



ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger Campaign 2010



ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	2
2. Fast Facts About Hunger and Poverty	3
3. Bulletin Announcements	4
4. Deacon's Hints	5
5. A Show of Hands How-To	6
6. Children's Sermon #1—for handing out Peter Fish	8
7. Children's Sermon #2—for World Hunger Sunday	9
8. Children's Sermon #3—for World Hunger Sunday	10
9. World Hunger Songs	11
10. Litany for World Hunger Sunday	13
11. World Hunger Sample Sermon	15
12. Survey	19

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

ARE YOU IN?

Welcome to the 2010 World Hunger Campaign of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. For thirty years, CRWRC has helped Christian Reformed Churches highlight global hunger and participate in a response. Traditionally, this campaign happens during the weeks leading up to World Hunger Sunday (designated by the CRC Synod in 1979 to be the first Sunday in November). That would mean distribution of the materials on Sunday, October 17 and a culmination in World Hunger Sunday on November 7. However, the materials are designed so that they can be used at any time of year.

This year's campaign reminds us that what we want and what we commit to do are two different things. Commitment—wholehearted and prayerful—is a conscious decision. While we might all want hunger to end, we also need to make a commitment to be part of the solution.

Today, around the world, there are people who have made that decision to do something to end hunger around them. They are improving farming techniques, teaching adult literacy, providing small loans to business people, and taking other steps to find long-term solutions to poverty. If we are in it to win it—to end hunger and poverty in our lifetime—we need all of us to make a commitment to do our part. We have to obligate ourselves by jumping up and saying “I’m in!” We have to decide to share, to pray, to volunteer, to speak with our leaders, and to rally for the most basic right—the right to food.

The following pages include a sample liturgy and other resources to help you plan your service. They can be torn out or photocopied and given to the appropriate people or committee in your church.

As part of the World Hunger Campaign, we are encouraging churches to think about the commitment that our governments made in 2000 to halve poverty by 2015. We have five years to go to live up to that commitment. The CRC Office of Social Justice has put together “A Show of Hands” resource and activity that they’d like churches to use this Fall. We’ve included information in this packet. Consider using this during your World Hunger Sunday service.

In addition, CRWRC has booklets with three weeks of devotionals and giving suggestions that you can order for each family in your church. They are intended for use with CRWRC’s orange Peter Fish banks. Booklets, banks, and bulletin inserts can be ordered for free by calling 1-877-CRCNA-01 (1-877-373-6201). You may also visit www.crwrc.org for additional World Hunger resources that might be of value to you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 1-800-55-CRWRC (US) or 1-800-730-3490 (Canada).

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

FAST FACTS ABOUT HUNGER AND POVERTY

“**T**here are 1.02 billion undernourished people in the world today. That means one in nearly six people do not get enough food to be healthy and lead an active life. Hunger and malnutrition are in fact the number one risk to the health worldwide—greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

Among the key causes of hunger are natural disasters, conflict, poverty, poor agricultural infrastructure and over-exploitation of the environment. Recently, financial and economic crises have pushed more people into hunger.

As well as the obvious sort of hunger resulting from an empty stomach, there is also the hidden hunger of micronutrient deficiencies which make people susceptible to infectious diseases, impair physical and mental development, reduce their labor productivity and increase the risk of premature death.

Hunger does not only weigh on the individual. It also imposes a crushing economic burden on the developing world. Economists estimate that every child whose physical and mental development is stunted by hunger and malnutrition stands to lose 5-10 percent in lifetime earnings.”

- 25,000 people (adults and children) die every day from hunger and related causes;
- 1.02 billion people do not have enough to eat—more than the populations of USA, Canada and the European Union;
- The number of undernourished people in the world increased by 75 million in 2007, largely due to higher food prices;
- More than 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women;
- Every six seconds a child dies because of hunger and related causes;
- More than 70 percent of the world's 146 million underweight children under age five years live in just 10 countries, with more than 50 per cent located in South Asia alone;
- 10.9 million children under five die in developing countries each year. Malnutrition and hunger-related diseases cause 60 percent of the deaths;

This quotation and these statistics were taken from the World Food Programme's website at www.wfp.org/hunger.

