

# LIGHT

## Answering *the Cries* of the *Hungry*

"And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day."

ISAIAH 58:10

Cover: NO HELP IN SIGHT

Southern Baptists are looking for ways to make a long-term difference in the lives of people in the Horn of Africa who are threatened by an emerging famine. Three years of drought have destroyed crops and devastated livestock. Southern Baptist workers will find ways to minister God's love to people being missed by the massive governmental relief efforts.

(BP) Photo by Don Rutledge

# Good News;

In a time in which four million children in America go hungry each year and 13.5 million live below the poverty line (\$13,884 for a family of three), it appears to many that Christians at the dawn of the 21st century have fallen short in fulfilling the biblical imperative to serve the whole person.

Borrowing from the church-state debate, more than a few Christians behave as if a wall of separation has been erected between evangelism and social ministries. When confronting this artificial dichotomy between the two, people of faith need only consider Jesus' ministry. He offered a whole Gospel for the whole person: offering redemption and relief (Matt. 14:14).

In response to the Pharisee's question as to the greatest commandment, Jesus said His followers should love God with all their heart. The second commandment, He said, is to love one's neighbor (Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34).



**RICHARD LAND**  
PRESIDENT, ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION (ERLC)

At the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, we consider it a privilege to promote the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. It alone among hunger funds uses 100% of all donations to help feed hungry people. We have adopted the biblical principle of gleaning. Whether you place your spare change in a canister or rice bowl, or give by monthly check or by direct bank draft, the small gift you make on a regular basis will go far in ministering to the physical needs of hungry people. It will allow missionaries and volunteers to share the bread that sustains life, and open doors for sharing the Bread of Life, the Good News of salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

# Good Works

Evangelism and social responsibility are inextricably intertwined; to value and practice one and to neglect the other weakens and compromises both. Failure to address each side of this coin devastates the local church's witness and credibility. The complete mission of the church is to tend to the spiritual and the physical needs of people (Titus 2:14).

The New Testament church gave itself over to meeting the spiritual and the physical needs of its community: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching... they gave to anyone as he had need" (Acts 2:42-45). Evangelistic and social ministries cannot be separated without damaging the integrity of both.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is committed to a complete Gospel for the complete person. There is no inherent conflict between the social and salvation aspects of the Gospel. It was never intended that there should be a dichotomy between the two.

It is wrong to seek to feed the hungry and not tell them about the Bread of Life. It is shameful to seek to clothe the naked and not tell them about the whole armor of God. It is disgraceful to seek to house the homeless and not tell them that in our Father's house are many mansions. It is also less than complete obedience or full discipleship to proclaim spiritual salvation and not also to seek to

minister to people's physical needs as well.

Those who minister to the soul by testifying to the eternal spiritual redemption that is in Jesus Christ but neglect the physical needs of the body are as unbiblical as those Christians who offer social services but leave the Gospel's good news unspoken.

Evangelicals are accused, too often justifiably so, of failing to provide a prophetic voice on social concerns such as hunger, poverty, and injustice. The present-day church as a whole receives less-than-satisfactory grades when it comes to heeding these biblical imperatives.

A recent study by the Alban Institute reveals that while roughly a third of congregations are somehow involved in hunger ministries and one-fifth are involved in sheltering the homeless, ministries addressing other human needs are nearly non-existent. While known as Bible-believing people, we have too often forfeited these concerns to groups not known for their fervent evangelistic witness—perhaps eternally short-changing those who are thus abandoned solely to the efforts of such ministries.

Social programs cannot heal the breach between a man and his Maker, and the pronouncement of Christ as Savior alone will not quell the hunger and thirst of a

person in physical distress.

The Bible places high value on caring for the poor, the down-trodden, the widowed, and the orphaned. It is such a paramount value that the Apostle James writes that the depth of concern for the down-trodden and the destitute reveals much about the authenticity of a person's faith:

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:15-17). (cf. James 1:27)

Asking starving people to accept Christ as Lord and Savior while ignoring their physical suffering is an unbalanced and unbiblical proclamation. However, for Christians to offer relief from physical suffering without sharing the Gospel's good news of eternal life in Christ is a cruel and hollow imitation of true Christian discipleship and one with eternally deadly consequences.

Malnutrition and hunger in America are dangerous partners in a silent crisis. The plague of poverty in our nation and around the world demands a response from people of faith. American Christians, individually and collectively, need to once again embrace both the biblical man-

date to proclaim the Gospel's good news and to practice the Gospel's good works.

We are commanded to be our Savior's ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-20). We are called to be the embodiment of Christ's love, reaching out to embrace those in spiritual and physical need, demonstrating to them that they are deeply loved and never forgotten by their God.

The continuing miracle of the incarnate and risen Christ's life and work is transformed people transforming society—offering God's complete Gospel for God's complete person.

Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18). ☩

Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 JOHN 3:18

All Scriptures are taken from the New International Version (NIV).



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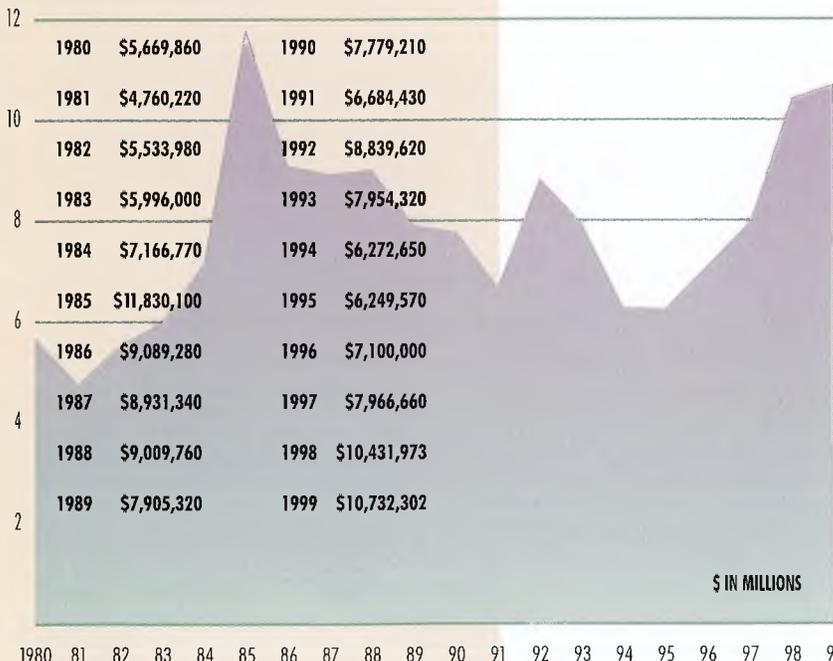


**ROBERT T. RECCORD**  
PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICAN  
MISSION BOARD (NAMB)

Jesus said, "The poor you have always," but made it very clear that ministry to those in need was very dear to His heart.

