

bread

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

September 2010 | www.bread.org



USDA

Bread Members Keep Pressure on Congress

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill face mounting pressure to reduce our country's deficits and stabilize our fiscal future, but any enacted policies must not push more Americans into poverty or make those already in poverty worse off.

In August, the Senate approved a \$26.1 billion bill (H.R. 1586) that will help states sustain Medicaid and avoid teacher cutbacks. However, legislators cut future funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called food stamps) in order to help pay for this bill—a disappointing decision for Bread for the World members and other anti-hunger advocates.

Struggling Families Face Increasing Burdens

“It is a good bill and the funds are critically needed by the states, but by using SNAP funds, Congress has taken away the equivalent of twice the amount of food that will be provided by all of the food charities in the upcoming year,” said Rev. David Beckmann, Bread for the World president.

(See **Pressure** on Page 2)

ACT NOW!

Ask your members of Congress to support child nutrition reauthorization—but not through cuts to SNAP/food stamp benefits.

- Nearly 80 percent of SNAP benefits go to households with children.
- The average SNAP participant receives only \$4.50 per day to help pay for groceries.
- In 15 states, as many as one in five people receive SNAP benefits. States include Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, and New Mexico.

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Washington, DC 20510

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

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breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



Many families run out of food stamps or wage earnings by the third week of the month.

Mark Fenton

“Taking money from poor, hungry people to help poor, sick people is not the solution. Congress should have found the money elsewhere in the budget.”

The bill will cut nearly \$12 billion in SNAP payments at a time when a record number of Americans—40.8 million—are relying on food stamps.

According to “The Economic Cost of Domestic Hunger,” a report from the Sodexo Foundation, hunger costs our economy \$90 billion a year; poverty creates an additional \$22 billion in healthcare spending per year. Similarly, child poverty costs our nation about \$500 billion each year in lower educational outcomes, reduced productivity, and increased healthcare costs. A recent study by Caroline Ratcliffe and Signe-Mary McKernan shows that children who are persistently poor are much less likely to be consistently employed as adults.

It is critical that the legislation governing child nutrition programs—which is due to expire at the end of this month—be reauthorized. While both the House and Senate versions of the Child Nutrition Act would improve the nutritional quality of school lunches, the House bill (H.R. 5504), would do much more to strengthen summer, breakfast, and afterschool programs that get meals to kids, says Beckmann.

More than 19 million children receive free or reduced-price school lunches; about 10 million receive breakfast but

only 12 percent receive meals in the summer. The House bill will help expand access and participation for millions of children who otherwise would go hungry.

“Damage from hunger is huge, especially the damage to small children,” Beckmann told CNN’s *American Morning* in August. “That kind of hunger keeps kids from concentrating. Little kids are supposed to be learning machines, but they can’t pay attention when they’re hungry.”

Ironically, the Senate is proposing to take even more money from food stamps to pay for school lunches. The Senate’s Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which passed in August, provides \$4.5 billion over 10 years to bolster the government’s child-nutrition programs, including school meals.

While Bread applauds the bill’s emphasis on raising nutritional standards, the bill cuts SNAP benefits to do it. In many cases, existing SNAP benefits aren’t enough for many families to keep food on the table for a full month.

“Typically, families run out of food stamps or they run out of their wage checks by the third week of the month,” Beckmann told CNN. “But also all month long they don’t have quite enough so they have to skimp and eat cheaper foods—which are often crummy foods.”

Nutritionally poor diets often lead to obesity. In the United States, one in three kids are obese and overweight. Obesity among children and young adults has increased dramatically—in fact, being overweight is the leading medical reason for rejection from military service. The proportion of potential recruits who failed their physicals each year because they were overweight has risen nearly 70 percent.

When Jesus talked about how God will judge the nations, Jesus said God will focus on what we did or didn’t do for hungry people and other people in need. Our country faces a huge budget deficit, but Congress should not balance the budget on the backs of people who are trying to feed themselves and their families.

Please contact your senators and representatives and tell them they should not be making it even harder for struggling families. With your help, strong nutrition programs can provide millions of hungry children with the food they need and put us on track to achieving the president’s goal of ending child hunger by 2015. Find the latest information at www.bread.org.

From scarcity to abundance

‘The Little that Becomes Much’

by Monroe Saunders Jr.



Courtesy of Monroe Saunders Jr.

