

A Feast Fit for a King

World Hunger Campaign 2011





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Introduction

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) welcomes you to participate in the 2011 World Hunger Campaign. For nearly five decades, CRWRC has encouraged Christian Reformed Churches to help alleviate global hunger. The World Hunger Campaign usually happens during the three weeks leading up to World Hunger Sunday (designated by the CRC Synod in 1979 to be the first Sunday in November.) That would entail distribution of the materials on Sunday, October 16 and a culmination in World Hunger Sunday on November 6. However, the materials are suited for use throughout the year.

This year's theme is "A Feast Fit for a King." Jesus is our King. Yet, while he was on earth, he often showed that his royalty was not about wealth. He cared for all people — rich and poor, and often dined with others at meals that were simple, where the focus was not about eating gourmet delicacies but about making sure that all were welcome, included, and satisfied.

Jesus cared enough about the rich to challenge them. He cared enough about the poor to empower them. These two different ways of caring were how Jesus invited all to the same feast.

As heirs to God's kingdom, we are challenged to shape our lives to be like Jesus Christ. Our calling is to proclaim Jesus' Lordship and share the Kingdom message with everyone. That includes doing justice so others can have their fair share. It includes loving mercy and sharing from our abundance so others can be satisfied. And it means walking humbly with God so that his grace can strengthen our work.

As you participate in this year's World Hunger campaign, you will be challenged to think creatively about alleviating hunger. In a three week devotional booklet you can read stories about people in Malawi, India, Cambodia, Mozambique, Uganda, and other places. Each story tells of challenges posed by poverty and hunger. Each tells of courageous new beginnings. You and your church community will be challenged to allow the Holy Spirit to change you in response to what you hear. The King is present at our tables! Let us honor him in all our choices.

The following pages include resources to help you present the World Hunger Campaign to your congregation. A sample litany, two children's sermons, a sample sermon, and relevant songs will help you plan your worship services. Bulletin announcements and deacon's hints are also included.

In addition, you can order the three weeks of devotionals and giving suggestions 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. Please note that devotional booklets, a poster, and bulletin inserts or covers will be sent automatically to churches in Canada.

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



Fast Facts about Hunger and Poverty

“There are 925 million undernourished people in the world today. That means one in seven 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 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;
- 925 million people do not have enough to eat — more than the populations of the USA, Canada, and the European Union;
- Women make up a little over half of the world’s population, but they account for over 60 percent of the world’s hungry.
- One out of four children — roughly 146 million — in developing countries are underweight;
- 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.



What is Food Justice?

BY KRIS VANENGEN

Providing food for someone after they lose their job, face a drought or endure a disaster is a good example of food relief.

Partnering with community members so they can increase their yields, produce more food, consume more balanced nutrients and start small businesses in order to purchase more food is a good example of food development.

Asking the question why some communities remain impoverished in spite of hard work, partnering with other organizations for sustainable approaches to fight world hunger, and urging political leaders to make ending hunger a priority is a good example of food justice.

God's word calls us to do justice. As we pray and give on behalf of those who are hungry we can also speak up for actions that will lead to restoration and flourishing in those communities that are impoverished. Since God gave us this voice we can raise it up for the benefit of others.

CRWRC and the Office of Social Justice have resources to help you raise your voice for food justice. For more information, visit www.crcjustice.org.



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 giving families the training and support they need to overcome poverty in lasting ways. Please continue to read the "Feast Fit For a King" stories at your supper tables this week, and decide for yourselves what role you can play in sharing God's feast with others.

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 participate in World Hunger Sunday.

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY

Today, we celebrate a feast fit for a King. Only Jesus can spread a table where injustice is refused a seat and sent away, and rich and poor are fully satisfied. Thank you for being part of God's kingdom feast by sharing your blessings with others. If you want to know more about world hunger and what CRWRC is doing to end it, 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! Through your support for CRWRC's World Hunger Campaign, we continue to fight hunger and poverty together. This year, our church raised \$_____ for CRWRC's ministry around the world. For additional information, please visit www.crwrc.org.