We at the North American Mission Board are pleased to partner with you in the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund as we reach out a hand of mercy and care to a world that is dying to know how to live; and to live is Jesus Christ. When you get down to the bottom line, that's what the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund is all about, the "Bread of Life."

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HUNGER AND RELIEF GIFTS, 1980-1999**



# Why should I support the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund rather than charities that advertise on TV?

▲ Only the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund uses 100% of all contributions to feed hungry people.

*(Personnel are already in place; thus, administrative and promotional costs are borne out of other budgets.)*

▲ When Southern Baptists give food, they are there for the long haul, desiring to plant churches and make disciples for Jesus Christ. More than just aid, our desire is to build relationships with people and eventually lead them to a relationship with Christ.

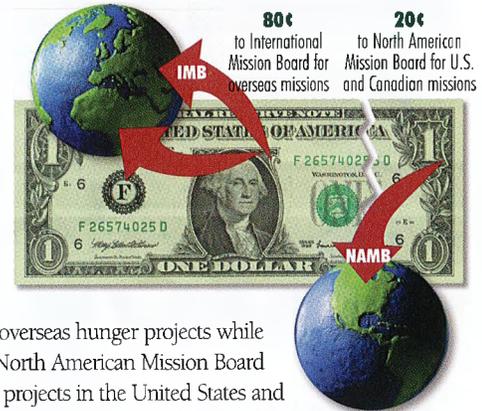
▲ The Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ is always foundational. Whenever possible, the plan of salvation is shared and an opportunity to respond is given.

▲ During emergency situations, food aid must be given. But when possible, hunger ministries are designed to create independence from rather than dependence on food aid.

**HOW IS MY DOLLAR SPENT?**

When a dollar is contributed to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, unless otherwise designated, 80¢ is sent to the International

Mission Board for overseas hunger projects while 20¢ is sent to the North American Mission Board to support hunger projects in the United States and Canada. Because personnel and volunteers are already in place, and promotional expenses come through other budgets, 100% of your gifts is used to minister to the hungry in Jesus' name.



**ARE THERE WAYS I CAN APPLY THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE OF "GLEANING" (LEV. 19:9-10) TODAY?**

Gleaning involves leaving something on a regular basis for those in need. You can follow one or more of the suggestions below, or allow them to inspire you to find other creative ways to give out of your abundance. The main thing is that you prayerfully seek a way to give consistently. Why not involve your whole family in the process?

- ▲ Submit a direct bank draft form allowing your account to be debited each month for an amount you determine (see p. 16).
- ▲ Drop your spare change daily in a jar. Occasionally, convert to check, and send proceeds to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.
- ▲ Place and maintain change canisters in your church (foyer, fellowship hall, Sunday school rooms) and in area businesses by the cash register.
- ▲ Send a monthly check to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.
- ▲ Host a BEAT Hunger Retreat for your church youth group.
- ▲ Have children's groups use Dime-a-Day cards for the World Hunger Fund.
- ▲ Place World Hunger Fund offering envelopes in pew racks in your church.
- ▲ When ordering offering envelopes from the envelope service, have a World Hunger Fund envelope spaced at one per month in each box.
- ▲ Sponsor a rice bowl campaign in your church.

**WHERE CAN I ORDER RESOURCES TO PROMOTE THE WORLD HUNGER FUND OR MAKE A CONTRIBUTION?**

You can order resources from the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 901 Commerce St., Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203 ([orders@erlc.com](mailto:orders@erlc.com)). Contributions can be sent to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission or your state Baptist Convention office.\* For more information, call (888) 375-2461.

\* Some state conventions vary in how hunger funds are distributed. For more details, contact your state Baptist convention office.





**STEVE NELSON**  
DIRECTOR OF HUNGER CONCERNS, ERLC

Many Christians wonder how they “fit” into God’s work. Yet there are countless needs around us to which God is calling His children. Gleaning—giving out of our abundance on a regular basis—makes a life-saving difference. It can be the first step in growing a “passion for compassion” for those in need. What appears to be a small step awakens our hearts to ministry opportunities around us. Whether you give by monthly check, by setting aside spare change, or by direct bank draft, the greater blessing will be yours.

## FOOD FOR WAR-WEARY UGANDAN VILLAGERS PROVIDED BY SBC WORLD HUNGER FUND

**Doing her best to help her family stave off starvation, this Iteso girl plucks the leaves off clover she picked in a nearby clearing. The leaves will be chopped to make “greens” that will serve as the family’s only meal. With little aid arriving, this nutritionally empty diet has become the daily fare for many Iteso families living in cramped refugee camps.**

It is a world few Westerners can imagine. Incidents of rape, pillage, and murder at the hands of a warring tribal group known as the Kiramajong (keer-ah-mah-jong) are commonplace in four provinces of northern Uganda.

Upwards of 200,000 Iteso (Ee-tess-so) people have fled their homes to escape recent outbreaks of violence. People have lost cattle, possessions, and loved ones. Raiders who formerly carried spears are now armed with AK-47 assault rifles. Many villagers now live in makeshift refugee camps established by the Ugandan government and have been forced to sell their livestock at a fraction of its worth rather than risk having it stolen at the hands of the Kiramajong.

Thousands of displaced people, mostly women and children, are living in squalor. Sleeping on mats in mud huts, many gather clover to prepare as the only food for their family and draw drinking water from marshes.

The lack of international media coverage of this tragedy means the area has received little

