



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Getting Ready to Come Back

Advocacy Guide for Mission Teams





Who is Bread for the World?

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live.

God's grace in Jesus Christ moves us to help our neighbors, whether they live in the next house, the next state or the next continent. Food is a basic need, and it is unjust that so many people must go without enough to eat. We can end hunger in our time. Everyone, including our government, must do their part. With the stroke of a pen, policies are made that redirect millions of dollars and affect millions of lives. By making our voices heard in Congress, we make our nation's laws more fair and compassionate to people in need.

What is an Offering of Letters?

Bread for the World members write personal letters and emails to Congress. Working through our churches, campuses, and other organizations, we engage more people in advocacy. Each year, Bread for the World invites churches and groups across the country to take up a nationwide Offering of Letters to Congress on an issue that is important to hungry people. People place these letters in the offering plates during church services, prayerfully offering them to God before sending them to Congress.

The Offering of Letters enables individuals to see their concerns translated into policies that help hungry and poor people improve their lives. For many of these letter-writers, it is their first time communicating with their members of Congress. This outpouring of concern sends a powerful message to our country's political leaders and helps us as a nation move closer to our goal of ending hunger.

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For Team Leaders

Getting Ready to Come Back will help short-term mission teams traveling internationally to understand how political, social, and economic systems contribute to hunger and poverty. The guide will support and encourage mission teams to engage in advocacy as informed Christian citizens upon their return home.

The guide is designed to complement other training materials used to prepare short-term mission teams. It does not cover issues of cultural sensitivity, travel preparation, group dynamics, or missional theology other manuals explore. Your denomination's mission office may have specific recommendations for such a manual. This guide has been written mainly for a U.S. audience, but Canadians may find additional information in Appendix B.

Although *Getting Ready to Come Back* is written for all members of a short-term mission team, we recommend that a single leader assume primary responsibility for encouraging participants to use the guide by (1) setting the goals and expectations for independent research, journal entries, and reflections; (2) scheduling, planning, and leading discussion times; and (3) encouraging members to get involved in advocacy. "Leader's Notes" can be found throughout the guide.

Leaders should plan at least four sessions on advocacy, the

first scheduled before departure, the second held during the mission experience, the third taking place after returning to North America, and a final meeting several months after the mission experience.

The format of *Getting Ready to Come Back* encourages mission team members to begin each step with independent study and reflection, which will serve as the basis for discussion during the group gatherings. Sample prayers are provided to conclude each gathering.

All links provided in Step 1 are available as live links on Bread for the World's Web site, www.bread.org/advocacyguide.



Introduction

Short-term mission trips can be life-changing experiences. Research shows, however, that they often are not. One reason is that groups spend many hours preparing for their trip—but little time preparing for what happens when they return.

Following a powerful mission experience, some participants may feel called to return to the field for a long-term mission commitment. With adequate preparation, however, everyone has the potential to become a lifelong advocate in partnership with hungry and poor people everywhere.



Getting Ready to Come Back will introduce your mission group participants to advocacy as a way to do justice, love neighbor, and minister to the least of these. It provides the tools you need to prepare your group to be observant, inquisitive, and thoughtful about the poverty you will observe and experience on your trip. And it suggests ways to process those experiences so that each person can take actions that lead to real change—change that helps alleviate or remove the underlying causes of human suffering.

In his book *Loaves, Fishes and Leftovers: Sharing Faith's Deep Questions*, Ted Loder discusses the importance of Christians engaging in advocacy in an effort to promote justice, peace, love, and hope. He writes, “It’s not just volunteering in soup kitchens, which is excellent, but it’s joining the struggle to eliminate poverty itself.” The same is true for our overseas mission experiences.

Getting Ready to Come Back will challenge your group to see a new dimension of mission. It introduces advocacy as an important way God calls us to respond to our mission experiences. It is our hope that the impact of your mission experience will not end as memories fade. Instead, the knowledge and experiences you gained will

Advocacy (AD-vuh-kuh-see): noun; the act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending; active espousal.

provide a springboard into a long-term commitment of speaking out with God's people in need.

While this guide focuses on advocacy for international mission teams, the same principles apply for domestic mission experiences. You may want to consider using the same model to prepare groups for short-term mission trips in your own country.

Becoming an Advocate

by Lily Cheng

During the summer of 2007, I traveled to Guatemala to teach English to kids in elementary school. However, God changed my life in unexpected ways. I went with the mentality that I was in Guatemala to serve them and to change their lives. I met different kids who lived each day in complete poverty and hunger. As I met these new friends and heard their stories, God poked my heart, prodded it, and shook it up a bit. Finally, God broke it.

God broke my heart as I finished up my lunch one day. When I got up to throw away my unused condiment packets, one of the girls asked for my mayonnaise.

She relished it. Gingerly, she squeezed out the remaining mayonnaise, making it last as long as possible. These kids have learned long ago how to deceive their empty stomachs with flavor. This is hunger. This blew my mind!

With these kids, there is no self-pity, no guilt, no wallowing. This is their life. For them, there are no alternatives. Life is hunger.

I realized that fighting hunger means more than just giving food. This is simply a temporary Band-aid to a larger problem. Without some fundamental change, this



Celia Escudero Espadas

cycle of hunger and poverty will continue. I was motivated by the conviction to help my new friends realize that there are alternatives; there can be change.

My answer came through an ad for Bread for the World's Hunger Justice Leaders' Training Conference. Through exploring the mission of Bread for the World, I was introduced to the idea of Christians lobbying in Congress. I found this to be unbelievable and incredible. After all, Capitol Hill and lobbying is often portrayed in a negative light, synonymous with corruption. But what I realized was that this feeling of intimidation I had about the government is an indication of

its power, a power that is feared because of its misuse. This is why I shied from politics. Bread for the World helped me understand that Christians, as servants of Christ, need to be in these difficult places and need to realize the potential of our government's power for God's work.