Deacon's Hints

Here are a few suggestions to help you plan for and implement a successful World Hunger campaign with your congregation.

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. • 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. (They're free!) • 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.
During the week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the youth meet this week, have them count and roll the Peter Fish offerings.
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.



Children's Sermon #1

A FEAST FIT FOR A KING

(Props: one table; a box containing an elegant tablecloth, four fancy plates, four wine glasses, ornate cutlery, a candle, and a special food item.)

Hello, boys and girls. Today is a special day. Do you know why? *(Children guess.)* Thanks for trying to guess. It's a special day because a very important person — a King — is coming to our church TODAY! Isn't that exciting? How can we welcome him? *(Children answer.)* Look, here's a table. Let's set it to welcome the King. What kinds of things might we need to do to set this table for the King? *(Children answer.)*

You're right. A table cloth, some fancy dishes, a candle, cutlery, and special food are all important. *(Storyteller takes the items out of the box and the children set the table.)*

Thanks for your help. I think our table is all ready. Now we need to wait for the King. *(Storyteller looks toward the sanctuary entrance.)* Does anyone see him coming? *(Children answer.)* But you know what? The King is already here. Do you know who he might be? *(Let children guess until one of them says "Jesus").*

That's right. Jesus is the King. But where is he? *(Children answer.)* The Bible tells us that Jesus is with us whenever we worship him together, and also that the Holy Spirit lives with us in our hearts. Since Jesus is with us here, will he be able to sit at our table and eat our special food? *(Children answer.)*

Jesus might not eat the actual food we have in front of us. In the Bible Jesus told his followers that whenever they were kind to someone else, it was just as if they were being kind to Jesus himself. In fact, Jesus said that whatever you do to the very least of his children, it is as if you are doing it to him. So, if you give some food to a hungry person, Jesus says it's just as if you have fed him.

The deacons are going to give each of you a Peter Fish. Do any of you remember taking home a Peter Fish last year? *(Children answer.)* Do you remember what to do with the Peter Fish? *(Children answer.)* Right! We put money in it. Why do we do that? *(Children answer.)* That's right! In a few weeks we will bring our Peter Fish back to church. The money will be used to help feed hungry people. Because Jesus is our King, we want to treat hungry people well and give them a feast fit for a King because Jesus is their King too and he loves them as much as he loves us.

I want to ask you to do something special when you have your Peter Fish at home. Ask your parents if at each meal you can set an extra plate, cutlery, and glass at the table. Not just an old plate, glass, and cutlery, but something special as if you were having a King eat with you. That will remind you of two things. First, when you see the empty plate you'll remember that Jesus is present with us all the time. Then, you'll remember that Jesus, our King cares about hungry people and invites them to join in the feast.

Let's pray.

Dear Lord, Thank you that you are our King. Help us to care about hungry people as much as you do. Help us to share with them. Amen.



Children's Sermon # 2

FOR WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY

(Props: a table set with an elegant tablecloth, four fancy plates, four wine glasses, ornate cutlery, and a candle, just as at the conclusion of Children's Sermon #1.)

Hello, boys and girls. Thank you for bringing your Peter Fish today. Do you remember what we talked about when you received them? *(Children answer.)* Right! We talked about how we could welcome Jesus, our King. We set a table just like the one you see here today. What else did we talk about? *(Children answer.)* Great answers. We learned that Jesus told his followers that whenever they were kind to someone else, it was just as if they were being kind to him. In fact, Jesus said that whatever we do to the very least of his children, it is as if we are doing it to him. So, if we give some food to a hungry person, Jesus says it's just as if we have fed him. Jesus is the King who loves us and hungry people too so we want to treat hungry people well and give them a feast fit for a King.

We also talked about setting an extra plate, cutlery, and glass at our family tables to remind ourselves that many people are hungry each day. Did any of you do that? *(Children answer.)* That's great! Maybe you can do that again someday.