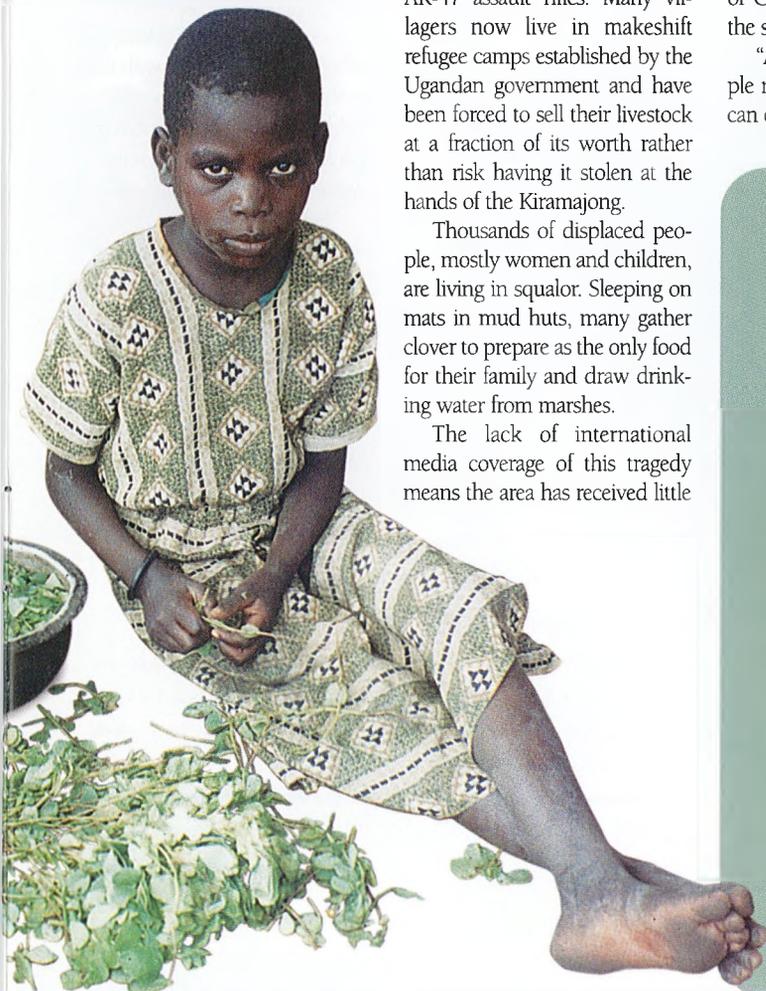
assistance. The Ugandan government distributed some corn, but no other help arrived.

The arrival of a Southern Baptist mission team changed all that. In May, Southern Baptists delivered 13 tons of corn meal and beans to six different locations where displaced people were anxiously waiting. Several Ugandan Baptist seminary students among those displaced from their homes aided in the distribution of food as they told of Christ’s love and concern for the suffering Ugandans.

“At a crisis time like this, people realize that there is little they can count on in this world . . .

[and] they become very open to Jesus Christ,” said Jack Frost, a Southern Baptist missionary serving in the area. To avoid “counterfeit” decisions prompted only out of gratefulness for the food, pastors made it abundantly clear that the food was for everyone—whether they responded to the Gospel message or not.

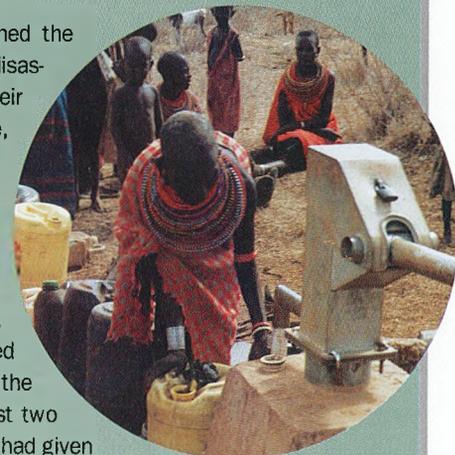
“We want to share a little hope with everyone, and the ultimate hope with any who will receive,” Frost continued. At one location, 43 people prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The food, provided through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, costs about 12¢ per meal. 



## faces of hunger

### NORTHERN KENYA

Drought in Northern Kenya pushed the Samburu people to the edge of disaster. At press time, over 75% of their cattle had perished. In one village, women were walking nine miles each way for water. Through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, a pump now supplies the village with a constant supply of fresh water. Without the water, the people would have been forced to abandon their homes. In May, the local pastor reported that the last two non-believing adults in the village had given their hearts to Jesus Christ.





**DR. JERRY RANKIN**  
PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD (IMB)

In this day of unprecedented economic growth and affluence, over 800 million people in developing countries are chronically hungry. Upwards of 80% of these are in areas with restricted access to the Gospel. For years, an agricultural training project in India has provided a healthy diet for thousands of families and over 600 new churches have started. Thank you for your support of the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund as we minister to a world in need and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# Famine Threatens Ethiopia; Tragic History Repeats Itself

**BY MARK KELLY (IMB)**

Southern Baptists have mobilized to help some of the 7.7 million people threatened by an emerging famine in south-eastern Ethiopia. And thanks to a God-inspired gift, workers were able to begin helping even before the crisis hit television screens in the United States.

Three years of drought have destroyed crops and devastated livestock in Ethiopia and six neighboring countries in the Horn of Africa. Regional conflicts make the delivery of relief supplies difficult, and children and the weak have begun dying from malnutrition-related illnesses.

A 1984-85 famine in Ethiopia which claimed one million lives shocked the world when images of starving people appeared on their televisions. Now the United Nations estimates as many as 16 million people in seven countries are in danger. Governments are trying to deliver massive amounts of grain to the region, hoping a full-blown famine can be averted.

Southern Baptists are working to minister to people who might not be reached by the large-scale programs, said a missions strategist focusing on the region.

"We are seeking to find places where there are gaps that need to be filled in the relief efforts," said the missionary, who asked that his name be withheld for security reasons. "We want to mount a response with a more human face than the massive relief projects and put Southern Baptist money and help where it will benefit some of the more forgotten people."

For example, Southern Baptists will assist a non-governmental organization in a water

development project that should help people weather future droughts, he said. They also are helping churches minister to refugees who are streaming into cities from the countryside and will help deliver grain to places where it is too dangerous for government workers to go.

"In some places, people have gone to the edge and there's nothing left," said the worker, who just returned from a survey trip in the area. "We're trying to make sure people aren't forced to eat their seed grain, so they'll be able to plant if the rains come."

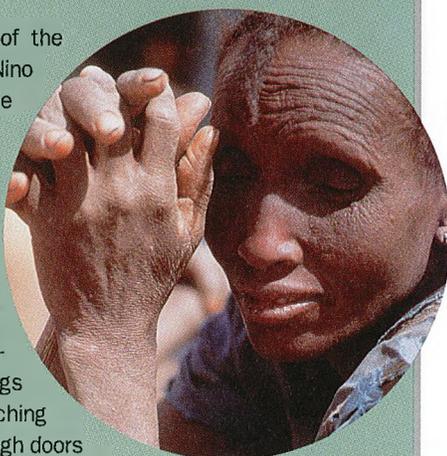
Southern Baptist workers, who have been dealing with the problem for six months, were delighted when an unexpected gift for Ethiopian hunger relief was received.

"Before this crisis even hit the press, some Baptists sent us \$7,000 for Ethiopian hunger relief," he said. "We've been able to feed these people on the streets and work through these churches because God moved in the hearts of some Southern Baptists even before the big organizations started moving in." ❏

Traces  
of hunger

## NIGER REPUBLIC

When the proud Zarma people of the Niger Republic fell victim to an El Nino induced famine, hundreds of people died and thousands lived in pain and despair. Missionaries Brad and Sally Womble wrote of how difficult it was to leave their home, knowing they would see the face of death each time they went out. The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund made a life-saving difference, funding milk and eggs for daily distribution. New preaching points have been established through doors opened by this demonstration of the love of Christ.