While pondering the issue of our faith and its connection to the condition of hunger, I was drawn to Mark’s gospel and the feeding of the 5,000:

“Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a remote place, and it is already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat.’ But Jesus said, ‘You feed them’” (Mark 6:34-37).

There are times in our lives that we become overwhelmed with challenges that confront us in areas we feel so inadequate. The prospect of attending to what appears to be impossible often leads us to dismiss our opportunities to minister to the needs of others.

We make the assessment based on time, place, scope of need, and lack of personal resources that we cannot help the hungry masses we encounter in the course of doing ministry.

We are quick to minister the Word, but we are not prepared to minister food to those around the world who, weakened through hunger, are not able to nourish themselves in a “remote

place in the evening” of the day. Many people find themselves detached from marketplaces, and in too many cases they have not the resources or the physical strength to get the food they need.

Too many others are ready to dismiss the hungry and impoverished as problems they are not prepared to handle. Without genuine compassion, there can be no real capacity to serve holistically the needs of people.

Without genuine compassion, there can be no real capacity to serve holistically the needs of people.

There are times when we become overwhelmed by the situations of need that present themselves to us. During those times, we must turn from calculating the realities to increasing our faith. Impossible challenge affords opportunity for faith development. The disciples, who appeared to be concerned for the people who had traveled far and who had no provisions, were told, “You feed them.” We must at times stretch

our perceptions of lack—and lift them beyond ourselves to the One who can make our little into more than enough.

Some months ago, I wrote in an article that “[T]here is a dimension of life and being that we are to discover and grow in It is a place where spiritual continuity intercepts the incongruity of present circumstance and exposes us to the heart of God. At this place, we find sacred essence revealing itself to us even as we wrestle for meaning and understanding of the what, the why, and the how. The sacred becomes more pronounced through dilemma. We become more like the Holy when we come to grips with the fact that God’s grace is the true essence of who and what we are to be. Our work is to surrender the urge of self-interest to the operation of the Holy Spirit within us.”

We have more than enough to eliminate world hunger, but we must replace indifference with compassion and re-assess our personal capacity to serve the needs of the world by presenting our perceived little into the hands of him who makes “little, much!”

Monroe Saunders Jr. is presiding bishop of the United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic).

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...

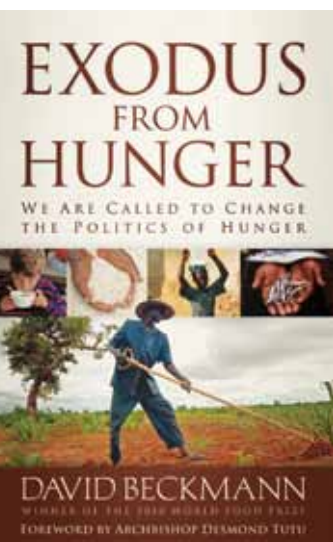
... an opportunity for each of us to renew our commitment to end hunger in God's world. We join others in thousands of churches across the country who are involved in Bread for the World's efforts to create hope and opportunity for those who struggle to get enough to eat.

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.



bread for the world **briefing paper** Number 3, August 2010

Rebuilding Haiti: Making Aid Work Better for the Haitian People
by Diana Aubourg Millner

Bread for the World Institute provides policy analysis on hunger and strategies to end it. The Institute educates its audience through reports, articles, lectures, policy matters and the public about hunger in the United States and around the world.

Abstract

With unprecedented levels of genocide, famine, and displacement in Haiti, there are still enormous hurdles to being the groundwork for a country-led recovery. Haiti's diverse, national reconstruction plan includes a multi-phase road fund and an interim reconstruction authority to oversee rebuilding. These global mechanisms during Haiti's recovery must promote real transparency, and an emergency funding guide for quick short-term results. The U.S. strategy in Haiti must recognize Haitian government capacity at each stage of the recovery process, focus on poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth, and make long-term development and primary objectives. We need a strong development agency to carry out our objectives in supporting Haiti's long-term reconstruction. UNHCR should be fully engaged in Haiti. Our work in Haiti should ultimately result in economic, sustainable, and sustainable outcomes on the ground for Haitian people.