In spite of these convictions, I was still intimidated beyond belief when I found that I would spend the last day of the conference meeting with my representatives and senators. But as I went into

meeting after meeting, the faces of my friends in Guatemala came alive as I talked about poverty. What fueled the issue of hunger for me were not posters of starving children or statistics of poverty. It was the people I met and the friends I had made in Guatemala. As I talked with my representatives and senators, hunger became more real and more relevant. More and more, it pushed away the intimidation I felt toward politics and Capitol Hill.

The sense of empowerment I felt when lobbying in D.C. inspired me to bring this conviction and need for change to my community in Berkeley, California. Poverty, hunger, and homelessness have become so commonplace here that it has become an accepted reality. But even here, change can happen; God can move. However, conviction must be partnered with action. With the support that Bread for the World has given me, I have been able to raise awareness in my community, interweaving hunger and poverty into discussions of God. Hunger and poverty are not just issues that concern the socially active. People hunger. People are in need. That's all we need to know, as followers of Christ, to step out in faith and speak up.

Lily Cheng is a student at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a Bread for the World Hunger Justice Leader and activist.



Jim Stipe



Jay Mallin

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STEP 1: Preparing to Go

In Matthew 10, Jesus prepares his disciples for mission with information and instructions before he sends them out. This Scripture passage reminds us of the value of preparation and the importance of background knowledge before we travel. This session will guide you through research questions that will serve as the basis for study and discussion during this important preparation time.

Here you will begin to learn about your host country's strengths and weaknesses, and the ways your own country is engaged with this nation—both positively and negatively. Over time, you will gain an understanding of how complex the underlying problems can be in a particular country or region.

Background work is key as you begin to develop an eye for discovery and a mind for learning more. The mission experience itself will allow opportunities for additional research and learning. And after you return from the mission experience, you will set new goals and the work will continue.

Independent Research

A. Researching Your Host Country

1. Go to your denomination's Web site on mission (see list, page 12) to learn about your host country. Make notes about the following:

Physical characteristics of the country (geography, climate, size) _____

Use the glossary in the Appendix to look up unfamiliar terms.

Leader's Note:

Leaders can do this research themselves or divide it among team members to encourage their learning about your host country.

All research should be completed before the Step 1 gathering.



Margaret W. Nea

Denominational Mission Web sites

American Baptist International Ministries www.internationalministries.org/volunteer_teams

Christian Reformed Churches
www.cwrc.org

Church of the Brethren
www.brethren.org/go_places_where_we_work

Church World Service
www.churchworldservice.org/action_where_main

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
www.thefellowship.info/missions

Disciples of Christ
www.weekofcompassion.org

Evangelical Covenant Church
www.covchurch.org/cwr/opportunities-to-learn/where-we-work

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
www.elca.org/globalmission

Presbyterian Church USA
www.pcusa.org/worldwide

Reformed Church in America
www.rca.org/volunteer

United Church of Christ
www.globalministries.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief
www.umcor.org

People (languages, culture, religion, urban, rural) _____

Government _____

Economy (major products for export, GDP per capita) _____

Unemployment rate _____

Health and social issues _____

Areas of concern _____

2. Use the information at Bread for the World Institute’s Hunger Report Web site, www.bread.org/hungerreport, and click on “downloads” to find current data on hunger and poverty. Find the percent of the population in your host country that is undernourished. _____

3. Go to the World Bank’s Web site, www.worldbank.org, and click on your host country. On the left side, click “Data and Statistics.” Under the heading “World Bank Sources of Data” click on your country’s “at a glance.” List additional challenges, including:

People living below the poverty line _____

Literacy rates and school attendance _____

Life expectancy and other demographic information _____

Transnational issues (refugees and internally displaced persons, disputes) _____

Prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other diseases _____

For More Information

U.N. Development Programme
Country Offices:
www.undp.org/countries

Google News:
Search by country

Library of Congress country
profiles:
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles.html>

Jubilee USA Beginner’s Guide
to Debt:
www.jubileeusa.org/?id=109

U.N. High Commissioner
for Refugees:
www.unhcr.org

Web addresses on pages
12-13 are live links at www.bread.org/advocacyguide.

Going Deeper
Look up the answers to
questions 1-3 regarding the
United States to put things
in context.

Web addresses on pages 14-15 are live links at www.bread.org/advocacyguide.



4. To understand the impact of debt and debt cancellation, watch this video from the Jubilee Debt Campaign: www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk. Then, using information from the World Bank's Web site, note the following:

External debt payments _____

Economic aid received _____

Does the nation pay more to service debt than it receives in aid? _____

5. Refer to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Monitor at www.mdgmonitor.org, and use the country profiles to note the progress toward each Millennium Development Goal (MDG).

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger _____

Achieve universal primary education _____

Promote gender equality and empower women _____

Reduce child mortality _____

Improve maternal health _____

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases _____

Ensure environmental sustainability _____

Develop a global partnership for development _____

6. For a non-U.S. perspective, review the BBC's country profiles at <http://news.bbc.co.uk> (click on the appropriate continent and then look for "country profiles"). Note any new information.



Myra Valenzuela



To learn more about water and how the inability to access it affects poverty, visit:

[www.churchworldservice.org/
action_what_water_main](http://www.churchworldservice.org/action_what_water_main)

7. Use a Web browser to find a news source from within your host country’s region to gain additional perspective. _____

8. Check Web sites of organizations such as Refugees International (www.refugeesinternational.org/where-we-work) or the International Refugee Committee (www.theirc.org) to determine the presence of refugees or internally displaced persons within your country. _____

9. How does international trade impact your country? Are economic sanctions a factor?

10. Research your host country’s water issues (Google “water” and your country’s name). Does everyone have access? How far do people have to travel to access it? Is water privatized or treated as a public good? _____

B. The United States and Your Host Country

(See Appendix B for Canadian references)

1. What are some ways the United States is aiding the country? (Go to the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Web site, www.usaid.gov/locations/. Click on the region; select “country and regional programs.” _____

2. Go to the U.S. Department of State Web site at www.state.gov. Click the “travel” tab and then “countries and regions” to research the following information:

Describe U.S. relations with your host country. _____

Are there Peace Corps volunteers in your host country? _____

Who are the principal U.S. officials residing in the country? Is there a U.S. military presence?