(IMB) Photo

### PICTURED AT RIGHT...

INSET PHOTO, TOP: Ethiopian men scrambled to get grain, oil and beans from the Southern Baptist feeding center at Rabel, Ethiopia, during the 1984-85 famine in that country. INSET PHOTO, BOTTOM: Though bland by the standards of normal Ethiopian cuisine, starving people are grateful for the high-protein porridge they received through the ministry of the Southern Baptist feeding center at Rabel, Ethiopia, during the 1984-85 famine in that country.

(BP) Photos by Don Rutledge

**APPEALING FOR HELP**

*Children and the weak have begun dying from malnutrition-related illnesses in Ethiopia, where three years of drought have destroyed crops and devastated livestock. Southern Baptists have mobilized to help some of the 7.7 million people threatened by an emerging famine in southeastern Ethiopia.*

(BP) Photo by Don Rutledge



# Baptists Working to Ease Chechen Refugees' Misery

BY MIKE CRESWELL, BAPTIST PRESS

Death, devastation, and suffering are as plentiful as dirt. Hope is a scarce and precious commodity.

That's how a three-man team of Southern Baptist mission workers describes life in and around Chechnya, the republic in the Caucasus region south of Russia. Many thousands have died and untold thousands have fled their homes after Chechen rebels waged an unsuccessful war for independence from Russia.

Southern Baptists will give more than \$120,000 in relief aid from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to help Russian Baptists and local authorities provide food, clothing, shelter, and rehabilitation for some of the refugees who have flooded out of Chechnya.

Missionaries Mark Edworthy and Richard Bell traveled with International Mission Board human needs consultant Jim Brown for eight days in early June along the outskirts of Chechnya to see war's ugly results.

The team got only as far as Nal'chik, in Russia's Karbardino-Balkarskaya republic, some 60 miles from the Chechen border. But the conflict's effects — including waves of ethnic Russian refugees fleeing attacks in Chechnya — have spilled across a wide area there. The team visited four cities and about a dozen relief agencies (such as the Red Cross and orphanages) and spoke to numerous refugees to gather information.

"The refugees have fled for their lives," said Brown. "They've been driven from their homes and seen family members killed and houses blown up. They've been terrorized, brutalized, vandalized, murdered, kidnapped. Families are still in shock because they haven't been out of Chechnya very long and basically have lost everything. They know they're not going back."

Based on their reports, Southern Baptist missionaries will launch a series of ministries to respond to the region, where thousands of refugees eke out a subsistence living in refugee camps, with local families, in abandoned buildings and huts.

Most of the families, the team reported, consist of mothers and children "living day to day on food packets provided by churches and occasionally other supporting organizations. Nothing is consistent or reliable in their lives. But they are beginning to put trust in Russian pastors as they reach out in love and kindness."

"Refugees will find hope as Southern Baptists direct strategic funds through local Baptist churches in efforts to feed, clothe, house, and organize camps for refugees and their children," reported Edworthy, who is based in Poland. "Each human needs project has a clear strategy for Gospel sharing and church planting."

Amid the suffering, the team found evidence of God's work through Russian Baptists in the cities of Georgievsk and Stavropol. More than 200 refugees gather at one weekly service in Georgievsk; 30 more meet in Stavropol, where a Russian church planter is working.

"I was an atheist, but now I have heard from God's Word that I can have hope in Jesus Christ," a middle-aged refugee woman told the team in one community Bible study.

Russian Baptist pastors told the team many people in the region are thirsty for spiritual understanding. One pastor told them his church's telephone service, which offers a five-minute Bible message, gets about 1,000 calls every day.

Many relief workers also have found faith in Christ, despite serving in depressing circumstances. "The Word of God is alive to me," one Red Cross worker told the team. Another stated, "I was an atheist, and now I believe."

But the sheer volume of refugees and other factors will call for massive amounts of help for years to come.

"Refugees are castaways with no rights and no documentation," one mayor told the team, reflecting the tense situation that exists across the region because of the human influx. Another city official estimated some 300 children orphaned by the war now live in his area; many thousands more struggle to survive across the region.

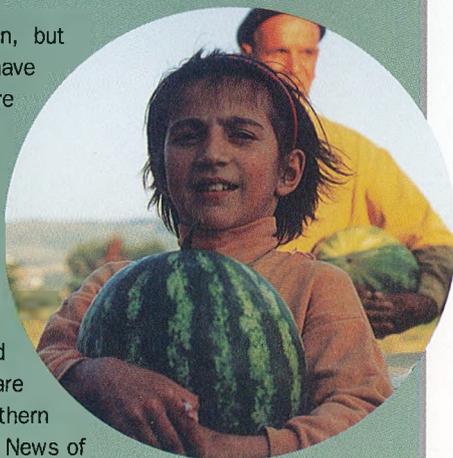
The team called on Southern Baptists to pray that more workers and resources will be found and that God will start a church-planting movement to make the Gospel accessible to many thousands of people in the region. 

**RIGHT:** Orphanages like this one in Stavropol are overcrowded with children left parentless by war. **INSET PHOTO:** Ethnic refugees in Nal'chik. Most of the families left homeless by war in Chechnya consist of mothers and children living day to day on food packets provided by churches and occasionally other supporting organizations.

faces  
of hunger

## KOSOVO

They could be anyone's children, but these victims of war in Kosovo have witnessed and experienced more pain than most Americans can imagine. This recent distribution of watermelons by International Mission Board missionaries offered a bright spot on a dark day to these who have lost so much. The provision was made through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Many Kosovars are finding hope in Jesus Christ as Southern Baptists share food and the Good News of the Gospel.



(IMB) Photo by Jim Brown



# You've been asking...

DO HUNGER FUND GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

## LIVES CHANGED AS HONDURAS RECOVERS

In October 1998 Hurricane Mitch destroyed communities, crops, and lives as it slammed into Central America. Honduras took the greatest blow as the hurricane's eye swept inland, its fierce storms washing acres of countryside toward the Caribbean Sea.

Thousands of Hondurans were killed or lost property as rains from the hurricane loosened soil on the country's mountainsides, prompting mudslides to roar through highly populated areas.

Southern Baptist relief workers who rushed to the country after the storm found people both hungry for aid and for the hope that only comes through Jesus Christ.

"There has been an openness for the Gospel never before seen here," says Max Furr, an International Mission Board missionary and disaster response coordinator for the board's relief efforts in Honduras, in an IMB report. "Doors are open, and people are asking us to come and preach in their communities and villages."

