

bread

BREAD FOR THE WORLD
is a collective Christian voice
urging our nation's decision
makers to end hunger
at home and abroad

July–August 2010 | www.bread.org



Bread President Wins World Food Prize

Rev. David Beckmann, Bread for the World's president, has won the 2010 World Food Prize!

The award, announced June 16 by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, is the Nobel Prize equivalent for food and agriculture, honoring people who have made breakthrough achievements in the quality, quantity, and availability of food throughout the world.

Beckmann shares the award with Jo Luck, president of Heifer International, which for many years has helped people in poor communities end hunger one family at a time.

“Engaging Millions of People”

The laureates were recognized for their “landmark achievements in building two of the world's foremost grassroots organizations leading the charge to end hunger and poverty for millions of people around the world.” They will accept the prize at an international symposium in Des Moines, IA, on October 14, 2010.

“This year's honorees have addressed hunger in innovative ways, engaging millions of people at home and abroad. Their contributions are critical,” Clinton said.

(See **World Food Prize** on Page 2)

ACT NOW!

- Ask your members of Congress to make the current Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit levels permanent.
- If Congress fails to preserve the Child Tax Credit at its current level, a full-time working parent receiving the minimum wage will receive only a \$320 credit instead of the current \$1,800 credit.
- The difference—\$1,480—is a modest amount of money that has a big impact on the lives of families struggling to make ends meet.

Sen. _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



Enabling people to grow enough food for their families will help end hunger for good.

USAID

“Bread for the World has done an extraordinary job in not only providing positive responses in the fight against hunger,” she continued, “but in helping to really lead the way in terms of development and urging the United States to improve coordination and better target our investments and to learn from local communities, all lessons that we have embraced and applied in our Feed the Future Initiative.” Making foreign assistance more effective in reducing poverty and hunger was the topic of Bread’s 2009 Offering of Letters.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation, added, “Through their leadership of two dynamic nonprofit organizations, [this year’s laureates] have had a dramatic impact in uplifting the lives of countless poor and hungry people around the world.”

This is the first time the prize has been awarded to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The previous laureates, who come from all over the world, work mainly in science, livestock health, and famine relief. In making the award, the prize committee recognized “the critical efforts of NGOs in mobilizing and empowering everyday citizens to end hunger in communities around the world.”

Beckmann emphasized that the World Food Prize honors the work of all Bread for the World members and churches in urging the U.S. government to do more to end hunger at home and abroad.

“U.S. funding for poverty-focused development assistance has tripled over the last decade, and nutrition programs for hungry people in this country have more than doubled,” he said. “This would not have happened without the advocacy of members and local congregations of Bread for the World.

“The World Food Prize gives us a boost at an important time. I hope it encourages more people to advocate for an end to hunger.”

As Beckmann explains in his new book, *Exodus from Hunger*, the world has an exceptional opportunity right now to change the politics of hunger. He gives examples of countries that have made strong progress against hunger and lays out a plan for making progress through our advocacy efforts. The book, published by Westminster John Knox, will be released October 6 but is available for pre-order now.

Lynne Hybels of Willow Creek Community Church said that after describing the progress that has been made, *Exodus from Hunger* “convincingly points to the potential for far greater progress if individual Christians and churches will continue to offer grassroots compassionate care to those in need, while also boldly challenging our government to more generously and wisely participate with us in the battle against poverty and hunger. It was a message I needed to hear.”

“This book is [Beckmann’s] seasoned manifesto concerning his long-term passion,” said Walter Brueggemann of Columbia Theological Seminary. “Those who read his book will be engaged by and recruited for this most urgent of issues. Economics makes the problem of hunger intractable, but the active purpose of God makes its resolution possible and compelling.”

To learn more about the 2010 World Food Prize or order *Exodus from Hunger* at a special pre-publication price, visit www.exodusfromhunger.org.

We’re Moving!

Our office lease is up! Effective Nov. 22, 2010, our new address will be: 425 3rd St. SW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC, 20024. Our telephone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. We secured a good deal on a 10-year lease for the top floor of a new office building—it’s closer to Congress, more open and inviting to members and friends, and better equipped to handle new technologies. We look forward to welcoming you!

Look with the eyes of the Spirit

Faith in ‘Ordinary Time’

by Juan Luis Calderón, OAR, STL

After the special—and intense—seasons of Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, the liturgical calendar follows with Ordinary Time. The name gives the impression that our spirituality can have a period of calm after the strong feelings of the Lord’s passion and resurrection. “Nothing fancy,” you think. “Just a time to relax and wait until the next Advent, when our Christian spirituality will be reactivated.”