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

THREE WEEKS BEFORE

One in six people in our world do not have enough to eat. CRWRC invites you to share with them through this year's World Hunger Campaign. Campaign materials include orange Peter Fish banks, daily stories and activities that you can use at your own supper tables for the next three weeks. Then join us on [date] for World Hunger Sunday.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE

Hunger and malnutrition are the number one risk to the health worldwide. Through your Peter Fish bank contributions, you are helping fight global hunger and give families the training and support they need to overcome poverty in a lasting way. Please continue to read the World Hunger stories at your supper tables this week, and decide for yourselves if you will commit to doing your part to end hunger. Are you in?

ONE WEEK BEFORE

In 1990, 33% of children below the age of five were undernourished. Through God's grace and the hard work of organizations like the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, this number was down to 26% by 2006. Will you continue to help CRWRC in this fight? Please continue to read the World Hunger stories at home this week, then bring your Peter Fish banks to church next Sunday as we celebrate World Hunger Sunday.

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY

Today, we make a commitment to be all in for the fight against hunger. We join others around the world in doing our part to give, pray, speak up, and take action to help end global hunger and help people overcome poverty in real and lasting ways. Thank you for supporting them through your Peter Fish bank contributions to CRWRC. If you want to know more about world hunger or what CRWRC is doing to help, or if you want to find out ways that you can volunteer or get involved, please visit www.crwrc.org.

ONE WEEK LATER

Thank you! With your support, CRWRC has had another successful World Hunger Campaign. This year, our church raised \$_____ for CRWRC's ministry to people around the world. For additional information about CRWRC, please visit www.crwrc.org.

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger Campaign 2010

DEACON'S HINTS/PLANS

TIMEFRAME	ACTION
Two months before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss World Hunger plans at a deacon's meeting. • Share materials and dates with pastor and worship committee to prepare for a World Hunger Sunday. • Consider including a "Show of Hands" event during one of your Sunday worship services. • Check to see if you have Peter Fish banks in storage. If you don't have enough, order more by calling 1-800-CRCNA-01. • Order bulletin inserts and devotional booklets.
Three weeks before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an announcement during the Sunday service that your World Hunger campaign is starting. • Distribute Peter Fish Banks and Devotional booklets to your congregation. • Consider using a children's sermon to introduce the Peter Fish banks to kids and parents.
One week before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind people that next week is World Hunger Sunday by asking a deacon to make an announcement during the service. Remind people to bring their Peter Fish banks in next week.
World Hunger Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect the Peter Fish banks during the service • Hold an offering for CRWRC during your collection • Use the World Hunger worship materials to conduct a special worship service • Collect your "Show of Hands" handprints
During the week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the youth meet this week, have them count and roll the Peter Fish offerings. • Send your collected handprints to CRWRC/OSJ or your representative
One week later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward gifts from your World Hunger event to CRWRC • Report back to your congregation about how much money you raised during your World Hunger event.

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

A SHOW OF HANDS

As part of your World Hunger Sunday consider holding a “Show of Hands” to:

- Fold hands in prayer with those around the globe
- Raise hands to be counted in advocacy to remind lawmakers that there are five years until the MDGs must be met.

A SHOW OF HANDS IS EASY.

1. Go to www.handsformdgs.org and download the free “Show Of Hands” bulletin insert. Make photo copies for your congregation, and insert the flyer into your bulletins on World Hunger Sunday or one of the Sundays during the World Hunger Campaign.
2. As part of your service*, have someone read these directions to the congregation:

In your bulletin is a “Show of Hands” insert. All over the world this fall, Christians are tracing their hands as a way to add their voices to the chorus asking their leaders to remember their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. There are five more years to keep the promise that our lawmakers made to cut poverty in half around the world—and it’s time for the church to speak up to remind them of that commitment.

If you choose to participate, please follow these three easy steps:

- 1) Trace your hand on this page.
- 2) Inside your hand, print your name and your email address.
- 3) Then place it in the offering basket.

This is an offering of your voice on behalf of the voices who have been silenced by injustice. These handprints will be gathered across the denomination, joined with hands around the world, and be delivered to lawmakers as a statement of support to those who live in poverty.

After you have collected all the handprints, together **speak the global prayer.**

3. Arrange for the delivery of the handprints. There are two choices for this:

1) Mail them to us, and we will deliver them to your lawmaker.