I can tell you're excited about bringing your Peter Fish to church today. Why are you excited? *(Children answer.)* Did you know that wonderful things will happen because of your gift of money?

Let's talk about what some of those wonderful things might be. Four of you may set your Peter Fish on the table. *(Storyteller chooses four children to put their Peter Fish on the table.)* The money from your Peter Fish might help a farmer buy seeds to grow rice. Now, five more of you may set your Peter Fish on the table. *(Storyteller chooses five children.)* The money from your Peter Fish might help a family with their fish breeding project. Now, seven of you may set your Peter Fish on the table. *(Storyteller chooses seven children.)* The money from your Peter Fish might help a family grow peanuts, beans, and eggplant. With the money they earn from selling their extra food, they can send their children to school so they can learn just like you. Getting an education will help them have a better life. The rest of you may now put your Peter Fish on the table. *(Children put their Peter Fish on the table, then sit down.)* Just look at that table! This week we didn't put special food on it like we did last week because we've put our Peter Fish gifts on instead. It looks like a feast fit for a King!

Let's pray.

Dear Lord, Thank you that you are our King. Thank you for letting us put money in the Peter Fish. Please bring food to hungry people. Amen.

A Feast Fit for a King

World Hunger Campaign 2011

Suggested Songs for World Hunger Sunday

SONGS FROM THE GRAY PSALTER HYMNAL

- *Whatsoever You Do to the Least* (#210) vs 1, 2
- *Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread* (# 290) vs 1, 2
- *As Saints of Old Their Firstfruits* (# 294) vs 1, 2, 3
- *In the Quiet Consecration* (#302) vs 3 & 4
- *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (#603) vs 1, 2, 3, 4
- *The City is Alive, O God* (#597) vs 1, 2, 3, 4

SONGS FROM SING! A NEW CREATION

- *Table of Plenty* (#247) vs 1, 2, 3, 4
- *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (# 258) vs 1, 2, 3
- *When a Prophet Sings of Justice* (#264) vs 1, 2, 3, 4
- *O God, Your Justice Towers* (#272) vs 1, 2, 3, 4



Litany for World Hunger Sunday

Reader 1: Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. (Rev. 15:3b)

Reader 2: King of the ages, in the Garden of Eden's lush extravagance and lavish abundance, you welcomed your children to a perfect, bounteous feast.

People: Sing praises to our King, sing praises. (Psalm 47:6b)

Reader 1: But in a feast-destroying act of rebellion, Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Reader 2: Since then, the gift God gave us of dining and breaking bread together has been tainted. All too often, we focus on our own needs and forget to share our God-given resources with all our brothers and sisters.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

Reader 2: God, you fill the hungry with good things. (Psalm 107:9b) Help us when we don't follow your example and instead hoard good things for ourselves.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

Reader 1: God, you exercise kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth. (Jer. 9:24b) Show us when we have been unjust in our treatment of those in need.

People: Forgive us, we pray! King of each day's feasts, teach us, prod us, and empower us to love and care for all your children.

Reader 2: The Lord declares, "If my people, who are called by name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

People: We call upon your name, O Lord. Sing praises to our King, sing praises. (Psalm 47:6b)

Reader 1: God, open our eyes to the vision of the true and just feast that you gave to the prophet Isaiah — a feast where sin and death are destroyed, where there is abundance for all, and where each is fully welcome.

Reader 2: On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. (Isaiah 25:6-8b)

Reader 1: King of the Feast, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, where your children will one day celebrate "the wedding supper of the Lamb" (Rev. 19:9) and no longer experience hunger. (Rev. 7:16)

Reader 2: Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. (Rev. 15:3b)

People: Sing praises to our King, sing praises. (Psalm 47:6b)



World Hunger Sunday Sermon Starters

BY REV. ROY BERKENBOSCH

Here are a couple of homiletic possibilities to get your mind thinking as you prepare a sermon for use during World Hunger Sunday.