But “ordinary” has another meaning when you see life with Christian eyes. Our liturgical ordinary time comes just after the celebration of the great feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus returned to God, he sent the Holy Spirit to the world (Acts 2:4), so that Christians became temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). The Spirit was not sent to live around us, but in us; we are temples of the Holy Spirit. After Pentecost, the “ordinary time” of the church is the time of the Spirit.

Take a look at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12). Jesus converted water into wine—that’s the miracle we usually “see” reading this passage. But we don’t reflect on why this is possible. Jesus made the miracle because he looks with the eyes of the Spirit. Common people see water that is water and will

continue being water. Jesus instead sees water and the possibility of it becoming wine. The ordinary (water) can become extraordinary (wine).

At Bread for the World, we are people of faith; we believe in what God says. If we look with the eyes of the Spirit, the extraordinary can also become ordinary. Bread is a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad, because we really believe hunger can be extinguished.

If we look with the eyes of the Spirit, the extraordinary can also become ordinary.

What right now is ordinary—hunger—could be eradicated from the face of the earth if we look with the eyes of the Spirit. Bread knows that putting an end to hunger is possible! The extraordinary can be ordinary in the near future: We just need to convince members of Congress and legislators around the world to act as the temples of the Holy Spirit that God says they are.

In our world, we have too much “water,” and we need more “wine.” We have all that is necessary to make the



Courtesy of Juan Luis Calderón

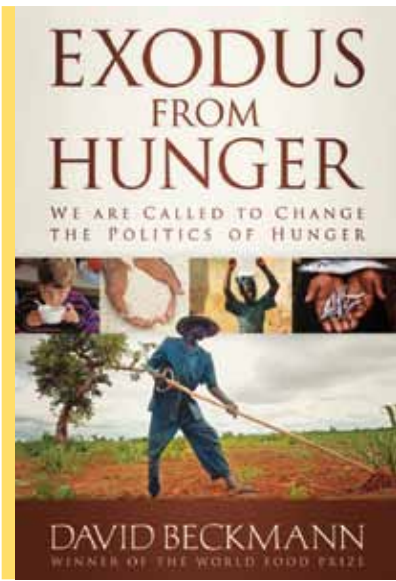
miracle. We can end hunger. Just open your eyes and look at the hungry world as a world of possibilities where hunger will exist no more.

Now, go to a mirror and begin practicing in a loud voice: “I am a temple of the Spirit. Have faith. End hunger.”

Juan Luis Calderón, OAR, STL, is assistant director of Centro Guadalupe, the Hispanic Pastoral Center and Pastoral Formation Institute of the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ.

Plan Your Bread for the World Sunday

On October 17, many churches will observe Bread for the World Sunday, a creative way to involve your entire congregation in the work of advocating for hungry and poor people. Order free Bread resources, including bulletin inserts and a scripture study for preaching and discussion, by calling 1-800-822-7323 or visiting www.bread.org/go/sunday. Spanish-language resources will be available.



Visit www.exodusfromhunger.org to pre-order David Beckmann's new book!

Pre-Order 'Exodus From Hunger'

Bread President David Beckmann's new book, *Exodus from Hunger: We Are Called to Change the Politics of Hunger*, is available for pre-order for \$11.95—only for a limited time, so be sure to act soon. Visit www.exodusfromhunger.org to order, find out more about the book, and read brief excerpts.

Rick Steves Raises \$29,700 for Bread

Travel expert Rick Steves urged his viewers and listeners to support Bread by making donations toward our advocacy work. The host of public television's *Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door* and author of *Travel as a Political Act* gave Eurail passes to the first 33 travelers who made \$900 donations to Bread, raising \$29,700 for our advocacy work!



Rick Steves, author of 'Travel as a Political Act,' helped raise \$29,700 for Bread's work.

Awards to Bread, David Beckmann

Catholic Charities USA, a nonprofit that serves more than 9 million people annually, awarded Bread its Centennial Medal in recognition of our service to people in need. Catholic Charities President Rev. Larry Snyder presented the medal to David Beckmann during Bread's Lobby Day June 15.

Beckmann also received an honorary doctor of civil law degree from Sewanee, The University of the South, on May 15. The university honored him "for his enduring commitment to reducing hunger and poverty, and for his many and meaningful contributions to our world," said Joel Cunningham, Sewanee vice chancellor and president.



Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, presents the Centennial Medal to Bread President David Beckmann in recognition of Bread's advocacy work.

Bread Donor Matches Gifts

In support of our work to end childhood hunger, gifts from you and other Bread members between now and August 31 will be matched—dollar for dollar—up to \$50,000. Thanks to the generosity of a Bread board member, your gift of \$25 becomes \$50, and a gift of \$100 becomes \$200. Please visit www.bread.org/go/summermatch or use the attached envelope to make your gift.