Kate Kooyman
CRWRC
2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49560

Steve Van De Hoef
3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD I
Burlington, ON
L7R 3Y8

2) Set up a meeting with your representative to hand-deliver them yourself or with a group from your church. For more information about how to do this, go to www.handsformdgs.org.

*If using this as part of worship won't work for your congregation, then consider using it as a youth group activity, Sunday school class, or a small group activity.

SHOW OF HANDS GLOBAL PRAYER

Imagine 100 million Christians praying for justice in the nations.

This global prayer echoes the themes of Nehemiah who fasted and prayed day and night before he embarked on the mighty task of restoring Jerusalem.

O Lord, our great and awesome God, loyal to your promise of love and faithful to all who honor and obey you, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who live in poverty,

We cry out for those who are denied justice and

We weep for all who are suffering.

We confess that we have not always obeyed you.

We have neglected your commands and have ignored your call for justice.

We have been guided by self-interest and lived in spiritual poverty.

Forgive us.

We remember your promises to fill the hungry with good things, to redeem the land by your mighty hand and to restore peace.

Father God, help us always to proclaim your justice and mercy with humility, so that, by the power of your Spirit, we can rid the world of the sin of extreme poverty.

As part of your global church, we stand with millions who praise and worship you.

May our words and deeds declare your perfect goodness, love and righteousness to both the powerful and the powerless so that your Kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

CHILDREN'S SERMON #1

FOR HANDING OUT THE PETER FISH

Hello boys and girls. Have any of you ever been fishing? *<encourage answers>* I thought that we'd do some fishing today, so I brought a few things with me. Can you tell me what they are?

<bring out each item and have the children tell you what it is. Then you can give a short sentence about how you use a fishing rod to cast your line out over the water, a net to scoop up the fish once it gets close to shore, you need wading boots so that you can go into the water without getting wet, and you need worms to put on the hook to catch the fish>

I think we're all set for our fishing trip. Do you know that one time in the Bible Jesus told his disciples that he wanted them to go fishing? He did. But he didn't ask them to use a fishing rod and catch fish. Instead, he asked them to go fishing for people! And that's what we're going to do. We are going to try to catch some boys and girls and Mommies and Daddies for Jesus.

Let's put a worm on my hook here and see how many people we can catch. *<allow time for laughter and comments>*. Oh, so you don't think that Jesus wanted us to catch people with a fishing rod or worms?

I think you are right. When Jesus asked his disciples to become fishers of people, he meant that he wanted them to go out and meet their neighbors, and love them, and tell them all about Jesus so that more and more people could know and love God. Don't you think that's a good thing to do?

Today, you are going to get one of these fish banks to take home to your house. Over the next few weeks, you'll read stories about boys and girls and people all over the world and you'll get the chance to put money into your fish banks in order to help them. When we bring all these fish banks back on World Hunger Sunday filled with money and filled with love, we'll be able to help lots of people around the world and show them just how much God loves them. I think that's a pretty good way to go fishing.

Let's pray: Dear Lord, thank you so much for all the good things that you have given to us. Help us, be willing to share so that hungry people are fed and can feel how much you love them too. Help us all to become really great fishers of people.

Amen

CHILDREN'S SERMON #2

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY (if doing "A Show of Hands")

I want to show you something very special today, boys and girls. [*Hold out your hands.*]

These are *hands*. Have you ever seen anything so great as these? I have been discovering these great hands, and all the fantastic things I can do with them—and I just can't wait to tell you about them.

One thing I can do with my hands is a project—like cook dinner, or fix something that's broken. Hey [*select one child from the group*—I see you have some hands, too! Are there any important projects that you do with your hands?

Another thing I can do with my hands is to communicate—like the other day I was in a group, and the leader asked if anyone wanted coffee. I raised my hand like this [*raise hand*] to show that I did want some. Hey [*select another child*—I see that you have some hands, too. Do you ever raise your hand? What for?

I can also use my hands to identify myself—see these finger tips? No one else in the world was created with the same pattern on their fingertips as me. Hey [*select another child*—it looks like you have some fingertips. Do you know how fingerprints are used?

I can also use my hands to count—someone show me with their hands how old you are. Great! Now show me how many brothers and sisters you have. Really? Now show me the answer to this math problem: what is 2 plus 3?

