, the church cannot be silent. The church, as Christ’s body, must place itself clearly on the side of the poor and the oppressed”***

- Statement on World Mission Philosophy and Program, 1981 Annual Conference

## Steps You Can Take:

- Collect a 2¢ donation at every meal for the Global Food Crisis Fund
- Participate in a CROP walk with Church World Service
- Join Brethren Volunteer Service and devote a year of service to alleviating hunger
- Start a Growing Project
- Sign up for a Brethren Workcamp
- Advocate on behalf of low-income people

For more information on these programs and others visit [www.brethren.org/peace](http://www.brethren.org/peace) or email Jordan Blevins at [jblevins@brethren.org](mailto:jblevins@brethren.org).