Seventy-eight Baptist churches have been organized across the country through the relief efforts. In the Lower Aguan Baptist Association alone, one of the hardest-hit areas, more than 800 decisions for Christ have been recorded.

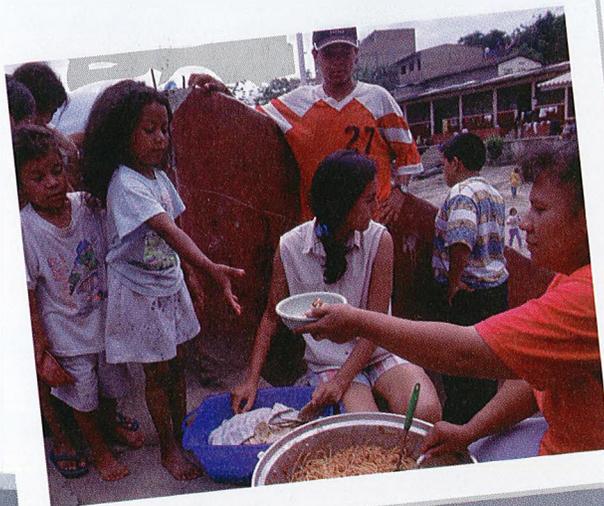
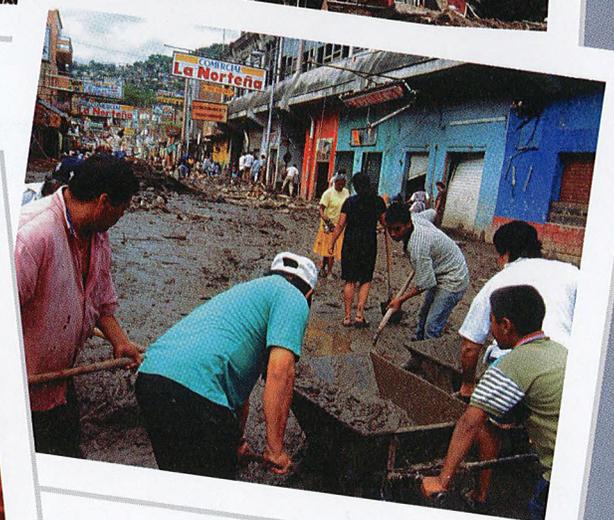
Southern Baptists provided more than two million pounds of food, blankets, and clothing for relief efforts in Honduras. Baptist state conventions from North Carolina and Texas and a tri-state partnership between Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana Baptists are sending a seemingly endless stream of volunteer teams to assist in the recovery.

More than 2,000 volunteers have worked through the IMB in hurricane-wrecked areas, building more than 600 cinder block houses throughout Honduras.

Although evangelism was not the purpose for constructing houses, sharing the Gospel in every community was intentional.

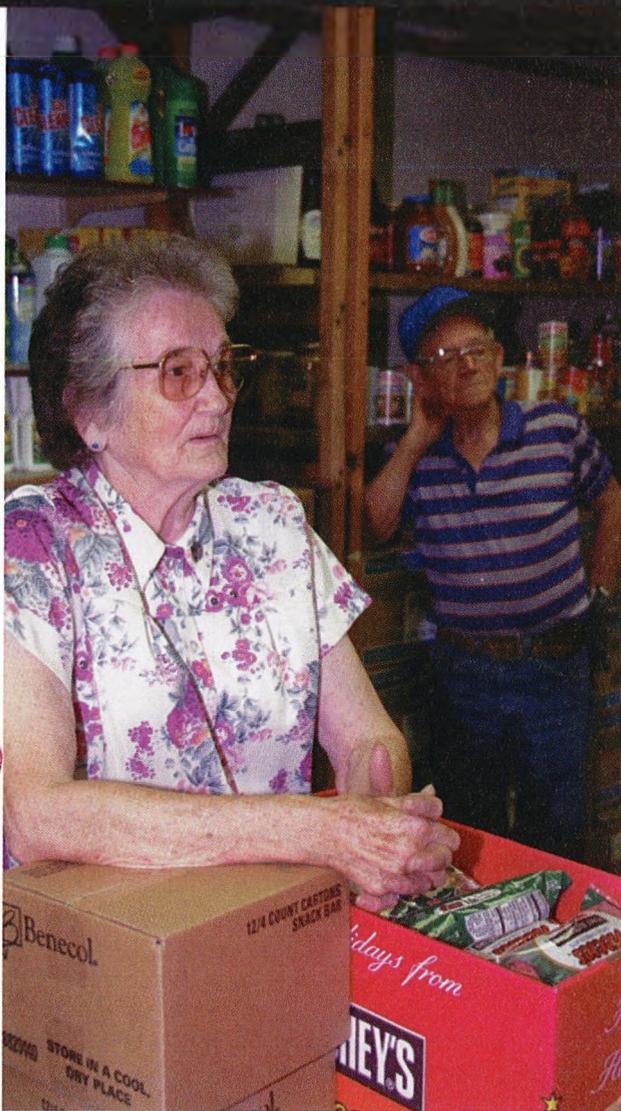
"We started Bible studies in areas where we built homes, in areas associated with flood relief, and took the Gospel directly into areas in an evangelism effort where we did not work," Cummins says.

"In dealing with the physical needs of the people, we also were able to deal with their spiritual needs," Furr says. "Many came to know Christ and have affiliated with new church starts or organized churches." 



(IMB) Photos by Chris Turner

## HEEDING THE CRY OF THE HUNGRY AND HOMELESS



BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

Virginia and her husband, Ellis, didn't go to Colorado to begin a ministry to needy people.

The couple traveled from their comfortable home in Decatur, Ill., to visit their daughter in Colorado, but instead the two were introduced to homeless people on the streets of Longmont, Colo. Even after returning home, the images of street people locked in desperation—just miles from the majestic foothills of the Rocky Mountains—continued to prey upon their hearts and minds, 73-year-old Virginia Daniels says.

"My husband and I began to talk about it. We had a home in Illinois, and we didn't owe a dime to anybody. We began to pray about it, and before we got home the Lord told us that we should sell our home, come out here and help feed these people," Virginia recalls. "So, that's what we did. We went home, put our home on the market, sold our home, and brought what we could get in our truck and our station wagon."

The Goodnews Center ministry started from scratch, Virginia says, as she went to the streets of Longmont to reach out to those mired in poverty. The Daniels are members of Nelson Road Baptist Church in Longmont.

"We walked the streets to see about getting food for these people and helping them with what they needed," she says. "I went to every garage sale that I could possibly get to and got clothes and things that they weren't going to keep after the sales."