Ending childhood hunger

Pushing for Action on Child Nutrition



Reducing the budget deficit must come second to feeding hungry children.

Crista Firedli

The legislation governing federal child nutrition programs will expire September 30, increasing the pressure on Congress to finish a reauthorized five-year bill. The law covers school lunch and breakfast, summer feeding programs, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)—programs benefiting tens of millions of low-income children.

During Bread for the World's Lobby Day on June 15, a group of 20 Christian leaders and hunger advocates met with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. The main message from the discussion: Even in the United States, nearly one in four children is at risk of hunger—and we must do something about it.

Meeting with the group around a table symbolically spread with five loaves of bread and two fish, Secretary Vilsack said he sees the biblical story of the feeding of the multitude as a miracle of overcoming the fear of sharing.

Bread President David Beckmann said that Vilsack urged participants to get their churches involved in child

nutrition reauthorization and other policy issues that affect hungry people.

Later in June, Vilsack mentioned the meeting during his testimony on child nutrition reauthorization before the House Education and Labor Committee. Noting the moral imperative of addressing child hunger, he said that there is “no more important role or responsibility I have than what I’m talking about here today,” and he urged Congress to pass a bill this year.

The House Education and Labor Committee has not yet scheduled a discussion and vote on the legislation, but as *Bread* went to press, it appeared that this might happen quickly. Please visit www.bread.org for updated information on child nutrition reauthorization, including our strategy to engage fiscally conservative members of Congress who have consistently opposed spending increases this year.

The Senate Agriculture Committee approved a child nutrition bill in April, but it has not yet come to the full Senate.

Grants for Hunger-Free Communities

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service will grant \$5 million to support research, planning, and activities that help communities end hunger in the United States. The grant program is the result of Bread members' persistent efforts since our 2005 Offering of Letters, which urged Congress to pass the Hunger-Free Communities Act.

The grants will fund the development and implementation of community-wide plans for ending hunger. The grants are available to public and nonprofit organizations and require collaboration with one or more community partners.

About \$1 million will be dedicated to partnerships that evaluate food insecurity in their community and develop strategies to become hunger-free. The remaining \$4 million will support programs for community groups to implement their plans.

For more information on applying for a grant, visit http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/outreach/hfc_grants.htm

Helping hungry people

Bread Advocates Push Congress on Lobby Day



Olajumoke (“Jumi”) Olawale, from Columbus, OH, listens to a briefing session on the Earned Income Tax Credit during Bread’s Lobby Day.

Rick Reinhard

More than 250 Bread advocates from around the country descended on Capitol Hill for Bread’s Lobby Day to talk with their senators and representatives about tax credits that help low-income working families. During visits on June 15, they urged their legislators to protect and strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit.

A friend’s words kept Bethany Rigney, of Hattiesburg, MS, focused on the day’s task. During Lobby Day’s opening worship, Rigney texted her friend Bre, a student who supports herself, partially supports her mother and sister, and qualifies for the EITC and Child Tax Credit. Rigney wanted her to know that she and others were advocating for these tax credits in visits with their representatives.

“I am about to meet with Rep. Gene Taylor and the staffs of both our senators,” Rigney wrote. “How did the EITC help you? Or did it help you?”

Bre wrote back later that day. “It saved me financially. It provided

grocery money for the whole family for a month, paid for [my daughter’s] X-rays, and some doctor’s bills for me. It was an absolute godsend.”

“Unless Congress extends these credits, they will expire this year,” Rigney replied. “This is what I’m asking of Gene Taylor—to make these credits permanent.”

“That would truly be great,” Bre wrote. “It’s so wonderful that you’re doing what you’re doing. Go get ‘em!”

Rigney, a member of Bread’s 2010 class of Hunger Justice Leaders, participated in Lobby Day as well as three days of advocacy training. She and her 75 classmates attended workshops on everything from basic hunger facts to learning how to lead advocacy efforts in their home communities.

For Montague Williams, a Hunger Justice Leader who attends a Nazarene church in Quincy, MA, workshops on the EITC were eye-opening. After hearing about who is eligible for the tax credit, he realized many people in his congregation likely qualify.

“We should reach out to them,” he said. “That’s what I’m here to do—to really learn how to be a good neighbor.”

Nick Tejada, a Hunger Justice Leader from Deerfield, IL, brought his family’s personal experience to bear on Lobby Day. “I grew up with a single mom and no dad. We were the recipients of EITC, WIC [the Women, Infants and Children Program], and food stamps,” he shared during the day’s closing worship. “My story would be impossible without the EITC.”

“I grew up with a single mom and no dad. We were the recipients of EITC, WIC, and food stamps. My story would be impossible without the EITC.”