SERMON STARTER # 1

TASTE AND SEE THAT GOD IS GOOD

I hold the Bible up to my nose and breathe in deeply — ah, that smells wonderful! No, I don't mean the leather and I don't mean that lovely musty smell that wafts out of old books. I mean the smell of the good abundant creation and the lavish feasts that adorn the many tables set for us in God's word.

Open your Bible to Genesis and we are greeted with the scent of the rich earth — as after a spring rain, mixed with the smells of herbs and spices, fruits and vegetables, the fish and birds and other creatures that populate the earth in rich variety. The creation is a place of abundance, teeming with life and possibility.

Turn to Exodus 16 and we detect the smell of sweet manna with just a hint of coriander, and quail prepared a hundred different ways. Liberated slaves can smell the milk and honey — a sweet delight like a good cup of chai latte. And there are grapes — clusters so big it takes two people to carry them.

Isaiah imagines the day of Lord as a banquet table spread for the nations, "a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest wines!" (Isaiah 25:6)

Yes, wine and plenty of it. The Bible is drenched with wine — flowing down from the mountains and hills in Amos 9, and in John 2 Jesus serves up 120 gallons of the best vintage, big, fat and jammy wine, a delight to the palate, making the heart glad.

Follow your nose to the smells of succulent roast veal in Luke 15 as a father welcomes his wayward son back to the fold. Catch a whiff of the simple feast of fish and bread for the multitudes in John 6, all of whom eat their fill with baskets left over.

All of which is to say that the Bible signals a delight in the finest of food. It reveals over and over again that God is gracious and provident and has made a world of bounty for his children to enjoy, care for, and share. Again and again in the Old Testament, the "day of the Lord" is anticipated as an end to the scarcity that was a feature of exile and bondage. In its place is the provision of abundance — a mark of salvation and freedom. Jesus' miracles of feeding are signs that the new Messianic age arrived in him.

But attached to all this food — not quite like a price tag, but more like a recipe card — are many biblical injunctions to not simply delight in food, but also to love our neighbours by sharing the rich harvests of the earth. There are instructions to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and make provision for their needs. The cultural mandate of Genesis 1 teaches that we are to tend the garden of the Lord with wisdom and care so that its graciously provided harvests can be a blessing to all God's children. Sabbath and Jubilee laws teach an economic practice that protects people from poverty traps and from systematic exclusion from the markets.

Just as surely as the Bible reveals God as the “Generous Provider,” so it also reveals God as the “Lover of Justice.” Woven throughout the portraits of plenty are stern warnings about hoarding, gluttony, withholding care from the poor, neglecting the hungry, and presuming on God’s goodness without reckoning His commands to do justice. Without justice the finest meal is wasted, leaving a bitter taste in the mouth of God — but with justice, even the simplest fare is a feast fit for a King.

SERMON STARTER # 2

FROM SCARCITY TO ABUNDANCE (JOHN 6)

(Note: the material that follows borrows heavily from Walter Brueggemann’s marvellous essay, “The Liturgy of Abundance, the Myth of Scarcity” found in Deep Memory, Exuberant Hope, Fortress, 2000; also available on line at <http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=533>)

The Bible, it seems to me, is all about abundance. In Genesis, God creates a world that is lavish and full. It is rich with diversity, has four rivers soaking Eden’s soil ensuring bumper crops, and contains plants that produce their own seed to ensure the propagation of life. There are also blessings to the happy human couple of increase and multiplied children. God announces that all of this is very good, and then rests on the seventh day, content in knowing that the world has enough.

The security of that knowledge changes after the human rebellion. After the fall, creation does not easily yield its abundance. There are floods and droughts, thistles and thorns, and the human community — embroiled in a web of distorted relationships and imbalances of power and opportunity — experiences the misery of superabundance of some and a howling grim scarcity for others.

Read a little further, to find the people of God in slavery in Egypt thanks to a policy of hegemonic control implemented by none other than Joseph. In Genesis 47, Pharaoh dreams of a famine. He gets organized to administer, control, and monopolize the food supply. For the first time in the Bible someone says that there is not enough to go around and decides to lay claim to it all. Because Pharaoh is fearful, he is ruthless. He hires Joseph to manage the monopoly.