Web addresses on pages 16-17 are live links at www.bread.org/advocacyguide.

Going Deeper

What is the history of U.S. involvement in your host country?

What is the impact—positive and negative—of U.S. involvement in the region and surrounding areas?

Are U.S. corporations present?

How has U.S. pop culture influenced the country?

**Leader's
Note:**

Consider asking foreign nationals living in North America what they thought about the country prior to their arrival. What was their hardest adjustment? How has their view of North America changed? What do they want to tell North Americans about their home country? About their new country? Be prepared to share information during the Step 1 gathering.

3. Go to www.state.gov/f/releases/iab/fy2009cbj/ and scroll down to “Request by Region” to note U.S. funding allocated to regions/countries. _____

4. What type of assistance is the World Bank providing? Visit www.worldbank.org and type the country name in the search window. _____

5. Describe the aid efforts of denominational groups listed on page 12. _____



Group Session 1

You will complete this section with your group. Come to the session prepared to share and discuss your research.

Scripture

Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25:31-46

Discussion

As North American Christians traveling to another country on mission, it's important to keep your heart and eyes open. First look for evidence of God's presence and for the impact of the church as an agent of God's love. Then look for evidence of your country's presence, including the impact of foreign assistance, trade policies, debt, corporations, and the military.

The purpose of this study is to help you gain a broader context for the experiences you will have during the trip. This includes learning about the history, geography, and culture of your host country. It also includes considering the ways your country's policies and programs affect—for better or worse—the lives of the people you are about to meet.

Suggested Discussion Topics

We realize you may not be able to answer all of the following questions. Take a moment before your group session to determine which questions will be most beneficial for your group to answer.

1. What information did you find most surprising or valuable as you researched your host country?
2. What are the biggest challenges the people in your host country face? What are some of the country's strengths?

3. What progress has occurred during the past 10 years that meets some of those challenges?
4. How would you summarize your country's involvement in your host country?
5. What questions will you ask yourself and others during the trip?
 - Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? See sample questions in the box at right.
 - Be sensitive to cultural norms. In some cases, questions should be directed only to mission personnel. Check with your host to determine what is appropriate.
7. What does it mean to be a North American traveling internationally? Consider stereotypes: Which do you fit? Which don't you fit?
8. If you have spoken with someone who came to North America from another country, what were their views? How have their views changed?
9. How do your country's policies and programs affect your host country? What are the benefits? What are the disadvantages? What do you think the local perspective on your country might be?
10. Read the suggested texts from Isaiah and Matthew. What are your responsibilities as a North American citizen and Christian? Might there be tension between your responsibilities as a Christian and as a citizen?
11. What does it mean to be an advocate for hungry and poor people? In what ways can someone advocate for those living in poverty? See the example of Lily Cheng in her story "Becoming an Advocate," page 7.

The Burning Questions

Individually, think about the one question you would most like to have answered about your

What Should We Ask?

Questions you might ask if you were to visit a health program. Consider similar questions that would be appropriate in your mission context.

Who is receiving help from this health unit? Who is staffing it? Who is providing supplies and funding?

What illnesses and medical problems are treated? What are the medications available? What is working? What needs to improve?

Where is the unit? Why is it here? Where are the people coming from?

When will additional medications and services be available? When will the funding end?

Why are people suffering from these diseases? Why are some medications unavailable? Why are there not more health units?

How is this working? How is your country helping here? How could this program work better?

Leader's Note:

Your group might consider emailing your hosts to prepare for future dialogue. See sample messages in Appendix C.

host country. Write your question in the space below. You will revisit these questions in Group Session 3. _____

Concluding Thoughts

As you approach your departure, consider your short- and long-term goals. What do you hope to accomplish during the trip? Some members may feel that the point is to achieve or fulfill a mission, but the primary goal is to accompany your hosts in their journey—to experience, listen, learn from, and engage with them. Be appropriately inquisitive, so that you will continue gaining knowledge about your host country and about the ways your country's policies and programs have affected it. Be curious and humble as you respectfully engage in dialogue.

What are your long-term goals? What do you hope to accomplish after your return to North America? Consider ways to continue ministering to these new friends after you return home.

Prayer

Open our eyes to see you in the people we will meet.

Open our ears to hear what you would have us learn.

Open our lips to offer words of encouragement, hope, and love.

Open our hands to commit acts of service.

Open our hearts to a passion for justice.

Open our minds to discern how your will might be done.

Amen.



STEP 2: On the Ground

You have a unique opportunity to continue learning about your host country—now your research takes place on the ground, through observation and dialogue.

You will be seeing evidence of God’s presence and the impact of the church as an agent of God’s love. Also keep your eyes open for the ways your own country has influenced and affected this nation. Be aware of signs and labels. What North American products—companies, goods, restaurants—do you see? Which are welcomed and which are not? By whom? Why?

Tell your hosts about your desire to learn more about their country, as well as how your country’s policies and programs have affected them. What are their impressions? Keep in mind that these questions may be uncomfortable for the people you meet, and—depending on the country’s political situation—they may not have the freedom to express themselves. In some countries, certain questions may create problems for you and the team or your hosts. Don’t push policy discussions if you sense a reluctance to talk.

Be a good listener. Seek to understand, not to be understood. As you talk with people, repeat their answers back to them to make sure you have heard them correctly. Don’t jump to conclusions; discuss your questions or confusion with someone who is more familiar with the situation.

If people are critical of your country, welcome their honest opinions and try to understand their perspectives. Listen and always be respectful, even if you disagree. Remember that you are a guest in their country.

Finally, be personal and share information about yourself. Remember that we all wonder and worry about the same things—our jobs, our families, our futures. Keep in mind the universal feelings that will foster understanding and empathy even as you work to understand the impersonal systems that impact their lives.



Processing Your Experiences

These next pages contain questions and writing space for your journal entries as you increase your knowledge and experiences in your host country.