Five is right! Do you see this hand that's raised up with five fingers? [*point to the child who is raising their hand.*] Keep your hand raised. You are doing something very important, my friend. I hope that everyone in the church can see you, and will consider doing exactly what you're doing in a few minutes.

Here's why: Those five fingers represent five more years—which is the time our government has left to keep a promise they have made to cut in half the number of people who live in poverty.

And you have your hand raised up, so we can see you very well. A raised hand often means, "Pick me! I will volunteer!" This is a way of showing God that we are willing to be part of a big project he's doing here on earth: bringing good news to people who are poor.

Also, you have special fingerprints on your hand—a pattern that no one else in the world has. Only you have that special hand print. We are going to use those hand prints today in a special way. We won't make fingerprints like at the police station; instead, we will trace our hands and write our names inside. Then we will send those hand prints to the people in our government who make important decisions. We want them to see our hand prints and recognize that each hand print represents a unique person [*show your unique fingerprint*] who is asking them to remember their promise. We want them to remember that there are only five years left [*show five fingers*]. And we want them to know that we are "in" on the project [*raise your hand*]—by giving, and working, and speaking out for God's project of good news to the poor.

I have a question for you—do you want to be part of this project? Are you in? If you're in, raise your hand! Now we're going to ask the rest of the congregation if they're in, too. On the count of three, let's say "Are you in?" and then turn around to see whose hand is raised to show they want to be part of this project, too. One. Two. Three . . . ARE YOU IN?

CHILDREN'S SERMON #3

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY (if not doing "A Show of Hands")

Hello boys and girls. Thank you for coming up here today and for bringing your fish banks. It looks kind of like the ocean up there with all these fish around me. Do you remember when you received your fish bank we talked about becoming fishers of people and wanted to use our blessings to show God's love to people all over the world? When you brought your fish banks here today, you did just that.

I want to talk to you for a minute about a man in the Bible. His name was Micah. Micah said that to please God we should do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. Have you ever heard the word justice before? Justice is a big word. But what it means is that we need to make sure we share so that everyone has enough.

Let me ask you a few questions:

- Who had breakfast this morning, raise your hand!
- Who slept in their bed at home last night, raise your hand!
- Who has been sick and gone to the doctor for help, raise your hand!
- Who goes to school, raise your hand!

It's wonderful that when we are hungry, our parents give us something to eat. How good it is that when we are tired we have our own safe bed to sleep in. And that when we are sick, we can go to the doctor to get better. And we are thankful that we can go to school to learn. But there are many people in our world who do not have these things that are so important for living.

(Select three children and given them each a basket of candy to HOLD.* Explain that they are NOT to eat the candy.) Those of us who have food, and a home, and can go to the doctor and to school, are like these three children who each have a basket of candy. But there are other people in our world who do not have these important things. They are like the rest of us who don't have even one candy.

Remember the guy called Micah? He told us that God wants us to love kindness and make sure that everyone has enough. What do you think the folks with the baskets of candy should do? ("Share them, give some to everybody.")

I think so too. We are like the people with the baskets who have more than enough. God asks us to "do justice" and to "love kindness" and to make sure "everybody has enough." So thank you for doing that with your Peter Fish banks during the past few weeks.

Let's pray together and then everyone can have a candy on their way to Sunday School.

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us so many great things like Mommies and Daddies, schools, and doctors. Please be with those around the world who don't have everything that we do and help us to do our part to share with them. Help us to love kindness and to work so that everyone has enough.

Amen.

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

WORLD HUNGER SONGS

IN CHRIST JESUS GOD BEFRIENDS US

In Christ Jesus God befriends us, comes to meet us in our need
By his wounded flesh Christ heals us, from the powers sets us free.
With a shepherd's eyes he finds us; in his arms we are embraced
Through his teaching we learn wisdom, in the cross we meet God's grace.

God brings help for those who struggle, and relief from poverty,
When we act with love towards strangers, risk ourselves to set them free;
Lay the walls of hate to rubble 'til the cries of war are ceased;
When the rich share hoarded treasures with the ones who have the least.

Creeds cannot dispel the hunger that brings children to their knees,
Nor can weekly rites of worship ease the pain of dread disease.
Only love made real in service, reaches others in their need;
Holy Spirit move our faith from empty words to living deeds.