Support for the work of the Goodnews Center flows from many areas, Virginia notes, saying it is a beautiful example of Baptist cooperation. "We get a lot of support from local churches. We also get help from our association, Long's Peak Baptist Association, and of course, gifts from the Southern Baptist Hunger Fund."

After 14 years of directing the ministry to Longmont's neediest families, Virginia admits it would have been an easier life back in Illinois, but not nearly as reward-

ing. "My husband had a good job, and I was a nurse at the hospital. We could have stayed right there. . . . I did what I thought the Lord wanted me to do, and He has blessed us every day."

Virginia knows that it was God who placed the burden on their hearts—a call "so strong we couldn't resist it."

Age and physical condition shouldn't be barriers to serving God, Virginia says, noting if you can't do anything else, at least pray. "You might be able to do nothing but sit there and pray."

Serving upwards of 100 families a week, Virginia says that the work is rigorous, but tremendously satisfying. "It's hard work, but it's a lot of fun, and we know that we are helping someone."

The Goodnews Center also addresses other human needs, Virginia explains, citing a recent episode where a nurse from a local hospital called the center to say that a newborn baby was going home with nothing to wear. "I told them, 'If you'll give me a little while, I'll be there.' I bagged up some new clothing and other items we had at the center, [and] picked up some bottles and other things along the way. The nurses

in the maternity ward couldn't believe it. I was able to witness to them and tell them of the Lord."

While the Goodnews Center focuses on providing aid for the needy, the heart of the ministry is sharing the Gospel with visitors to the center. "[We want] them to receive Christ. That is why we are here. We are trying to get people on their feet and trying to get them to know the Lord. That is my biggest request, that the people who come here will know Christ," she explains.

Virginia wants those who give to the SBC World Hunger Fund to know their gifts are making a difference in the lives of those who visit Longmont's Goodnews Center. "If not for them, then many people would not have a chance," she says.

She particularly likes to talk about families who have broken through the wall of poverty—people who were once served at the center but are now serving others. "Some families that I used to give food to now have jobs and are bringing food to the center," she says, confident that Southern Baptists will better appreciate the value of giving to the SBC World Hunger Fund. 

*What began as a trip to Longmont, Colo., to visit family, has turned into a 14-year ministry to homeless people for Virginia and Ellis Daniels (pictured far left). At 73, Virginia and other Goodnews Center volunteers serve upwards of 100 families a week. She counts it a blessing to serve God through this ministry and doesn't miss an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with recipients.*

### ANYONE CAN BE A CHAMPION FOR THE FAITH. IT JUST TAKES A COMMITMENT.

Like Virginia Daniels, a champion for the faith is a Christian from any walk of life who desires to change the culture for good, one heart and one mind at a time. No special skills are required, just a willingness to serve God by serving others.

Are you willing to make a difference in your community and in America? Complete the pre-addressed, postage-paid card in the center of this magazine and mail it to let us know of your commitment.

If you know a Southern Baptist "champion for the faith" and would like to share his or her story, please e-mail it to [editor@erlc.com](mailto:editor@erlc.com) or mail to:

**Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission**  
Attn: Light Editor  
901 Commerce St. #550  
Nashville, TN 37203

**CHAMPIONS**  
*for the faith*  
TAKING A STAND  
SPEAKING THE TRUTH  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE



**WANDA LEE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WOMAN'S  
MISSIONARY UNION (WMU)

Gleaning is really a principle from the Bible. We understand that crops were provided so women could come and gather food that was left over. Out of an abundance, they were fed. You know, we Americans have a lot of abundance. Our small pocket change really means nothing to us. And if we gave that for hungry people around the world, it would make such a difference. Did you know if every Southern Baptist gave just one dollar per month, hunger monies would multiply by 18-fold? What a difference we could make in the lives of hungry and hurting people in our world.

# Reaching Our C

## **GOD TOUCHES LIFE THROUGH THE CARING MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS**

Sheryl Barrett (below left with her mentor Laura Cook) was 45 years old when she entered the York County, S.C., Christian Women's Job Corps program.

Christian Women's Job Corps, a ministry of the Woman's Missionary Union, operates at over 130 sites throughout the U.S. providing skills leading to self-reliance to women who otherwise may never know such freedom.

Since finishing the seventh grade, Sheryl had only been allowed to leave her house a few times, accompanied by her mother. With the help of CWJC and her mentor, Laura Cook, Sheryl has earned her GED, a driver's license, a full-time job, and most importantly, hope.

"To hear her laugh is like hearing angels sing! Her life is so different now; Sheryl states with assurance that there is nothing that she and Jesus

can't do together," said Elizabeth Ford, site coordinator at the York County CWJC.

Sheryl is saving money for a down payment on her own home. She has arranged for her brother's vocational rehabilitation and is handling her mother's health-care issues. "She is being transformed from a homebound adult to a woman of confidence and self-reliance," Laura Cook stressed, saying Sybil Bentley Dove Endowment Funds will help Sheryl achieve her goal of becoming a homeowner.

"I hope that when someone reads about me they will know there is hope, and look for a program like CWJC. I want other women to know there is hope," Sheryl said.

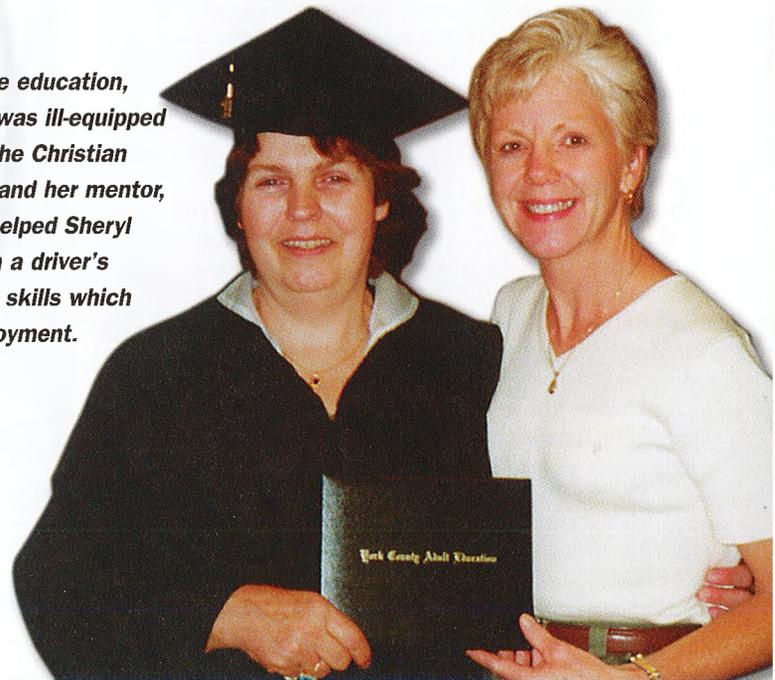
According to the WMU's Trudy Johnson, the Christian Women's Job Corps works to give women in need hope for a future where their dreams can become true and their family

can live self-sufficiently. In fulfillment of the program's purpose statement, every CWJC participant who completes her program is equipped for sustaining success in her life and employment.

