

Hunger Sunday



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World and JustFaith Become Full Partners

Innovative adult education program helps transform lives and expand social ministry

Across the country, individuals are participating in workshops to learn about JustFaith, an in-depth study program of spiritual formation that leads to active involvement on behalf of justice and compassion. In some instances, Bread for the World is co-hosting these workshops. In other cases, Bread for the World regional staff are taking part. The goal of all this activity is to have a record number of congregations start a JustFaith small group this fall.

JustFaith began more than 20 years ago in Catholic parishes that wanted to discover the biblical and theological foundations for social ministry. Small groups of 10 to 15 individuals, led by a team of church members, met for 30 weeks. Books by Bread for the World staff were often part of the original curriculum.

Three years ago, Bread for the World helped design a new ecumenical version of JustFaith. Today, more than 1,000 churches from many different faith traditions have used the JustFaith curriculum. The overwhelming majority of the program's 20,000 graduates are now active in a range of service and justice projects.

This year, Bread for the World joined the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services in becoming a full partner with JustFaith. Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and PAX Christi USA are also partners.

The 2010 JustFaith curriculum—both the Catholic and the ecumenical versions—includes a Bread for the World Offering of Letters. Participants will use Bread for the World resources during several sessions of the 30-week program.

Jack Jezreel is the founder and executive director of JustFaith, a spiritual formation program in use in over 90 dioceses. He holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Notre Dame University. He spent six years in a Catholic Worker community and has been involved in parish-based social justice work for 25 years.



Commenting on these developments, Bread for the World's president David Beckmann said, "I'm very impressed with JustFaith. Their graduates show up at Bread for the World meetings. They are helping people connect Jesus with justice."

A schedule of introductory workshops and many other details can be viewed at www.justfaith.org. A free 13-minute introductory DVD is available from Bread for the World. For more information about the JustFaith partnership, contact Carter Echols at 1-800-822-7323, ext. 130, or email: cechols@bread.org.

Bread for the World Sunday: October 17, 2010

Set a date this fall when your church will observe Bread for the World Sunday—as an opportunity to renew our commitment to ending hunger in God's world. For more information about new resources, look inside this newsletter.

Churches Find Creative Ways to Prepare for Bread for the World Sunday

For a decade now, congregations have set aside one Sunday in the fall as a time to renew their commitment to ending hunger in God's world. This year, October 17 is the date many churches will celebrate Bread for the World Sunday. Others will choose another date before Thanksgiving.

There are almost as many ways to observe Bread for the World Sunday as there are churches around the country.

Kathleen Gribble, the Bread for the World liaison at St. Bernard Parish in Appleton, WI, says that a pulpit announcement and colorful tri-fold display in the sanctuary during mass help spread the word about Bread for the World.

Last year, the liturgy at St. Bernard's included singing Marty Haugen's hymn, "Bread for the World." After mass, members of the social justice committee talked informally with parishioners as they enjoyed coffee and donuts during fellowship hour.

At Carter Temple Church in Chicago, Darlene Walton gave an informational talk on Bread for the World. The children's program engaged the church's youngest members in a conversation about the many ways they are blessed, while—at the same time—other children have a minimal amount to eat.

Walton is a regional chairperson for the Christian Methodist Church, and she reports, "I was able to get 20 CME churches in our region to participate in Bread for the World

Sunday and learn about urging our leaders to go positively toward ending hunger."

In Trinity, NC, the sanctuary and worship areas at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church were festooned with a variety of bread loaves. Everyone who attended services on Bread for the World Sunday received a piece of bread. Worshippers were encouraged to reflect on the day's special meaning and Bread for the World's work. Pastor Beverly Gaska's sermon focused on the causes and solutions to hunger.

In Wisconsin, Kathleen Gribble is candid about the challenges of promoting advocacy at her large church. "People can be wary for many reasons," she says. "Sometimes

it's because policy issues seem too abstract or complicated. They may worry they'll be criticized for 'being political' in church. But the more they see it happening as a part of our worship, the better people can see how action fits with our Christian faith."

"I found inspiration in *The Rising of Bread for the World*," Gribble continues, "where [Bread for the World founder] Art Simon writes, 'It is not only permissible to convey our opinions to elected officials, but ... doing so is a huge opportunity to express the love in action that is urged upon us throughout the Bible.'"

Churches may order free worship bulletin inserts for their celebration of Bread for the World Sunday. Offering envelopes are also available. A resource guide with a scripture study by Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins and a litany by Father Ron Rolheiser may be requested as well. For more information and to place your order, visit www.bread.org/go/sundayhs.