1. How do my experiences on the ground compare to the background information I learned before arriving? _____

2. What major challenges do people in this area face? What are the systemic problems? Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that apply. Which goals would I like to learn more about? Visit www.millenniumcampaign.org for more information. _____



Richard Leonard

Matthew 13:16-17:

“Blessed are your eyes
because they see, and your
ears because they hear...”

3. If people speak English and it is not their native language, where did they learn it?

4. What strengths, gifts, and assets are you observing in the people and places you visit?

Millennium Development Goals

-  Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
-  Achieve Universal Primary Education
-  Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
-  Reduce Child Mortality
-  Improve Maternal Health
-  Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases
-  Ensure Environmental Sustainability
-  Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Going Deeper

As you consider the ways the United States is involved in this country, ask yourself:

Who? Who began the relationship? Who is it affecting?

What? What are the basic facts of this involvement?

Where? Where is the impact of this involvement?

When? When did it begin? Is it short-term or long-term?

Why? Why does this involvement exist?

How? How is this affecting people? How is this involvement successful? How could it be better?

5. How do you see God working here? How is the church involved? What can the local church offer to churches in North America? What can North American churches offer to local churches?

6. How is your country involved here? What helps? What doesn't? What could be improved?

7. If you feel it's appropriate, ask your hosts' opinions about the relationship between your countries. Why do they feel the way they do? Do they have recommendations for changes or improvements? _____

8. What are you learning about your relationship with God through this experience? Do you find yourself depending more on God? Are you listening to God with more sensitivity? Are some of your views of God changing in this new context? _____



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

If you come in contact with a staff person from a non-governmental organization (NGO), discuss your country's policies and their effects in the region. What is his or her opinion?



9. As you witness the challenges people face in this country, what are your responsibilities as a Christian? As a North American? As a Christian citizen? _____

10. Consider the personal stories you've heard. Is there one that made a particular impression on you? Whose story is it? What are that person's special gifts? What does this person need and want? How is your accompaniment of him or her helping to build a relationship of understanding that might lead to change? _____

Remember, people communicate intellectually and emotionally. Be prepared to speak on both levels.

11. How might God be calling you to respond to what you're seeing and experiencing?

Group Session 2

You will complete this section with your group. Come to the session prepared to share and discuss some of your journal entries.

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-7 and 1 Corinthians 12

Discussion

Your group has been sharing powerful experiences, and it's important to take time together to process what you are seeing, hearing, and learning. You will probably do this frequently during the trip, but this session provides an



Leader's Note:

Let group members know that their next advocacy discussion will take place after returning home. This meeting will allow members to discuss the final two journal entries in more detail.

opportunity to discuss your journal entries, focusing on your perspective as a Christian from North America.

1. Share responses to the journal entries. Highlight entries 4-10.
2. Read and discuss the following words from Mother Teresa:

“When a poor person dies of hunger, it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed. We have refused to be instruments of love in the hands of God to give the poor a piece of bread, to offer them a dress with which to ward off the cold.”

—*Mother Teresa: In My Own Words*,
compiled by Jose Luis Gonzales-Balado (Random House, 1996)

- How does it feel if you read the “you” and “I” as personal?
 - How does it feel if you read the “you” and “I” as universal?
 - How does it feel if you read the “you” and “I” as your country?
3. Read the verses from Philippians and Corinthians, and apply the words to the global church.
 - Review personal reflections from journal entry 4.
 - Consider a vision for partnerships that are interdependent.

Consider your newly acquired gifts of knowledge and experience. How will you use these gifts? As you prepare to return to North America, begin thinking about your next steps. The next session will introduce you to a variety of ways you can use your knowledge, experience, and voice to help those in need—to advocate for those whose voices are not always heard.

Prayer

For Those Who Are Hungry

In the name of him
who gave bread to the hungry,
we remember all
who through our human ignorance,
folly, and sin
are condemned to live in want.
Show us, who have so much,
what we can do
to help those who have so little;
and bless the efforts of those
who work to overcome poverty and hunger,
that sufficient food may be found for all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—from *The Book of Common Order
of the Church of Scotland*
(St. Andrew Press)



STEP 3: Taking Action

What an amazing opportunity you have had! It is indeed a privilege to participate in a mission experience. You have gained firsthand knowledge of another country by working with partners there. With this privilege comes responsibility as you return home.

The people you met are your neighbors (see Luke 10). You have seen their strengths and gifts, their challenges and needs. What might God's will be for these friends, and how might you be a part of it?

It is time to use your experiences and knowledge to take action. As North American citizens, you have power by virtue of your citizenship. You have the ability to speak on behalf of your friends as they work to meet their needs and improve their living conditions. What you now do through advocacy will supplement what they are doing for themselves. Your voices can complement their voices.

Spend some time considering the questions below as you prepare to participate in the group gathering. Then review the information on advocacy as you begin to make decisions about the best ways for you to become an advocate.

A. Reflections

Review the summary paragraph you wrote in Step 1 that described your host country. What changes would you make to that paragraph now that you have seen the country firsthand?

Leader's Note:

Remind participants to complete their reflections before the gathering.



Robin Stephenson

Reflecting on your experiences and observations, when did you experience:

Feelings of hopelessness? _____

Feelings of hope? _____

Feelings of guilt? _____

Feelings of empowerment? _____



Margaret W. Nea



Hope in God and in the fulfillment of God's reign on earth:

How did you see God at work? _____

How can you help continue that work? _____

Satisfaction at your own country's assistance efforts:

What were you proud of? _____

What were you not proud of? _____

B. Different Forms of Advocacy

There are many ways you can become an advocate for people living in your host country. You can commit to advocacy with God, with your community, with the public, in the marketplace, and with your nation's decision-makers. Review the information below, and consider which plans you might implement to become an effective voice. Your observations, experiences, and Christian commitment will help motivate you to take action.

1. Advocacy with God

In her book *In God's Presence: Theological Reflections on Prayer*, Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki writes, "God's touch upon our lives often takes the form of a call to us to pray so that we ourselves become a new opening for God's power in the world." She reminds us that "even though we are at a distance, our prayers change what is possible. For God is never at a distance."