Key Points

- The U.S. response to the earthquake was both, leading a massive humanitarian relief operation in the aftermath of one of the most catastrophic natural disasters in modern history.
- Months after the January earthquake, there is strong momentum to rebuild Haiti's agriculture sector, engage engagement with the Haitian government, and connect Haiti with a private sector.
- The challenges facing Haiti recovery come primarily through aid and economic participation, promote transparency, and set competitive market goals for quick short-term results.
- The United States must lead by example. Our policies and programs should be more coordinated, focus on building Haitian capacity, and make long-term development the primary objective.
- In Haiti, we need to work in Haiti, not work in Haiti. Our work in Haiti should ultimately result in economic, sustainable, and sustainable outcomes on the ground for Haitian people.

Diana Aubourg Millner is a senior foreign assistance policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute.

Free Resources for Bread 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.

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 at the pre-publication price of \$11.95—only for a limited time, so be sure to act soon. Visit www.bread.org/go/exodusfromhunger to order, find out more about the book, and to read brief excerpts.

New Briefing Paper on Haiti

Eight months after Haiti's devastating earthquake, Bread for the World Institute offers recommendations to help the country make the transition to a Haitian-led process of recovery and rebuilding. The paper is written by Haitian-American analyst Diana Aubourg Millner and can be downloaded at www.bread.org/institute/papers.

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!

Immigrants face high poverty rates

Hunger and U.S. Immigrants



Hunger and poverty often force people to leave their home countries and immigrate to the United States.

Margaret W. Nea

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

– Leviticus 19:33-34

Bread members advocate for changes in policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger to persist. One of our new areas of focus is immigration—whether it’s hunger that forces people to leave their home countries or hunger and poverty that immigrants face once in the United States.

Although there is a large coalition of organizations with deep experience working on immigration reform, the connections between immigration and poverty and hunger have been largely unexplored compared with the legalistic aspects of immigration. That’s where Bread fits in.

Every immigrant has a personal story, but the cause of most illegal immigration to the United States is poverty and lack of economic opportunity. For example, almost half (47 percent) of Mexicans live in poverty

and 18 percent live in extreme poverty, unable to meet their basic food needs. Mexico accounted for 62 percent of the nation’s illegal immigrants in 2009.

Poverty and hunger are even more widespread in Central America. In Guatemala, 50 percent of children are malnourished—the sixth worst ranking in the world. Given their high rates of poverty and their proximity to the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean are the source of an estimated 81 percent of all illegal immigration.

Once in the United States, immigrants typically improve their economic status through hard work in jobs in agriculture, food production, and the service sector.

Illegal immigrants are critical to harvesting the country’s fruit and vegetables, working in meat-processing plants, and supporting the dairy industry. But that doesn’t prevent them from suffering some of the nation’s highest hunger and poverty rates.

Although national statistics are scarce, regional studies show that food insecurity surpasses 50 percent in some rural immigrant communities

(compared to the U.S. national rate of 16 percent). A 2006 study in North Carolina found that 73 percent of the immigrant Latinos surveyed said they “worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.”

Illegal immigrants and their children also suffer from high rates of poverty. More than one in five (21 percent) of all illegal immigrants live in poverty, and one-third of the children of illegal immigrants—most of whom are citizens—are impoverished.

Better understanding of how immigrants in the United States can contribute to poverty reduction in their home communities and also grow economically in this country will be a key component of building support for an economically rational and humane immigration system. As the foundation of its work on immigration policy reform, Bread is producing a variety of educational resources on immigration, with a focus on the poverty and hunger that are the main causes of illegal immigration.

For more information, please see www.bread.org/institute/research/immigration.

Bread Celebrates Dolly Youssef

'The Best of the Best'

Longtime Bread staffer Dolly Youssef kept Bread's national office humming and happy for 27 years.



Katherine Simmons

"I feed the deer that come to our backyard daily. My day begins with taking water and corn to them. I take a walk before breakfast in our tree-covered neighborhood, and that is my time to meditate and pray"

The above might have been taken from the journal of an early Christian mystic, but Dolly Youssef—who served on Bread for the World's staff for more than two decades until her retirement at the end of 2009—is thoroughly modern.

Youssef's tenure at Bread began in 1982, when Bread moved from New York City to Washington, DC. After a long search for space, the organization set up office in a basement warehouse at the edge of town. Most of the small staff made the move, but Art Simon's executive assistant was unable to do so. Youssef, a Bread for the World member in Bloomington, IN, applied for the job.

"When we put her to a typing test, I heard that IBM Selectric going like a machine gun," Simon remembers today. Youssef remembers, too. "The deputy director took Art aside and warned him

about hiring me. 'She'll never stay. She's overqualified; just trying to get a ticket to DC.' By the time I arrived to start the job, the deputy director had moved on," Youssef recalls with a smile.