After reaching and maintaining self-sufficiency, former graduates are encouraged to "give back" to their CWJC program. Former clients are now serving as mentors, instructors, and volunteers in other areas of the ministry.

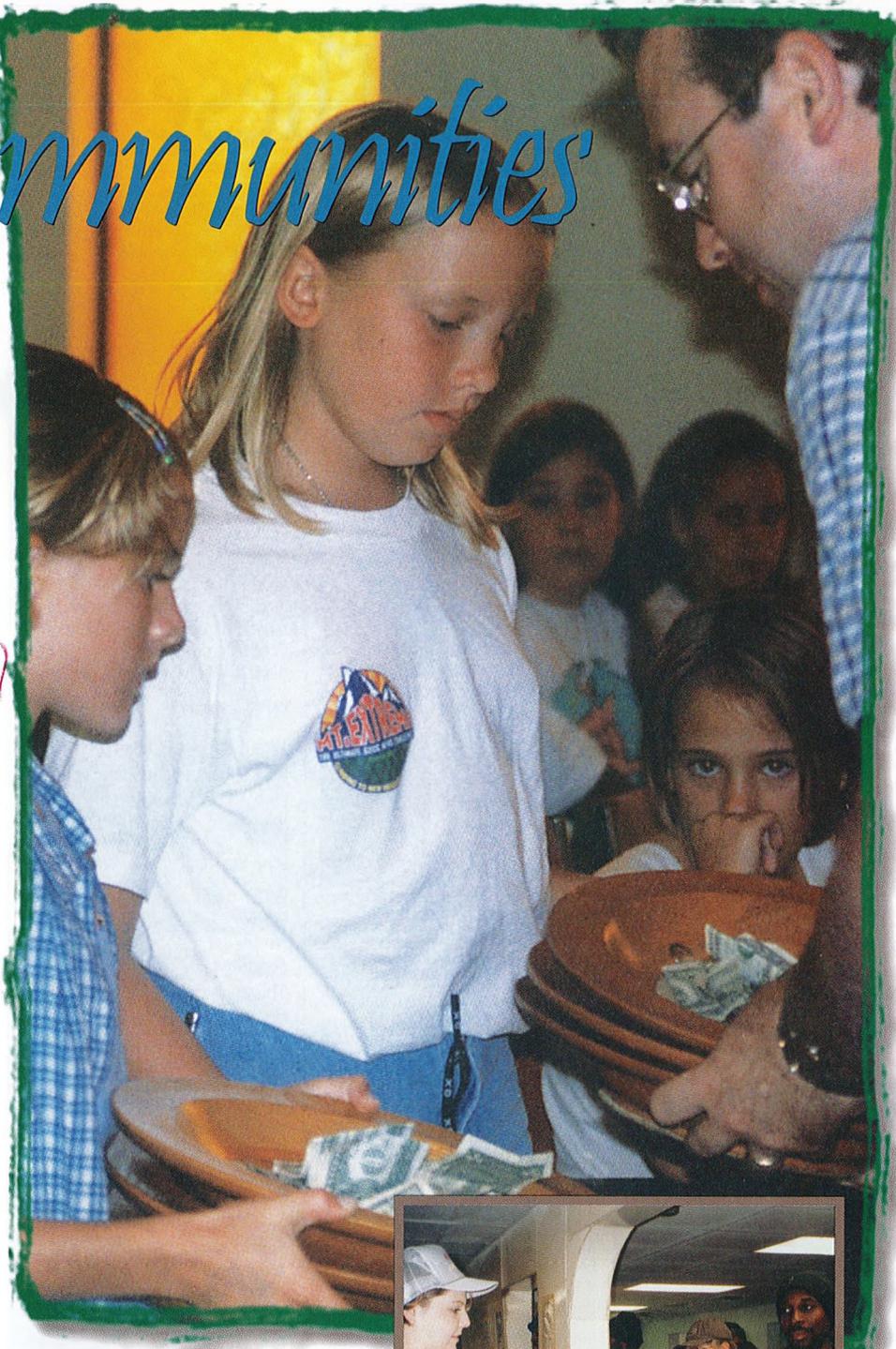
An increasing number of sites are able to assist women on their journey to self-sufficiency with the help of hunger funds generously donated by caring Southern Baptists, Johnson explained. These funds are used in CWJC sites to provide healthy, nutritious snacks and lunches for women as they study, sack lunches for their children in summer programs, and supplemental food to help feed hungry families. †

***With a seventh grade education, Sheryl Barrett (left) was ill-equipped to support herself. The Christian Women's Job Corps and her mentor, Laura Cook (right), helped Sheryl earn her GED, obtain a driver's license, and develop skills which led to full-time employment.***



For more information on the Christian Women's Job Corps, see the book featured on page 14, *No Longer Forgotten*, or contact the WMU.

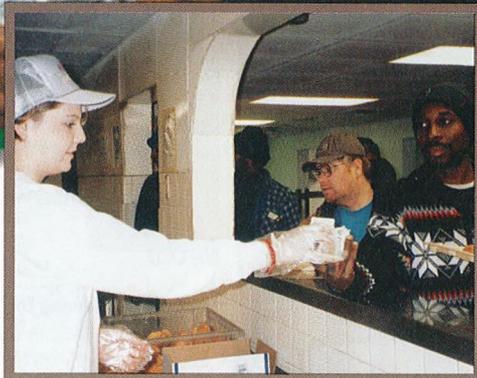
# ommunities



## POINCIANA, FLA.

McKenzie Williams and Jamie Hunter turn in the Vacation Bible School offering to associate pastor Howell Scott. Children at the First Baptist Church at Poinciana, Fla., wanted the offering to make a difference for hungry people. The church designated the daily VBS offerings for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to help feed refugees of the war in Kosovo.

Photo provided by First Baptist Church, Poinciana, Fla.



## NASHVILLE, TENN.

Awake earlier than most students on a typical Saturday morning, the youth group of First Baptist Church, Pulaski, Tenn., served breakfast at the Nashville Union Rescue Mission to nearly 200 homeless men. Some served, others washed dishes, and one played Christian music for the men as they ate. As God used them to touch the lives of others, the youth said they would never be the same.