Many churches observe Bread for the World Sunday with special prayers and music that can be found at www.bread.org/go/sundayhs.



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Urgent Action Needed on Behalf of Stalled Legislation

In the midst of the budget impasse, Bread for the World speaks up on behalf of hungry people.

Legislation that Bread for the World is backing has stalled in Congress because of resistance by the fiscally conservative members of Congress, including the Blue Dog Coalition of Democrats. These members of Congress are opposed to any measure that might increase the deficit, especially since this is an election year.

Bread for the World will not be able to move any legislation related to U.S. childhood hunger—both improving nutrition programs such as school meals and protecting tax credits for low-income families—

unless we are able to have an impact on at least some senators and representatives.

Bread for the World is telling these members of Congress, “Please don’t balance the budget on the backs of poor and hungry people.” This was a message in David Beckmann’s testimony on June 30 to the president’s Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. David Beckmann has sent a letter to all members of Congress relaying this message. A similar letter from the leaders of major church bodies will also be delivered to all members

of Congress.

Bread for the World staff are arranging summer visits with selected members of Congress in their district or state offices. These visits will be supplemented by letters to the editors and op-eds in local newspapers, which are followed closely by members of Congress.

We need your letters and phone calls to help get this message across to fiscally conservative members of Congress. For the latest updates and a sample letter, visit www.bread.org.



PHOTO © JIM STIPE

Churches Urged to Establish Hunger-Free Community Programs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will grant \$5 million to support research, planning, and activities that help communities in their work to end hunger in the United States.

This Hunger-Free Communities program was part of the 2008 Farm Bill, and Congress appropriated funds last year. In its 2005 Offering of Letters, Bread for the World members urged Congress to pass the Hunger-Free Communities Act.

“The creation of this program is

a big win for Bread for the World. After many years of hard work, we are excited to see this up and running,” said Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. “Bread worked diligently to ensure that the Hunger-Free Community program became a reality to help local communities work together to provide services for hungry people.”

Through the grants, the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service will fund the development and implementation of community-wide plans for ending hunger. About \$1 million will go toward evaluating food insecurity

in communities and developing strategies to become hunger-free. The remaining \$4 million will support programs for communities that already have plans to end hunger but lack the resources to carry them out.

“I hope Bread for the World members will apply for these new grants to establish hunger-free communities in their neighborhoods, towns, and cities,” said Beckmann.

The grants are available to public and nonprofit organizations and require collaboration with one or more community partners. Grant applications may be submitted by email to: HungerFreeCommunities@fns.usda.gov or through www.grants.gov.

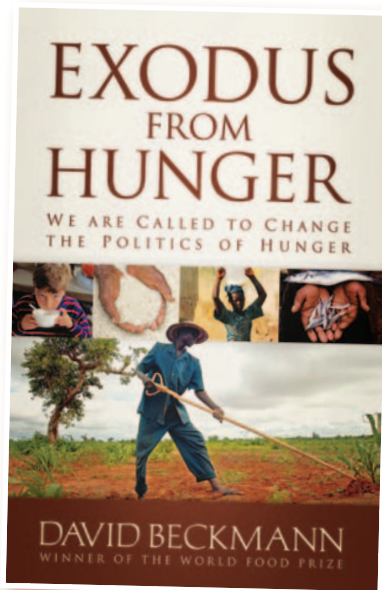
Special Pre-Publication Offer for Bread for the World Members

Bread for the World members can save three dollars and be among the first to receive *Exodus from Hunger*, the new book by David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World and World Food Prize Laureate. The publisher, Westminster John Knox, will release the book on October 6, 2010. The pre-sale price for Bread for the World members is just \$15 (includes shipping). Use the response form included with *Hunger Sunday* or visit www.bread.org/store to take advantage of this special offer.

In the introduction to this new book, David Beckmann tells us, "God is moving in our time to end hunger, and we are invited to be part of this great liberation." He examines the causes of hunger, presents case studies of countries that have made great strides, and shares the stories of people who are, quite simply, hungry

every day. Beckmann lays out a workable plan for using political channels to complete the exodus from hunger.

Interactive information about the book can be found at www.exodus-fromhunger.org.



Save 50 Percent on Books, T-Shirts, and More

The current inventory of Bread for the World's store—lectionary resources, books by Art Simon, T-Shirts, and other items—are on sale this summer for half price. That's a 50 percent savings! Visit www.bread.org/store and enter the discount code of **HS2010** at checkout to take advantage of this special offer.



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

Bread for the World Staff Can Help

You can request help with letter writing, receive up-to-date news on legislation, and order resources for your church's hunger ministry by contacting the numbers listed below.