Youssef and Simon worked together for about a decade. When Simon decided to step down as Bread's president, Youssef helped to make the transition a smooth one. "I told David Beckmann the best thing I can do for you is to leave Dolly as your executive assistant," said Simon.

Beckmann says of Youssef, "What a marvelous witness she is to the power of the risen Christ among us." Simon agrees, calling her "the best of the best."

"I told David Beckmann the best thing I can do for you is to leave Dolly as your executive assistant," said Bread founder Art Simon.

When asked her favorite aspect of working for Bread, Youssef is quick to

cite visiting policymakers paired up with another Bread staffer, celebrating Bread's many victories on behalf of poor people, and working with Bread's board, whom she calls "wonderful, genuine people who care deeply about ending hunger."

Today, Youssef serves Bread by tracking former staff members so they can remain connected to the organization and each other. She also supports Bread financially, encourages others in her church to get involved, and writes her representative and senators on hunger issues.

She is finding more time to enjoy music, and she applies to home projects the organizational skills that benefited Bread for 27 years. She's also happy to have the time to indulge her love for reading.

"Mary Oliver is my favorite poet," she says, leaving us with a line from Oliver's "I Will Try": "I will step from the house and see what I see and hear and I will praise it."

The '10 by 10' campaign

New York Activists Issue a Challenge



New York pastors launched the "10 by 10" campaign, which aims for 10,000 new Bread members by October 10, 2010.

Rick Reinhard

Bread members are always looking for new ways to spread the word and get people involved in ending hunger. While Bread's annual Offering of Letters campaign is our biggest effort—introducing the members of thousands of churches to Bread and advocacy on hunger issues by inviting them to write letters to their members of Congress—activists are also reaching out in other ways.

This year we have an energizing example in the New York Pastors' Challenge. A group of New York Lutheran pastors wants to recruit 10,000 new Bread members by October 2010. Led by Pastor J. Elise Brown of Advent Lutheran Church on Manhattan's Upper West Side, the "10 by 10" campaign seeks to mobilize current Bread members and recruit new people to work on hunger issues.

To aid in the recruitment efforts, Bread is currently offering a year's free membership to non-members who would like to learn more about hunger and what we can do to end

it. Often, people's interest is sparked either by the free membership itself or the information, resources, and calls to action on hunger they receive during their first year of membership.

Pastor Brown is particularly interested in reinvigorating Bread's Lutheran base, which is not as strong as it once was even though Bread founder Rev. Art Simon is a Lutheran pastor. In fact, her inspiration for the campaign came after she heard Rev. Simon speak on Long Island about his 2009 book, *The Rising of Bread for the World*.

Today, we can use the power of the personal connections we all have to help win greater victories for hungry and poor people by building Bread's influence in Washington, DC.

She explains, "When I read his inspiring and provocative book which talks about his years of ministry on Manhattan's Lower East Side, I asked,

'What happened to the Lutheran support base for Bread here in New York?' ... That's how the campaign began."

Brown and the nine other pastors who issued the challenge are working church by church to get people involved. Although so far the new members they've recruited number in the hundreds rather than the thousands, they are off to a great start. "It's been a slow, steady effort, and we've had a great time reconnecting with Bread," she said.

This is the kind of grassroots effort that created Bread for the World in the first place. People who joined Bread near its beginning always mention that they were first introduced to the organization by a friend, relative, or pastor. Today, we can use the power of the personal connections we all have to help win greater victories for hungry and poor people by building Bread's influence in Washington, DC.

For more information on getting involved—or getting your church involved—please visit www.bread.org/10by10.

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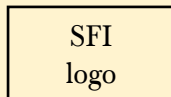
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Progress on Reducing Hunger by Half

GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goals and Targets	Africa		Asia				Latin America & Caribbean
	Northern	sub-Saharan	Eastern	S. Eastern	Southern	Western	
TARGET: Reduce hunger by half	Met target	Off Track	On Track	On Track	No progress	No Progress	Off track
Current hunger level	Low	Very high	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate

Goal Achieved • Target already met or very close to being met.

On Track • Target is expected to be met by 2015 if prevailing trends persist.

Off Track • Target is not expected to be met by 2015.

No Progress • Or a deterioration or reversal.

Source: *The Millennium Development Goals: 2010 Progress Report*



Margaret W. Nea