As you commit to praying for those in need, consider different ways to do this. You might commit to praying individually, while others may make advocacy for your host country a focus of a prayer group. If you are part of a group, consider organizing a public prayer vigil, which allows people to pray and at the same time send a message. If you plan a vigil, consider the purpose and message. Select the site, date, and time, and invite religious leaders to participate. Contact the local media; then publicize the vigil and invite as many people as you can think of to attend.

2. Advocacy with Your Community

In addition to advocacy with God, consider doing advocacy with your community. You can start by telling your family and friends about your experiences and about what you have learned. Use the Internet as a tool to share your news and to keep your community involved. Inform and encourage friends through your own group emails, blogs, or online social networks.

Then report back to your congregation. As you share, be sure to include an advocacy

Consider setting up MDG prayer stations from Micah Challenge USA available at www.breadstore.org.

The prayer stations invite participants to reflect and engage with the issues of global poverty, bringing them to God in prayer.

"When we offer ourselves to God through prayers of intercession, whether for strangers we have never met in a distant country, for acquaintances, or for those we know more intimately, we do so realizing that God works through the world for the world. Through prayer, we open ourselves to conformity with God's great will We risk being used by God as answers to our own prayers."

—Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki,
In God's Presence: Theological Reflections on Prayer



Sample Letter to the Editor

Senators urged to back the Global Poverty Act

Durham Herald

August 27, 2008

“Rising food prices are a concern to many people in Durham. For the world’s poorest people in developing countries—who spend up to 80 percent of their income to buy food—the situation is devastating.

This is why we ask you and your readers to join us in urging Sen. Elizabeth Dole and Sen. Richard Burr to become co-sponsors of the Global Poverty Act, SB 2433.

The Global Poverty Act would require the president to develop and implement a coordinated strategy of U.S. aid, debt relief and trade policies to meet the goal of cutting by half the number of people around the world who live on less than \$1 a day by 2015. For more information about the act, you may visit www.bread.org.

Poor and hungry people should not be allowed to suffer due to partisan politics during this election season. Please urge Sens. Dole and Burr to co-sponsor SB 2433 by calling the Capitol switchboard, (202) 224-3121, and asking for the senators’ offices.”

LLOYD SCHMEIDLER, JOHN ROREM,
NORMA TAYLOR MITCHELL and ADELIN PLUMER
Durham, NC

Note: This letter requests action on a specific bill that was before Congress at the time it was written. For information on current legislation affecting those who are hungry or poor, visit www.bread.org.

component, inviting those who supported you during your trip to continue their efforts as you work with the people you met. Advocacy within the community will allow others to learn from you and will encourage others to get involved. When others join you, your voice and message will be amplified.

As you involve your church in advocacy, consider speaking at Sunday school classes, small group meetings, men's, women's and youth groups, participating in worship services, and writing for your church newsletter. All offer ways to educate your church community about your host country and provide opportunities for members to get involved and offer help.

Local middle schools, high schools, and universities may also have groups that are interested in your experiences and knowledge. There may be existing chapters and coalitions that will want to become involved, or you might work with students to build a student group.

Advocacy with the community will require preparation as you work to educate different groups. Topics you may want to share include: background information about your country; personal experiences about your trip and the people you were able to meet; and insights you gained through your experiences. Show pictures if you can. Then discuss your continued commitment to help this region of the world through advocacy. Invite people to become involved, and encourage those who are interested to connect to an advocacy partner. If you are building a local coalition, ask for contact information so that you are able to communicate about future planning and action.

In your efforts to advocate with your community, keep in mind Jesus' parable of the sower (Mark 4). Just as not all of the seeds fell on fertile ground and took root, not everyone will be ready to receive your witness to what you have experienced. Be prepared for some to show little interest and for the initial enthusiasm of others to fade. Don't be discouraged if only a few seem to share your passion and commitment. Start with them and allow the Holy Spirit to use this small group to make a big difference.



Major Fair Trade Organizations

Ten Thousand Villages

www.tenthousandvillages.com

Ten Thousand Villages is comprised of a global network of social entrepreneurs who try to improve the livelihood of disadvantaged artisans by building a market for handmade products in North America.

Equal Exchange

www.equalexchange.coop

Equal Exchange's mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers, and to demonstrate the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world.

SERRV

www.serrv.org

SERRV International is a nonprofit alternative trade and development organization. Their mission is to promote the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manner.

3. Advocacy with the Public

A public prayer vigil is one way to advocate with the public. Another is to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, which will communicate your message to readers throughout the community. If your letter contains a reference to a specific public official, such as a member of Congress, it will likely get readers' attention.

Review your newspaper's guidelines to determine the appropriate length of the letter—usually between 100 and 200 words. Write an original letter that expresses your opinion with conviction, and include your name, address, and phone number. For more information on writing letters to the editor, go to www.bread.org/local-media.

4. Advocacy in the Marketplace

Money talks! We can also be advocates through the products we buy—or don't buy. We can choose not to support companies that exploit their workers and/or the environment. Boycotting is pressure that can lead to change—consider, for example, the coffee shops that now sell fair trade coffee.

We can also influence the market by choosing to buy products from specific companies and/or co-ops, because they support fair pricing, employee rights, and environmental sustainability. Fair trade organizations work with artisan groups in Africa, Latin America, and Asia to make sure people get a fair price for their work. Contact the Fair Trade Federation (www.fairtradefederation.org) for a list of fair trade organizations in the United States.

Even writing letters to corporations can bring about results. For example, if your host country is battling HIV/AIDS, consider partnering with them

to encourage a pharmaceutical company to make and distribute inexpensive anti-retroviral medication. Your host country may be able to provide information and pictures about those living with the disease, while your church could commit to sending 200 letters to the company to encourage action.

See your denomination's Web site to find out ways it may already be engaged with co-ops, fair trade groups, boycotts, and letter-writing campaigns.

5. Advocacy with Decision-Makers

While a company's decision-makers can influence its own corporate practices, decision-makers in our government can influence international policy. For this reason, it's extremely important to petition your legislators.