When the people need food they come to Joseph. On behalf of Pharaoh, he takes their land as collateral for food. Next, he takes their cattle. By the third year, the only collateral they have is themselves.

In Egypt’s brickyards the Hebrew slaves live lives of scarcity. They are in bondage, with no freedom. Even their children are even sacrificed to river gods. Finally they scream out to God for mercy. And the God of abundance hears and sends Moses to liberate the people.

In the wilderness, God begins to purge their hearts and minds of Egyptian ideology. He insists on Sabbath rest so that the reliability of his provision can be demonstrated. He also lays the foundation for Israel’s economic life through the gift of manna. Don’t take too much because it will rot — greed corrupts your storehouses. Trust in God’s provision by gathering twice as much on the sixth day so you can rest on the seventh. Don’t be a slave to your labour — it’s not necessary.

The wilderness Sabbath experience of not collecting manna on the seventh day, latches on to the good creational pattern of God’s own work week and gets extrapolated into ever widening patterns of community life. There are Sabbath years which provide rest for the land, and finally the Sabbaths of Sabbaths, the year of Jubilee. The Jubilee is a time for redistribution of land and property, deliverance of slaves and forgiveness of debts so that people who have sunk into poverty can start over again.

Fast forward to the New Testament and the story of Jesus who is the incarnation of an abundant God. “I have come that you might have abundant life; behold I make all things new — I prepare a banquet for you, drink of me and never go thirsty, eat of me and never be hungry.”

Filled with God’s generosity Jesus came to people suffering from multiple scarcities: scarcity of health, of acceptance, of power, of understanding. He brought an abundance of healing, deliverance, comfort, and embrace.

John 6 tells a story of transformation from scarcity to abundance that has its roots planted firmly in Israel’s wilderness experience. Jesus goes up on the mountainside to preach, reminiscent of Isaiah’s “mountain of the

Lord, where God will feed the people with rich food.” It is the time of Passover, the celebration of Liberation from Egypt. Seeing the multitudes he asks the leading question: “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” The disciples answer by reciting the liturgy of scarcity: “Eight months wages aren’t enough,” says Philip. “Here’s a boy with some fish and bread, but how far can that go?” says Peter.

In the real world this is not enough. In the so called “real world” where spiritual fantasies break up on the rocky shoals of “hard reality,” five loaves and two fish are barely an appetizer for five let alone dinner for 5,000. The disciples offer the resistance of pragmatism. There is simply not enough to go around.

But Jesus has abundance on his mind. With actions that prefigure the Passover meal, he takes bread, gives thanks, breaks it and passes it around. You know the rest: everyone has enough bread, just like in the wilderness manna-fest. When the meal is over the disciples pass the basket around and gather up 12 baskets left over. The abundant provision of God once again transforms a place of scarcity into a place of plenty. It is just as Mother Mary said it would be: he has filled the hungry with good things.

As always, there is more here than meets the eye. In the teaching that follows, Jesus explains this miraculous feeding as a *sign* to help the people see that he, himself, is the abundance of God in their midst. “Your forefathers ate manna in the wilderness. I am the new manna and whoever eats of me will never hunger.”

Jesus is the gift of lavish grace, the fountain of unstoppable mercy, the teacher of inexhaustible wisdom, an irresistible example of faithful living, and the source of deepest joy. He invites his friends then and now to participate in the abundance of his life.

How? By eating of his body and blood — that is by participating in his life, his death and his resurrection — becoming one with him. And by imitating in our own life together the joyful compassionate, free, generous life that he lived for others. This is the life that Jesus called “the way to the father,” the way of abundant living.

Today, anxiety is a fundamental human condition. It is fueled in large part by an ideology of scarcity which hammers away at us to take more, to tighten our borders, and to think less of our neighbour. Bloody wars are fought because of anxiety over a perceived scarcity of security and resources. Economic policies are enforced that protect privileged markets and often prevent a more equal distribution of goods. Fear of scarcity inhibits the practice of generosity.