All my neighbors, near and distant, must enjoy God's friendship too.
They are waiting to be welcomed to the feast where life's made new.
Let us join our hands together, raise our voices, shout our prayers
Live the life that Christ commands us till there's justice everywhere.

Tune: Beach Spring
Text: Roy Berkenbosch
Copyright 2002, Roy Berkenbosch
May be reprinted with acknowledgement/ permission of the author

LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN/WITH JUSTICE, O FATHER

With justice, O Father, you rule all the nations;
You stand with the strangers, the poor, and oppressed.
You call us to join you in working for justice
So hungry and homeless ones then could be blessed.
Let Justice roll down like a strong surging river,
As streams so refreshing, let righteousness flow.
If we sing your praises, but fail to do justice,
We'd only be mockers who'd reap what we sow.
With justice, O Jesus, you healed all the broken,
You fed those who hungered and sought out the lost.

You reaped what we sowed when you suffered injustice;
Our sins and our burdens you bore on the cross.
Let Justice roll down like a strong surging river,
As streams so refreshing, let righteousness flow.
Through serving the least of our brothers and sisters,
It's then we can say it is you that we know.

With justice, O Spirit, anoint all your people
By sowing the seeds that reap spiritual fruit.
We quickly get caught up in trivial matters,
Neglecting what's weighty like justice and truth.
Let justice roll down like a strong surging river,
As streams so refreshing, let righteousness flow.
And even when justice seems slow in appearing,
Please help us keep praying, "injustice must go!"

With justice, O God, you'll restore your creation;
All evil will fall and all good will prevail.
But we must acknowledge as justified sinners,
In working for justice we often have failed.
Let justice roll down like a strong surging river,
As streams so refreshing, let righteousness flow.
It may be with sorrow we'll sow seeds of justice,
But we will reap joy when the seeds finally grow.

Words: David J. Landegent (2009) ©2009 Faith Alive Christian Resources
Tune: Let All Things Now Living
May be reprinted with acknowledgement/permission of the author

WE CANNOT KNOW WHAT WORSHIP IS

We cannot know what worship is,
Unless we recognize
That Christ consorts with least and lost
And sees through homeless eyes.

We easily forget to think,
When singing hymns out loud,
That we can find the one we praise
In any common crowd.

We sometimes listen for God's Word
As if our good alone
Was God's concern and not the fate
Of all- known and unknown

We often pray for local cares
For problems near at hand

But God demands we intercede
For those in every land.

God longs for us to act our faith
'til we can truly claim
Our Sunday worship and our search
For justice are the same.

Words: Heather Josselyn-Cranson (2009) © 2009 Faith Alive Christian Resources
Tune of "I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord"
May be reprinted with acknowledgement/permission of the author

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

LITANY FOR WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY

Leader: When the Son of Man comes in Glory, he will sit on his throne with the nations gathered before him. He will separate the people one from the other. When I was hungry, did you give me something to eat?

All: Lord, when did we see you hungry?

Reader 1: Yesterday, today and tomorrow, 25000 children under the age of five die from hunger and hunger related causes every day.

All: Lord when did we see hungry?

Reader 2: Over 1 billion people will go to bed hungry tonight, and every night.

All: Open the eyes of our hearts so that we may see you in the faces of the hungry.

Leader: When I was thirsty did you give me something to drink

All: Lord, when did we see you thirsty?

Reader 1: Over 1 billion people lack access to safe and clean drinking water. Nearly 5000 children die each day because of water borne disease.

All: Open the eyes of our hearts so that we may see you in the faces of the thirsty.

Leader: When I was homeless, a refugee, did you provide me with shelter?

All: Lord, when did we see you in need of shelter and care?

Reader: Over 40 million people around the world are displaced from their homes and lands. They are among the most vulnerable to poverty, hunger, abuse and exploitation.

All: Lord, when did we see you in the stranger.

Reader: Over 14 million children have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Their lives are precarious, their futures uncertain. They lack resources, protection and security.

All: Open the eyes of our hearts so that we may see you in the face of the stranger, the refugee, the orphan.

Leader: When I was sick, did you look after me?

All: Lord, when did we see you sick?