Consider writing, calling, and visiting. To find out who represents you in the U.S. Congress, go to www.bread.org to "Take Action." To find your Canadian Parliament member, see Appendix B on page 56.

Go to the Web sites of your senators and representatives to find their contact information. The sites will indicate how to send email to members of Congress, and they will list the phone numbers and addresses of their various offices.

When you call, use (202) 224-3121 to reach the Capitol switchboard. Ask for your member's office. Once you are connected, give your name and where you reside. Then ask for a specific action.

If you choose to write a personal letter, ask for a specific action and state the reasons why you support the action. Include your name and address at the end of your letter. For more information on writing a letter to Congress, and to read a sample letter, go to www.bread.org/OL.

Visiting your members of Congress (either in Washington, D.C., or in their district offices) can send the most powerful message because of the time and commitment involved. First, write

For more tools to engage decision-makers, check out Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters campaign at www.bread.org/OL

Web addresses on this page are live links at www.bread.org/advocacyguide.

Remember, members of Congress are not the only decision-makers. You may find as you explore the following list of advocacy partners that you can also petition U.S. administration officials, United Nations leaders, international financial institutions, and heads of multinational corporations.

or call your senator or representative's office to request a time to meet, and state the purpose of the meeting. You will most likely communicate with a scheduler, who will set a meeting time with the senator or representative, or with a staff person.

Plan your meeting so that you are able to effectively explain your request for a specific action and your reasons for that request. Bring along notes so that you can make your points concisely and clearly.

Dress professionally and be on time. Be positive. If you can begin with a "thank you," you will set a nice tone for the rest of the meeting. Focus on the purpose of the meeting and limit your "asks" to one to three related requests. Ask for a concrete commitment. If the person will not commit, ask why. What is needed to change his or her mind?

Conclude your meeting by thanking the participants for their time. Ask for contact information or a business card, so that you can send a thank-you note. Contact information will also allow you to follow up as needed.

Clearly there are many ways to use your voice. As you consider ways to take action, also think about which advocacy organizations will become your partners. Consider working with your denominational office, Church World Service, Bread for the World, and the partners listed on their Web sites. After reviewing the different groups, complete this part of the guide by noting your ideas. How will you advocate? With whom will you partner?



C. Partners in Advocacy

Advocacy organizations enable you to join a community that is working together on common goals. They will keep you informed on the issues, and they will guide your actions and involvement effectively, targeting actions when and where they are specifically needed. As you participate with a coalition, you will increase the impact of your actions.

Bread for the World www.bread.org

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision-makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Find out about actions you can take and join Christians around the country in an Offering of Letters to Congress.

Denominational and Agency Advocacy Offices

Sponsoring churches and agencies engage in advocacy on many global issues and can link you to their partners addressing specific issues:

- **American Baptist Churches USA**
www.internationalministries.org/volunteer_teams
- **Christian Reformed Churches**
www.crcjustice.org
- **Church of the Brethren**
www.brethren.org/witness_welcome
- **Church World Service**
www.churchworldservice.org/how_adv_main
- **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship**
www.thefellowship.info/missions

Visit www.bread.org/advocacyguide for a list of advocacy organizations working on issues of :

- Hunger
- Poverty
- Debt
- HIV/AIDS
- Conflict
- Genocide
- Trade
- Human Rights
- Refugees
- Water

Web addresses on this page are live links at www.bread.org/advocacyguide.



Margaret W. Nea

- **Disciples of Christ**
www.weekofcompassion.org
- **Evangelical Covenant Church**
www.covchurch.org/cmj
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
www.elca.org/advocacy
- **Franciscan Advocacy Network**
www.franciscanaction.org
- **Presbyterian Church USA**
www.pcusa.org/washington
- **Reformed Church in America**
www.rca.org/socialjustice
- **United Church of Christ**
www.ucc.org/advocacy_resources
- **United Methodist Committee on Relief**
www.umcor.org

Web addresses on this page are live links at www.bread.org/advocacyguide.

D. Your Ideas:

1. How will I advocate? Check which of the following you will commit to do:

- I will pray individually
 - I will pray as part of a group
 - I will help organize a prayer vigil
 - I will write a letter to the editor
 - I will submit an article to a religious publication
 - I will educate and involve my congregation
 - I will speak with school or community groups
 - I will stop purchasing a particular product
 - I will encourage letter-writing to decision-makers of a corporation
 - I will write my decision-makers in Congress
 - I will call my decision-makers in Congress
 - I will visit my decision-makers in Congress
 - Other ideas _____
-

2. With whom will I advocate? Check the organizations with which you might partner:

- My denomination
- Bread for the World
- Other organizations (see next page)





Margaret W. Nea

Advocacy Organizations

Find links to these and other organizations at www.bread.org/advocacyguide

- ONE Campaign
- Church World Service
- Micah Challenge USA
- World Vision International
- Sojourners
- Oxfam International
- Jubilee USA
- Global AIDS Alliance
- Acting on AIDS
- Genocide Intervention Network
- The Save Darfur Coalition
- ENOUGH
- Witness for Peace
- International Crisis Group
- Presbyterian Church USA's Just Trade
- Interfaith Working Group on Trade
- Global Exchange
- Amnesty International
- Stop The Traffik

- Not For Sale
- International Justice Mission
- Human Rights Watch
- Refugees International
- International Rescue Committee
- Other partners:

Not all Christian groups will agree on particular advocacy issues. Listing on this page does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of the group's policy agenda by Bread for the World or its partner denominations and agencies.

Group Session 3

You will complete this section with your group. Come to the session prepared to share and discuss your reflections and thoughts on advocacy.

Scripture

Micah 6:8 and James 2:14-17

Discussion

1. Share your thoughts and reflections on the mission experience.
2. Share the questions that you wrote at the end of Group Session 1 (page 22) and what answers you have learned.
3. Read the verses from Micah and James and discuss advocacy as a way to continue partnering with friends from your host country who are living in poverty.
4. How will you respond to questions such as “What was it like?” Practice a one-minute response in small groups. Discuss the importance of using this opportunity to talk about what was meaningful and begin advocating for the people you met.
5. Discuss the importance of connecting with advocacy partners.
 - Partners will keep individuals informed on the issue.
 - Experts will effectively guide your actions and involvement.
 - Organizations are able to increase the impact of your actions by studying the issues and targeting actions when they are needed.
 - Partners will enable you to join a community working on common goals.