Bread for the World National Staff:

Washington, DC 1-800-822-7323

- **Church Resources**, ext. 130
- **African-American Churches**, ext. 103
- **Catholic Communities**, ext. 188
- **Latino Churches** Pasadena, CA
1-800-822-7323 ext. 3

Bread for the World Regional Organizing Staff

- **California**
Pasadena, CA 1-800-315-3239
- **District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia**
Washington, DC 1-800-822-7323
- **Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri**
Chicago, IL 1-800-447-0239
- **Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia**
Dayton, OH 1-800-619-9239
- **Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont**
New York, NY 1-866-238-0507
- **Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina**
Atlanta, GA 1-888-239-0073
- **Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin**
Minneapolis, MN 1-800-363-7239
- **Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming**
Portland, OR 1-888-752-7323



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WASHINGTON, DC 20001
1-800-822-7323 WWW.BREAD.ORG

More for Churches on Bread for the World's New Website

Bread for the World's new website—www.bread.org—includes more resources than ever to support congregations interested in addressing hunger:

- More biblical reflections and scripture-based resources
- More hunger education and awareness activities for children, youth, and adults
- More curricula for people of all ages
- More worship resources

Resources will continue to be added to the site in the coming months. Pastors, Sunday school teachers, outreach committees, and others will discover information and suggestions that can be incorporated into sermons, projects, and campaigns. The site includes several downloadable “ready to go” activities and resources.

On every web page on the site, on the right side navigation under “How You Can Help,” you will find the “Engage Your Church” button. Clicking on this button will take you to additional pages with resources for prayer and worship, activities and curriculum, and practical tools to get your church organized to end hunger. Information on “The Bible and Hunger” is also available. You may also access these resources directly at www.bread.org/go/worship.

These new website resources are part of Bread for the World's broader goal of supporting churches as they engage in ministries to end hunger. Church leaders who visit the site are encouraged to provide feedback. At the bottom of most pages, a “was this page helpful?” question offers an opportunity for visitors to comment.

Hunger Sunday readers who want to offer more extensive feedback about the website are invited to contact Carter Echols, Bread for the World's point person for resources and strategies for congregations, by phoning 1-800-822-7323, ext. 130, or email cechols@bread.org.



Set a date this fall and order your free resources

Plan Now for Bread for the World Sunday

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, president and general minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has written an insightful study of Luke 18: 1-8, the parable of the persistent widow. This Gospel reading is the text appointed for October 17, Bread for the World Sunday.

Depending on their fall activities calendar, some churches may celebrate Bread for the World Sunday on other days between World Food Day (October 16) and Thanksgiving. Dr. Watkins' reflection looks at additional passages in Luke that will be read on other Sundays during the fall. Bread for the World is grateful to Dr. Watkins, who served as the preacher for the 2010 National Prayer Breakfast, for contributing this inspiring scripture study.



Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins

Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, president of the Oblate School of Theology, has prepared a new litany or responsive prayer for this year's observance of Bread for the World Sunday. Author of *The Holy Longing* and *The Restless Heart*, Rolheiser is a popular speaker and writer. His weekly column appears in more than 60 newspapers. More information about his work can be found at www.ronrolheiser.com.



Father Ron Rolheiser

These resources—along with suggestions for a children's sermon and education activities—are available free of charge from Bread for the World. Spanish-language versions that can be downloaded from Bread for the World's website will be available on August 15. To view and order these resources, visit www.bread.org/go/sundayhs.

Churches may order—free of charge—bulletin inserts and offering envelopes for their celebration of Bread for the World Sunday. Use the order form enclosed with Hunger Sunday, visit www.bread.org/go/sundayhs, or call toll-free 1-800-822-7323, ext. 151.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. —Luke 18:1

Bread for the World Sunday...

... an opportunity for each of us to renew our commitment to end hunger in God's world. We join others in thousands of churches across the country who are involved in Bread for the World's efforts to create hope and opportunity for those who struggle to get enough to eat.

Today, like the widow in Luke's Gospel, we persist in our prayers for hungry people. In this parable and other stories in the Gospel, our encounters with Jesus give us the faith to be God's agents of love and compassion in the world.

Bread for the World equips and inspires us for this work, encouraging us to use our citizenship to change the policies and conditions that allow hunger to persist. For more than 35 years, Bread for the World has served as a collective Christian voice that urges our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.



Bread for the World, in partnership with churches from all faith traditions, seeks long-term solutions to the causes of hunger. More than half the world's poorest people farm small plots of land. Seeds, fertilizer, and other resources will help these farmers grow enough food to feed their families and their communities.

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