Reader: Every day 5500 people die of AIDS. Thirty-three million people live with this disease. Every year over 1 million children die of Malaria, easily treatable and easily preventable.

All: Lord, when did we see you sick?

Reader: Every year over 500,000 women die in pregnancy or childbirth because they lack access to health care.

All: Open the eyes of our hearts so that we may see you in the face of the sick and the dying.

Reader 1: Let justice roll down like rushing waters, and righteousness like a never ending stream.

Reader 2: This is what the Lord requires: do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

Leader: Our Lord said, 'Whatever you have not done for the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you have not done it to me.'

All: We will love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; and we will love our neighbour as we love ourselves. We will not be hearers only of the word, but we will be doers of the word.

Leader: Our Lord said, 'Come you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For whatever you have done for the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you have done it to me.'

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

WORLD HUNGER SAMPLE SERMON

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN...

By Roy Berkenbosch

Some Biblical texts point us immediately to the summons to seek justice for the poor—the story of the good Samaritan, or the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25, or Jesus’ instructions to the rich young ruler come immediately to mind. But in fact the whole of scripture—sometimes directly and sometimes implicitly—announces God’s deep and abiding concern for the poor. Every scripture reading and every sermon, and all our worship should be forming us as a people who love justice as God loves justice and who serve others in imitation of Jesus.

Therefore, while it may be necessary to highlight hunger and poverty concerns in a special way from time to time, we should be careful not to turn world hunger into an occasional project—something that we think about once a year on world hunger Sunday but then forget about as we go on with the rest of our lives. As thoroughly as economic justice is woven into the fabric of scripture, so tightly and thoroughly must it be woven into the fabric of our lives.

This is especially necessary in a global economy that intertwines our economic decisions and practices with those of people around the world and leaves the poor ever more exposed and vulnerable.

Having said that, today nevertheless, I want to focus our attention on a particular line of thought which we find in Luke 12:48. This section of Luke concerns itself with Jesus’ teachings about readiness for the coming day of the Lord. We are summoned to be wise managers of all that God has entrusted to us, and Jesus concludes his teaching with the admonition that, “from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

This morning I want to consider this principle in terms of three graduating levels of responsibilities that we have to the poor. These three levels correspond to three ways of thinking about poverty and hunger.

One common way to think about poverty is as material deprivation: people are poor because they don’t have the stuff they need—not enough food, not enough money, not enough clothing. When people lack stuff, sometimes the right thing to do is give stuff. When the downtown homeless

shelter says, 'the first snowfall is coming and our closets are empty', the citizenry rises up and buys up every woollen mitten and hat they can find and meet the need. When the soup kitchen calls for more bowls of chilli, church members roll up their sleeves and get into the kitchen.

More dramatically, when an earthquake strikes Haiti, the nations of the earth turn their pockets inside out, not least of all Christian Reformed people. CRWRC received record donations for its Haiti earthquake response effort—nearly \$7 million from the CRC and millions more from other funders—enabling them to meet the immediate needs of earthquake survivors and stand by them for the next number of years.

To whom much is given, much is required. Generally speaking I believe we are acutely aware that we live very privileged lives of abundance in North America, and this is reflected in the generosity of gifts received by CRWRC (and I know many people give to other agencies as well). And it is also reflected in how we spend our time. Many members of our congregation volunteer for CRWRC's Disaster Response Services, work teams, or other opportunities. God bless you for your generosity.

But you know what they say, give a man fish and he eats but for a day. . . . As it turns out, poverty and hunger are usually not simply the lack of stuff, but are often the outcome of lack of skill and education and training that enables people to acquire the goods they need. In spite of the generosity of donors and donor nations, hunger and poverty remain serious issues both at home and around the world. So the required response is not just to give a fish, but we need to employ the second half of that proverb: teach a man to fish and he may eat for a lifetime. The second wave of responsibilities that organizations like CRWRC have recognized and responded to is to provide training and support to help increase the capacities of individuals and communities to provide for themselves.

CRWRC, while it began as a relief agency, quickly realised the need for capacity building, people-empowering, community development and began training people in everything from literacy, kitchen gardens, crop diversity, water harvesting, to immunization, AIDS prevention, leadership training and more. It all makes a huge difference.