Leader’s Note:

For a meaningful closing activity, consider using the “Stone by Stone” activity before closing with prayer.

Instructions are in Appendix D.

- Review ways to take action. Devise a group plan (see example), and allow at least 10 minutes for people to complete their individual plans by filling out the Advocacy Commitment Sheet.
- Conclude with the Litany at right.



Jennifer Wilmore

Millennium Campaign/Sermon on the Mount Litany

We are the first generation that can eradicate poverty.
We are those who are called and equipped to make a difference.

We are called to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

We are called to achieve universal primary education.
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

We are called to promote gender equality and empower women.
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

We are called to reduce child mortality.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

We are called to improve maternal health.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

We are called to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

We are called to ensure environmental sustainability.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

We are called to develop a global partnership for development.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

We are called...
And yes, we hear.

– Written for Bread for the World, Gathering 2007,
by Jeffrey W. Carter, Pastor, Manassas (VA) Church of the Brethren

Group Advocacy Plan example

Meet with church ministers to plan the best place and time to share, educate, and engage the congregation.

Persons responsible _____

Completion date _____

Submit a newsletter article about the missions experience that will introduce the idea of advocacy.

Persons responsible _____

Completion date _____

Plan a group visit to your member(s) of Congress to discuss a particular policy issue. This could be to his or her office in your home district or state, or in Washington, D.C.

Persons responsible _____

Completion date _____

Research potential advocacy partners. Choose one or more to introduce to the congregation.

Persons responsible _____

Completion date _____

Plan the worship experience. Consider speakers, photos, prayers, Scripture, offerings, and letter-writing opportunities.

Persons responsible _____

Completion date _____

Write a letter to the editor about a particular issue your group may be focusing on following the trip.

Persons responsible _____

Completion date _____

Group Advocacy Plan Commitment Sheet

Individual Advocacy Plan Commitment Sheet

STEP 4: Reporting on Your Advocacy Experiences

Advocacy can be lonely work if you try to do it all by yourself. Individual advocacy also can be less effective than partnering with others.

Finding support in your advocacy work can be crucial for your motivation, long-term commitment, and success. Friends who shared your mission experience can understand where you are in processing the trip. Meeting with them in this last session can be a great encouragement to reach the advocacy goals set in Step 3. This session should also serve as motivation for setting new goals. Consider additional meetings—perhaps annual get-togethers—if the group would find that helpful.

Reflections

As you prepare to share your advocacy experiences with your mission team, consider the highlights and the challenges you've encountered so far.

Summarize your advocacy experiences to date. _____

Going Deeper

Want to go deeper into the biblical and faith grounding of advocacy?

Your group might think about doing an in-depth study from JustFaith Ministries.

For more information, see www.justfaith.org.

Consider Lobby Days

If lobbying a member of Congress seems daunting, consider participating in a Lobby Day and gain experience with others. Group lobbying experiences include:

Bread for the World's Lobby Day, held each June. See www.bread.org for details.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days, held each March. See www.advocacydays.org for details.

What have been the highlights? _____

What have been the challenges? _____

What have you learned from your experiences? _____



Leader's Note:

If this is the final gathering, the goals of this meeting should be support, encouragement, motivation, and challenge.

“Those who struggle for justice for one day are good; those that struggle for many days are very good. Those that struggle for many years are very, very good. But those that struggle for justice their entire lifetime, these are the essential, indispensable ones. This is what the world needs.”

—Julia Lupian, paraphrasing a Latin American saying in *What About Short-Term Mission? From Mission to Mission*, 2006

Group Session 4

You will complete this section with your group. Come to the session prepared to discuss your experiences in advocacy.

Scriptures

Matthew 6:7-15, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Discussion

1. Allow time to share advocacy experiences.
2. Discuss ways some challenges might be overcome.
3. Who is working with advocacy organizations? Describe the partnership. What are the benefits? What are the challenges?
4. Consider the five types of advocacy (with God, your community, the public, in the marketplace, and with decision-makers). Which types have mission participants not experienced? Why not?
5. How might your advocacy experiences be strengthened?
6. Review the Scripture reading and discuss the meaning of the words, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” What comes to mind as you consider everything you’ve learned and experienced on the trip? What is God’s will for your friends in your host country? What is God’s will for you in North America?

7. An African proverb says, “When you pray, move your feet.” When you pray the Lord’s Prayer, how will you “move your feet?” What are your future goals as a group? As an individual?
8. In their book *Grace at the Table*, David Beckmann and Arthur Simon write, “People of faith must act. Hundreds of millions are still excluded from the earth’s banquet, but God wants to bring them to the table! And God has given us the awesome privilege of enabling more of them to come.” As we seek to do God’s will and work toward bringing more people to the table, what will your commitment be?

Prayer

Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

—Matthew 6:10-11

Sponsoring Bread for the World’s Offering of Letters in your congregation is an excellent way to continue your advocacy on behalf of hungry and poor people. Visit www.bread.org



Appendix A • Glossary of Terms

Advocacy: the act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending; active espousal; a deliberate process of speaking out on issues of concern in order to exert some influence on behalf of ideas or persons.

Boycott: a concerted refusal of consumers to purchase the products or services of a business to indicate displeasure with the manufacturer, seller, or provider of the product or to force acceptance of certain conditions.

Co-Op (Cooperative): a jointly owned commercial enterprise (usually organized by farmers or consumers) that produces and distributes goods and services and is run for the benefit of its owners.

Demographic: characteristics and statistics of human populations.

Economic Aid: funds that may be provided to communities or countries in the

event of a humanitarian crisis or to create long-term sustainable economic growth.

Economic Sanctions: punitive measures to pressure a country.