**– Nick Tejada,
2010 Hunger Justice Leader**

Olajumoke (“Jumi”) Olawale’s Lobby Day experience, as well as the training she received as a Hunger

FROM THE FIELD

Justice Leader, solidified the calling she feels to mobilize the Nigerian, Somali, and Ghanaian communities in her Columbus, OH, neighborhood.

“In many communities in Africa, you can’t be involved in politics because it’s too dangerous. Here, you can,” she said. This second-year seminary student and mother of a 3-year-old hopes to educate community members about hunger in their neighborhoods, but also how they can mobilize people in their native countries on these issues.

“This is what I think about when I go to bed, and when I wake up,” she said. “I feel God is calling me to this, and Bread is helping me put it all together. This experience has been great for helping me flesh this out.”

Whether advocates are new, like many of Bread’s Hunger Justice Leaders, or seasoned, such as longtime Bread activists Barbara and Bud Miller—who have attended Lobby Day for more than 20 years—the issues that affect hungry and poor people require us to speak up, to find and use our voices.

Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) reminded Bread advocates of this prior to their Capitol Hill visits. “Many people think they’re powerless, but they’re not,” he said. “You are a voter. You have one vote. My mother used to say, ‘If you don’t ask, you don’t get.’ That’s what you’re doing—you’re asking for something humane, that we do what we can for the people at the bottom.”

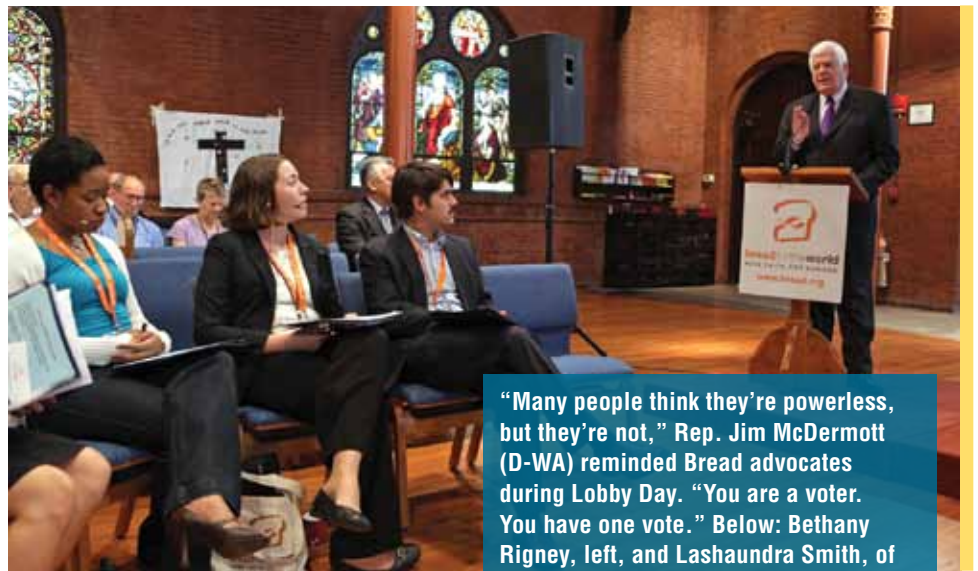
That summed up the experience of Justice Schunior of Alexandria, VA, a first-time Lobby Day participant. “Lobbying makes me feel more connected to my government; it strengthens my resolve to work on these issues,” she

said. “For people who can’t take a day off work, I can be their voice.”

Lobby Day culminated in a reception on Capitol Hill, during which Bread recognized several legislators for their efforts to help hungry and poor people. One was Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL), who spoke about the importance of ad-

vocacy work. “Helping hungry people is the highest calling we have in public service,” he said.

In addition to Rep. Jackson, Bread honored Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), and Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN).



“Many people think they’re powerless, but they’re not,” Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) reminded Bread advocates during Lobby Day. “You are a voter. You have one vote.” Below: Bethany Rigney, left, and Lashaundra Smith, of Mississippi, visit with staff members at Sen. Thad Cochran’s (R-MS) office.



Photos by Rick Reinhard

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Africa Beyond the World Cup

Africa is making progress in several areas despite the recent hunger crisis, worldwide economic downturn, and other setbacks. Here's a sample of the good news:

Countries that dedicated additional resources to agriculture—at least 10 percent of their budgets—are making gains against hunger. Between 1995 and 2005, Ethiopia reduced its proportion of hungry people from 63 percent to 46 percent and Malawi from 45 percent to 29 percent.

Now, 3 million Africans with HIV have access to life-saving antiretroviral medications, up from just 100,000 in 2003.

Nearly 75 percent of Africa's children are now enrolled in school, up from 58 percent in 1999. Benin, Madagascar, and Zambia are on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015.



Margaret W. Nea