From those to whom much is given, much is required—and people with specialized know-how, research tools and libraries and teaching abilities, academic degrees and technical skills, have fanned out across the world including many people from this congregation. They have gone to Kenya, Honduras, Cuba, inner city schools, northern communities, Asia. Praise God for that. It makes a difference. The number of children under 5 who die from hunger and preventable illness is down from 40000/ year to less than 30000—still an unacceptable number, but an improvement nevertheless. Child mortality rates in Bangladesh are a fraction of what they were 30 years ago and maternal health has improved as well. A primary factor in overcoming poverty is education and the results are in: better education leads to smaller families, better use of resources, fatter babies and happier children.

From those to whom much is given, much is required. Whether you are a young person making plans for a career or a boomer about to hit retirement—you are a gifted person. You have skills and experience and education to share with others. Why not think about spending some time with CRWRC, learning about community development and maybe finding a niche where you can give back some of what you've received.

But here's the hard reality: in spite of many good news stories, we still have a terribly long way to go in terms of eradicating poverty and hunger. The incremental gains made by grassroots

community development can be easily undone by civil war, unfair trade practices, rising food and fuel prices and natural disaster. Perhaps hunger and poverty are not simply a lack of stuff or lack of education and skill—maybe something else is missing. ‘Teaching someone to fish’, as important as that may be, may not do much good if they have no access to the stream, or if their fishing rod is stolen, or if the fish ponds have been polluted by toxic industrial waste. The truth is, many people in poor communities are excellent fisher folk and farmers, industrious, motivated, and skilled—but they remain poor because global trade policies and economic systems and political complexities very often do not work for their well being.

The globalized world economy, controlled as it is by the rich and powerful, does not as a rule concern itself with the poor—their needs are not really on the table when decisions are made about oil prices or food prices or trade policies. Strategic decisions about aid distribution usually concern themselves more with self-interested foreign policy than the needs of hungry children.

It would be great if we could just generously donate ourselves out of the conundrum of global disparities; or educate ourselves out of it. But the problem is much more serious. Making poverty history requires that we build better structures and systems, that we design and implement just economic policies that serve people in their needs.

But how can you and I, ordinary folk with busy lives and limited resources begin to address these issues when even our experts are often confused by them. Rather than be overwhelmed, we need to remember Jesus words: to whom much is given much is required. So what have we been given?

In addition to our wealth and our time, we have also been given a voice with which to speak out for the poor. We have been given the gift of democracy that allows us to speak truth to power. We have the power of the media to raise awareness about issues and bring the collective voice of the church into the public square to advocate on behalf of the poor. We have been given well funded schools and Colleges where we may provide our youth with a global conscience. We have the means to research where our food and clothing comes from and we have power as consumers to practice frugality and justice in our purchasing habits.

Consider this: in 2000, 189 world leaders agreed to the Millennium development goals—8 distinct, measurable, achievable goals. In sum, these goals aim to reduce by 50% the number of people living in extreme poverty. The goals include achieving universal education, reducing child mortality, improving the lives of women and maternal health, decreasing the impact of HIV/AIDS. Canada and the United States pledged three things especially: to untie development aid and raise our levels to 0.7% of GDP, to promote better trade practices and to reduce debt.

But we are not living up to our commitments as a nation. In the mid 1970s Canada was giving 0.5% of GDP. Today, sadly our aid levels are lower than they were in 2000, a mere 0.3% and the latest budget wants to freeze it at that point. Similarly, in the US our 1970’s aid levels were around 0.26% of GDP. In 2008, official development aid was only 0.18% of GDP. This does not reflect the generosity of North Americans and certainly does not reflect the patterns of contributions of the Christian Reformed Church. We have been given a voice—let us speak.

A global ecumenical fellowship of Christians has come together as the Micah Network, of which CRWRC is a member organization. Their purpose is to help Christians around the world be knowledgeable and effective advocates for the poor. The Micah network and various Micah Challenge campaigns are a means by which the Christian community can encourage our leaders to keep the promises they have made. Let’s add our voice to that growing choir that says, Let Justice roll down like water and righteousness like a never ending stream. That choir currently

spans the globe, singing in many voices and dialects: are you in? The campaign is growing and needs your support: are you in? (You can learn more about this global network by visiting the CRWRC website or www.crcjustice.org)

There's one more thing. David Korten is a development expert who has thought long and hard about poverty; he has written books about his quest for change in the way the world works. At one point he says, yes we need more just systems, but we won't get those until we have more just people. But we won't get those until we get a better 'reality view'. A better story. That's what we need, he says. In his latest book, *The Great Turning*, he examines all kinds of possible stories, looking for one to make the difference. He challenges the church to help narrate a new and better story.