Environmental Sustainability: interacting with the environment in a way that preserves it so that needs can be met not only in the present, but in the indefinite future.

Export: any good or commodity transported from one country to another in a legitimate fashion, typically for use in trade.

External Debt (or foreign debt): the part of a country's total debt that is owed to creditors outside the country. The debt includes money owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the

International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Extreme Poverty: living on less than \$1.25 per day.

Fair Trade: an organized social movement and market-based approach to empowering developing country producers and promoting sustainability by advocating the payment of a fair price as well as social and environmental standards in areas related to the production of a wide variety of goods.

GDP (Gross Domestic Product): the total market value of all final goods and services produced in a country in a given year. GDP equals a country's total consumer, investment, and government spending, plus the value of exports, minus the value of imports.

GDP per capita: an approximation of the value of goods produced per person in the country; equals the country's GDP divided by the total number of people in the country.

IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons): people forced to flee their homes but who, unlike refugees, remain within their country's borders.

Import: any good or service brought into one country from another country in a legitimate fashion, typically for use in trade.

Lobby: to try to influence the thinking of legislators or other public officials for or against a specific cause.

Millennium Development Goals: eight international development goals that 189 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015.

NGO (Non-Governmental Organization): a legally constituted organization created by private organizations or people with no participation in or representation of any government.

Poverty-focused Development Assistance: a catch-all phrase to describe those accounts within the U.S. foreign aid budget that most effectively provide assistance to poor countries to meet the challenges of reducing poverty and investing in broad-based economic development.

Refugee: a person who flees to a foreign country or power to escape danger or persecution.

Systemic: of or pertaining to a system; in this case, the word is used to describe problems related to systems, policies, and procedures that affect multiple people; most notably used when referring to government systems.

Undernourished: lacking the food needed for health and growth.

Unemployment Rate: the percentage of people in the labor force—available to work and currently seeking work—who are unemployed.



Martin Lueders

Appendix B • For Canadian Citizens

A. Canadian Involvement in the Host Country

Canadian International Development Agency

www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is Canada's lead agency for development assistance. It has a mandate to support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable, and prosperous world.

B. Canadian Advocacy Organizations

Make Poverty History Canada

www.makepovertyhistory.ca

Make Poverty History has mobilized Canadians on issues related to poverty at home and abroad. From hundreds of events to hundreds of thousands of email messages to politicians, from getting organized in communities to meeting with decision-makers, Canadian Make Poverty History campaigners are standing up and making a difference.

Micah Challenge Canada

www.micahchallenge.ca

The Micah Challenge has been developed by the Micah Network and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) in response to a groundswell among evangelical Christian churches wanting to contribute at all levels to the alleviation of poverty and to greater justice for poor communities.

C. Advocacy with Canadian Decision-Makers

To find your member of Parliament, go to <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>.

Web addresses on this page are live links at www.bread.org/advocacyguide.

Appendix C • Sample Message to Country Host

Dear _____,

Thank you for the opportunity to visit you and your colleagues in _____. We appreciate your hospitality, and we look forward to meeting you.

We have many questions! We want to learn as much as we can about your country, your church, and how you see God working in your midst. One issue we're specifically interested in is how our country is involved with _____. What impact do some of our country's programs and policies have there—whether positive or negative? We've attached a list of some specific questions, and we hope to have time to discuss them with you once we arrive. We would also appreciate any advice on appropriate times and ways to dialogue with others in your country.

Are there any questions or issues you would like us to think about as we prepare for our trip?

Thank you again for hosting our group. We look forward to visiting your country and learning from you.

Sincerely,

Your name

Sample Follow-up Message to Country Host

Dear _____,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to meet and work with you in _____.
We truly enjoyed our visit with you. Thank you so much for taking the time to answer all of our questions.
We learned a great deal about your country, your church, and what God is doing in your midst.

Now that we have returned home, we'd like to join our voice with yours. Our group has discussed several ways we can share your stories with our friends, families, communities, and our nation's decision-makers. One example is _____.

Thank you again for hosting our group. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you.

Sincerely,

Your name

Appendix D • Stone by Stone Activity

This activity flows from Alice Walker’s idea in the following quotation that each of us needs to “bring our own small stone of activism” to help build an “edifice of hope”:

“It has become a common feeling, I believe, as we have watched our heroes falling over the years, that our own small stone of activism, which might not seem to measure up to the rugged boulders of heroism we have so admired, is a paltry offering toward the building of an edifice of hope. Many who believe this choose to withhold their offerings out of shame. This is the tragedy of our world. For we can do nothing substantial toward changing our course on the planet, a destructive one, without rousing ourselves, individual by individual, and bringing our small, imperfect stones to the pile.”

—Alice Walker, *Everything We Love Can Be Saved*

What you need:

A bag of stones (can be glass, decorative, natural or rocks from your gravel driveway!)

What you do:

1. Simply show the bag of stones to the group and reflect on the body of Christ and how each member has a unique calling from God to serve a function in the body.
2. Pass the bag around. Each person with the bag may share an advocacy commitment he or she is making and a story he or she will share with others.
3. Encourage folks to take a stone after sharing and keep it on their desk or other visible place to serve as a reminder of the commitments they have made and the people they have encountered.



Advocacy Guide Sponsoring Partners



International
Ministries

**American Baptist Churches USA
International Ministries**
www.internationalministries.org



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World
www.bread.org



CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

**Christian Reformed Church of North America
Office of Social Justice**
www.crcjustice.org



Church of the Brethren, Global Mission Partnerships
www.brethren.org



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Church World Service
www.churchworldservice.org



Cooperative Baptist
FELLOWSHIP

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
www.thefellowship.info



Week of Compassion (Disciples of Christ)
www.weekofcompassion.org



Evangelical Covenant Church
www.covchurch.org



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
World Hunger Program**
www.elca.org



Franciscan Advocacy Network
www.franciscanaction.org



Presbyterian Hunger Program
www.pcusa.org/hunger



Reformed Church in America
www.rca.org



United Church of Christ
www.ucc.org



**United Methodist
Committee on Relief**
www.umcor.org