



*Speaking up for the poor and hungry*

# EYEBALL TO EYEBALL DIPLOMACY

*Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves,  
for the rights of all who are destitute.  
Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*  
— Book of Proverbs

Advocacy for the poor is about more than raising awareness. It's approaching legislators and other decision-makers eyeball to eyeball to advance the views of the world's impoverished who have little voice or presence in high places. For Christians, it is reflecting and acting on the testimony of Mother Teresa of Calcutta —

"We try to pray through our work by doing it with Jesus, for Jesus, to Jesus. That helps us put our whole heart and soul into doing it. The dying, the crippled, the mentally ill, the unwanted, the unloved—they are Jesus in disguise."

Cited below are fresh experiences and resources for advocacy and action focused on defending the rights of the poor and needy—"doing it with Jesus, for Jesus, to Jesus."

***Sowing Seeds: Growing a Movement*** is an interfaith round of training events, worship services, and legislative visits June 9-12 in Washington, D.C., designed to sow the seeds of a movement to end hunger and poverty. Key events are slated at American University, the National Cathedral, and Capitol Hill. The Church of the Brethren is a partner in the planning. Belita Mitchell, Annual Conference moderator, and Stanley Noffsinger, general secretary of the General Board, are heading the Brethren contingent. For details, check online registration at [www.bread.org/gathering2007](http://www.bread.org/gathering2007).

***Seeds of Change: Help Farmers. End Hunger*** is the theme of Bread for the World's 2007 Offering of Letters from congregations. Centered on the US Farm Bill that is up for reauthorization by Congress this year, the Bread campaign urges changes in legislation that will strengthen rural communities in the US and better serve hungry people at home and abroad. A kit of resources includes a DVD, worship helps, and sample letter. To order, call 800 82-BREAD.

***Sowing Justice for Family Farmers Everywhere*** is an examination by Church World Service of the US Farm Bill. The report probes the commodity subsidy program and its impact on food security at home and abroad, and suggests points for policy

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change. A section of the report is reproduced with permission from Oxfam America, a partner of Church World Service in promoting dialog and action on the Farm Bill. The 24-page study is downloadable free from [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

***God's Mission in the World*** is a six-session study guide for congregations on global poverty and the Millennium Development Goals. Prepared by the Episcopal Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for ecumenical use, the guide calls Christians to step boldly into the public square, exercising their power and expressing their concern for the poor. The guide is a highly useful discussion tool for following up on the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals by the 2006 Annual Conference. The 60-page guide is downloadable free at [www.ELCA.org/one](http://www.ELCA.org/one), and a hard copy may be ordered for \$5 from Augsburg Fortress at [www.augsburgfortress.org/ELCAhunger](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/ELCAhunger).

***Eradicating Global Poverty*** is also a six-session study guide on the Millennium Development Goals, useful in church school classes or with special study groups. Produced by the National Council of Churches and edited by Lallie B. Lloyd, the 60-page book is available from Friendship Press, 7830 Reading Rd, Cincinnati OH 45237 for \$7.95. It may be ordered toll-free at 800 889-5733.

***At the Lord's Table: Everyday Thanksgiving*** presents materials on helping people be more intentional, more just, and more thankful in the course of their daily eating. Produced by the Eco-Justice Program of the National Council of Churches, the eight-page guide can be downloaded free from [www.nccecojustice.org/network](http://www.nccecojustice.org/network) upon signing in to access documents. The guide is among a cluster of resources issued by the NCC's Faithful Harvest Campaign related to renewal and reform of the 2007 Farm Bill.

***Global Hunger and Poverty*** is the statement adopted by delegates to the 2006 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference endorsing the Millennium Development Goals. Also available is the "Caring for the Poor" statement of the 2000 Annual Conference. For full text visit [www.brethren.org/genbd/WitnessWashOffice.html](http://www.brethren.org/genbd/WitnessWashOffice.html); click on Brethren Policy. For a single copy of the 2006 statement in abbreviated, hard-copy format to photocopy, contact the Global Food Crisis Fund office.

*For further information on these and other events and resources on hunger and poverty and the US Farm Bill, call or write Brethren Witness/Washington Office at 800 785-3246; 337 North Carolina Ave. SE, Washington DC 20003; [Washington\\_office\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:Washington_office_gb@brethren.org). Or contact Global Food Crisis Fund at 800 323-8039, ext. 264; 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120; [hroyer\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:hroyer_gb@brethren.org).*