To whom much is given, much is required. We have been given a better story—the story of God to whom all of heaven and earth belongs, who upholds the world in abundance, who causes the rain to fall and the sun to shine, who gives bread to the sower and food for the eater. God who has himself made the 'Great Turning' in the gift of Jesus Christ who taught the way of righteousness and peace, whose restorative justice reconciles us again, whose heart is turned toward the poor, not just in compassion but in Jubilee actions and in promises to provide for all.

This is the story that can deliver us and indeed the world from the clutches of false stories, ideologies of power, ideologies of violence, ideologies of profit and consumption that distort the global marketplace. This is the story of the one true God, a story that sets us free from the lesser gods who fail us.

To whom much is given. . . . The greatest gift we've been given is the gospel, so let us believe it with all our hearts, discover its boundless implications and share its treasures with passion and conviction.

To whom much is given, much is required. And since you have so freely received, freely share with all in need. Will you join others in this mission? Are you in?

Amen

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010

SURVEY

CRWRC would like to know how its World Hunger Campaign is going. Please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey and let us know what went well, what didn't and what you'd like to see in future campaigns. Completed surveys should be sent to 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49560 (in the US) or 3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1, Burlington, ON, L7R 3Y8 (in Canada). Thank you.

How often does your church participate in World Hunger Sunday? (check one)

- Every year
- Once every few years
- Seldom
- This was our first time
- We don't participate

If you don't participate or only participate once in awhile, what factors prevent you from participating? (check all that apply)

- Our church calendar is too full
- We prefer to focus on our local community rather than global issues
- We don't find the World Hunger materials to be helpful or interesting
- Other

If you do participate regularly, what factors motivating you to participate? (check all that apply)

- Synod has mandated it
- We like to share our blessing with our brothers and sisters around the world
- We enjoy the materials
- Other

Which items did you use from this year's campaign?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Announcements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Sermon about Peter Fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Insert | <input type="checkbox"/> A Show Of Hands How To |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devotional booklets | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Litany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Fish Banks | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Children's Sermon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fast Facts about Hunger | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Sample Sermon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacons Hints | <input type="checkbox"/> Powerpoint presentation |

ARE YOU IN?

World Hunger Campaign 2010

For each item that you used, please rate it according to the following scale:

5 = loved it, found it very useful in its existing form;

4 = liked it, but would prefer that it was changed slightly;

3 = it was fine;

2 = didn't like it, would prefer that it was changed;

1 = didn't like it, would not use this type of resource again;

N/A = I didn't use this resource.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Announcements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Sermon about Peter Fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Insert | <input type="checkbox"/> A Show Of Hands How To |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devotional booklets | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Litany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Fish Banks | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Children's Sermon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fast Facts about Hunger | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Sample Sermon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacons Hints | <input type="checkbox"/> Powerpoint presentation |

For each item that you didn't use please rate it according to the following scale:

1 = Was well executed, but isn't a resource we wanted to use

2 = Was a good idea for a resource, but wasn't well executed

3 = We didn't realize you had this resource

4 = We have our own resources for this

5 = Other, please explain here: _____

N/A = I didn't use this resource.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Announcements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Sermon about Peter Fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Insert | <input type="checkbox"/> A Show Of Hands How To |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devotional booklets | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Litany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Fish Banks | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Children's Sermon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fast Facts about Hunger | <input type="checkbox"/> World Hunger Sample Sermon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacons Hints | <input type="checkbox"/> Powerpoint presentation |

Which additional items would you like to see in future years?

- T-shirts with Peter Fish on them
- Youth group activity (e.g. 24-hour fast)
- Video
- Other _____

ARE
YOU
IN?

World Hunger
Campaign 2010



CRWRC
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

CRWRC-CANADA 3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1, Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8, 1-800-730-3490
CRWRC-US 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560, 1-800-55-CRWRC (27972)
www.crwrc.org