

Working Together Works!

In an era when a billion people endure chronic hunger and 18,000 children die each day from hunger-related causes, the 2010 World Food Day theme, "Food for All: Working Together Works!" holds particular meaning for the Church of the Brethren. Working together has long been the path pursued by Global Mission Partnerships and the Global Food Crisis Fund in their efforts to reduce hunger. They encourage your church to join in a World Food Day or Harvest celebration, whether around October 16, for 30 years the date of international recognition, or another time of your own choosing. Harvest season is especially suited for observing a food-for-all emphasis.

A special response to the Global Food Crisis Fund

Invite your members to give to the Global Food Crisis Fund. The response may include "My 2-Cents Worth" meal-time offerings of families, designations for a specific program or country, even memorials or tributes to loved ones. As donations to the Global Food Crisis Fund are running 50 percent behind those of a year ago, heightened support becomes crucial. Visit www.brethren.org/globalfoodcrisisfund for updates and resources.



Raising the clamor: Advocacy measures you can take



Essential to resolving widespread hunger are an increase in public awareness and a change of political will. Invite members of your church to engage in CROP Hunger Walks of Church World Service, Offering of Letters of Bread for the World, Heart of the Hill visits to Congress by Foods Resource Bank, or Action Alerts of the Church of the Brethren. Drawing on the tagline of CROP, weigh the wisdom of moving forward "One Step at a Time."

A growing project for your church in 2011?

Enlisting neighboring churches and the wider community in a Foods Resource Bank growing project is a creative and effective way of building sustainable agriculture in the developing world. In 2009, 22 growing projects involving 35 Church of the Brethren congregations raised \$266,000 for investment in long-term, life-saving food security development abroad. The goal of the Church of the Brethren is to launch seven more growing projects in 2011.



Howard Royer

'Sowing Seeds ... Harvesting Hope' — A Brethren video release

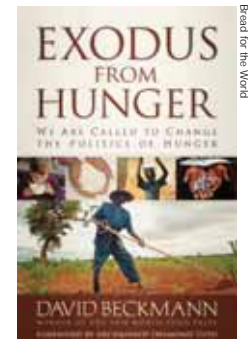


Cheryl Brumbaugh-Gayford

To see how a growing project of your church can vitalize small farm enterprises in poor communities abroad, view a new video produced by the Church of the Brethren with partners Church World Service, Foods Resource Bank, and United Methodist Committee on Relief. Titled "Sowing Seeds ... Harvesting Hope," the documentary centers on transformed rural communities in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Narrating the 11-minute video is syndicated radio/tv farm editor and national market analyst Orion Samuelson. Contact GFCF, CWS, or FRB for a free DVD.

For fall reading: David Beckmann's 'Exodus from Hunger'

Due off the press in October is "Exodus from Hunger," a book by David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World and co-winner of the 2010 World Food Prize. The author recounts strides already taken against hunger and poverty and identifies decisive measures yet needed to end hunger in our lifetime. Visit www.exodusfromhunger.org for interactive information about the book. Available from Brethren Press, \$14.95.



Bread for the World

Haiti and Kenya receive latest grants from GFCF



Care of Creation Kenya

The latest grants of the Global Food Crisis Fund are to the Church of the Brethren in Haiti for water conservation on the island of La Tortue (La Tortuga in Spanish) and to Care of Creation Kenya for construction of a tree nursery in Kenya's Rift Valley. Each grant was \$4,000. Over the past 20 months, GFCF has awarded 25 grants that totaled over \$585,000 for food security programs in 13 countries.

UN terms access to clean water a human right

A landmark resolution of the UN General Assembly recognizes access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right. Presented by Bolivia and sponsored by 33 other countries, the non-binding resolution was approved in July by a vote of 122 for, 0 against, and 41 abstaining, the latter including the US and mainly other developed nations. Studies show that 884 million people lack access to safe drinking water and 1.5 million children under age 5 die annually from water-linked diseases.



Paul Jeffrey/CMS-ACT

Crossing borders: Helping the 'enemy' feed itself



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Coyford

"Cutting food aid is not in the Brethren genes. Loving the enemy is," declared the Global Food Crisis Fund early in its assistance to four large farm communities in North Korea. Seven years later, the Church of the Brethren is extending its witness in North Korea by sending Robert and Linda Shank as teachers to the new University of Science and Technology in Pyongyang. Robert's specialty is seed research; Linda's, language study and disabilities.

'Working Together Works': Links to hunger agencies

Religious and humanitarian agencies offering an array of informational and inspirational resources on hunger on the Internet are the following: Bread for the World, www.bread.org. Church World Service, www.churchworldservice.org. ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization), www.echonet.org. Foods Resource Bank, www.foodsresourcebank.org. Heifer International, www.heifer.org. Millennium Development Goals, www.un.org/millenniumgoals/. One Great Hour of Sharing, www.onegreathourofsharing.org. SERRV, www.serrv.org. World Food Day, www.worldfooddayusa.org. World Food Prize, www.worldfoodprize.org.



Bread for the World



Church of the Brethren Global Food Crisis Fund
1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin IL 60120 www.brethren.org/globalfoodcrisisfund