The Bible offers us an alternative vision, a picture of abundance. In this vision, the gracious gifts of God get multiplied through the faithful living of a community of trust so that all nations have enough and there are even leftovers. This is a vision of a world where there is plenty of room, plenty of food, plenty of mercy, plenty forgiveness, plenty good friends, all of it available to those who see and believe.

God’s abundance requires us to reject the ideology of scarcity with all the fear and anxiety that it engenders and its hoarding mentality. Instead, we need to learn to trust the daily provision of God. This includes rejecting an ideology of affluence, which is not the same as abundance. An ideology of affluence accepts as normal the disproportionate wealth of some at the expense of others. It accepts uncritically the present global economic arrangement of the world that perpetuates these distortions.

Each week we gather to ponder all these stories that declare scarcity to be false: an impromptu hillside feast with more in leftovers than when it began, water turned to wine, a barren desert blossoming with manna, an earth fully supplied with enough for everyone’s need, a community where all are welcome. A question must form in our hearts — what if it is true? What if the vital link between the Creator’s abundance and the neighbours’ needs is us?

If it is not true, then scarcity rules, the hillside multitudes remain hungry, whoever dies with the most toys wins, and the poor will be with you always. But if it is true — this Gospel story of abundance — then everything changes, doesn’t it?



Youth Activity: 24 Hour Fast

Are you interested in helping to make this year's World Hunger campaign more meaningful for the young people in your church? Consider organizing a 24-hour fast either as part of your church's campaign or as a "next step" soon afterwards.

CRWRC's FAST Forward project is an ideal way to get you started. FAST Forward is a 24-hour fast to help end world hunger. It provides a concrete way for teens to act on their desire to share God's love with people in need, and experience a glimpse of what hunger is like.

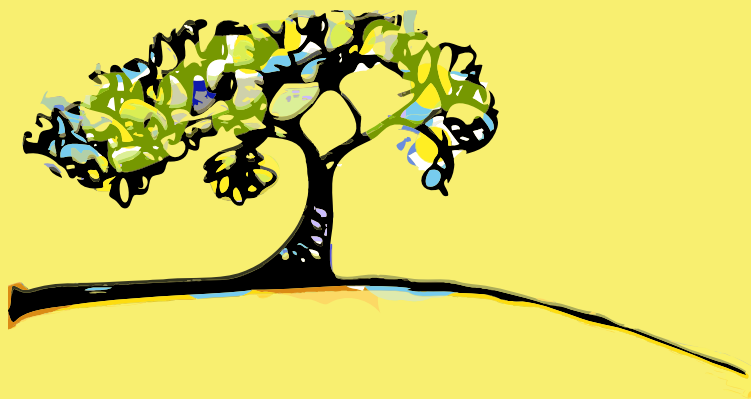
Not only does FAST Forward raise money for CRWRC's ministry, it also raises awareness about world hunger and unites youth group members like never before. The impact reaches teens, their families, and their church and lasts long after the FAST is over.

Organizing and participating in the FAST Forward project is easy. Everything you'll need is provided, free of charge, by CRWRC. In fact, most of the resources are available online at www.crwrc.org/fastforward

Once your youth group has chosen a date for their FAST, the youth and youth leaders are asked to talk with their friends, family and neighbors to request financial and prayer sponsorship. This is also a great time for young people to talk about why they are committed to helping those in need.

The group then goes for 24 hours without food - so that they can have a real taste of what hunger is like. During this time your school or youth group engages in different activities from community service projects, to Bible studies, to interactive games. Afterwards, the money raised is sent to CRWRC and put to work in countries like Bangladesh, Kenya, Mali, and Haiti.

Through your participation in FAST Forward, countless lives will be impacted – from the poor farmer in Latin America who can now grow enough food to eat, to the young person in your church who now has a better understanding of poverty. Find out more at www.crwrc.org/fastforward.



CRWRC

CHRISTIAN REFORMED
WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

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