(ERLC) Photo by Steve Nelson



## LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Antoinne Scruggs, pastor of Promiseland Church, explains the church's feeding ministry to Arkansas Baptist Convention hunger specialists Sandra Wisdom-Martin and Diana Lewis. Pastor Scruggs resigned his job as a pharmaceutical salesman in 1997 to start the church with five people. Under the theme, "Meet a Need: Plant a Seed," the church now averages over 200 in attendance. The World Hunger Fund helped provide the church with food assistance for needy residents in the area.

(ERLC) Photo by Steve Nelson



## OAKLAND, CALIF.

Volunteers at the Halcyon Baptist Church in the East Bay Baptist Association prepare for weekly food distribution. As the ranks of the working poor grow with thousands of Americans moving from welfare to work, often earning wages inadequate to properly house, feed, and clothe their families, churches have before them tremendous opportunities to live out the Great Commission in their own communities.

Photo provided by East Bay Baptist Association

## CHICKASHA, OKLA.

Children find love and acceptance at the Fellowship of American Indians Mission. Many come from troubled homes where there is little food. Through the World Hunger Fund, midweek and Sunday meals provide some balance in their diets. In the first two years of this ministry, 35 people came to faith in Jesus.

(ERLC) Photo by Steve Nelson



# “Unto the Least of These”

The second Sunday in October is designated World Hunger Sunday as a time to remember the ongoing crisis of starvation and hunger faced by millions around the world. This emphasis serves to educate Southern Baptists to the needs of millions in the U.S. and around the world who lack basic nourishment. Churches are encouraged to receive an offering for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund which is distributed dollar for dollar through the SBC's North American Mission Board and International Mission Board to fund hunger projects that minister both physically and spiritually.



**WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY**  
OCT. 8, 2000

**MINISTRY AIDS**

**LifeLight: World Hunger**

Formerly billed as a bulletin insert, this piece has been expanded to a four-page format and includes commentary which relates real-life scenarios along with biblical application. The piece also includes statistics, prayer and action points, and steps to becoming a Christian. It can be used on World Hunger Sunday and throughout the year when sharing what Southern Baptists can do to help the millions who face hunger on a daily basis. Undated. One of a series.

WHBULK \$3.50/50

**World Hunger Poster**

This 14" x 22" poster complements LifeLight and helps raise awareness to the plight of 800 million people worldwide. Undated.

WHPOS \$ .95 ea.

**Hunger Facts**

This ministry aid has been upgraded to a two-color format with compelling illustrations and startling statistics to quickly inform your congregation on the awesome scope of this world problem. Also featured are details of Southern Baptist involvement in hunger ministries.

WHFAC (individual) \$ .32 ea.  
WHFACU (pack of 20) \$ 4.00/20

**Suggested Sermon for World Hunger Sunday**

This sermon deals with our mandate to be involved in ministry to the world's hungry and poor and serves as a battle cry for the people of God to rise up and act.

WHSER \$ .25 ea.

**Rice Bowls**

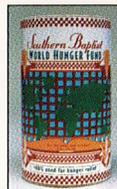
Rice bowl banks are a great way for the church to promote awareness and raise funds for the World Hunger Fund. All ages will enjoy participating as each family places a bowl in their home. The church is blessed as bowls are collected and proceeds are used to feed the hungry. Shipping paid. One-time use.



WHBOW (50 per box) \$ 24.00/50

**Change Canisters**

These attractive reusable canisters make a great mission project for church groups. They can be placed in area businesses or even prominent places in the church. Lives are touched as the sponsoring group collects the proceeds for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.



WHCAN-4 (4 per box) \$ 10.00/4

**World Hunger Placemats**



These color placemats depict living illustrations of Southern Baptists' involvement in feeding the hungry in Jesus' name. They are great for use at church fellowships and Wednesday night meals.

WHPLACU \$ 2.30/20

**Hunger Fund Offering Envelopes**

These envelopes feature the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund logo and are used to encourage support for the World Hunger Fund, where 100% of gifts received is used for hunger ministry.



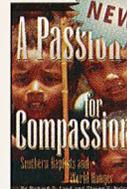
WHENV (sold in lots of 50 only) \$ 2.40/50

**BOOKS**

**A Passion for Compassion**

This new book highlights several hunger ministries worldwide while teaching how the World Hunger Fund is used in reaching our world for Christ. The powerful images will challenge Christians and churches to find their place of involvement.

BKPAS (64 pages) \$ 6.95 ea.



**World Hunger Scripts**

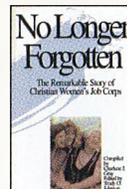
These dramas will educate church groups on the Christian mandate of ministry to the poor, bringing to life the pain of others and how easily we can make a difference.

WHSCR (12 scripts) Reduced! \$ 2.00 ea.

**No Longer Forgotten**

This book chronicles the remarkable story of the Christian Women's Job Corps, which is a program of the Woman's Missionary Union designed to help women in poverty become equipped for life and employment.

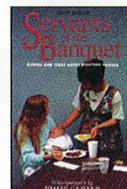
BKNOL (138 pages) \$ 11.00 ea.



**Servants of the Banquet**

Cathy Butler tells of hunger ministries manned by Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers and shares ideas for fighting hunger.

BKSER (98 pages) \$ 7.00 ea.



**Incarnational Agents**

John Cheyne gives reasons why human needs ministry is a must as well as pitfalls to avoid in starting a human needs ministry. You'll learn the why, what, and how in demonstrating God's care for others.

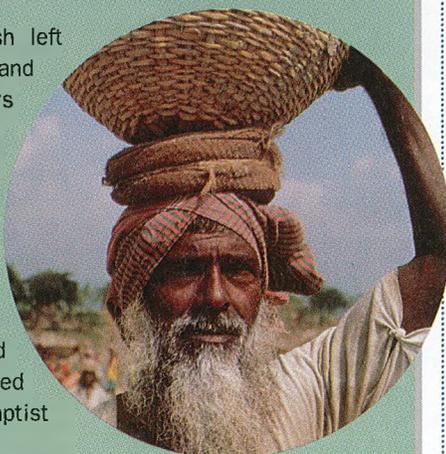
BKINC (257 pages) \$ 10.95 ea.



## faces of hunger

**BANGLADESH**

Massive flooding in Bangladesh left millions of people homeless and hungry. After the floodwaters receded, much restoration work remained to be done. Through a program known as "Food-for-Work," citizens volunteered to work on road repair for the food they needed for their families. The food was distributed by International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries and provided through gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.



(IMB) Photo

"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

MATTHEW 25:40B

## Children Can Minister in Jesus' Name

These products teach children of all ages that they, too, can make a difference in the lives of others through their prayers and gifts.

### Helping Others in Jesus' Name

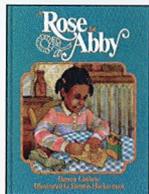
This eight-page coloring book depicts scenes from photos of real people whose lives are being touched in Jesus' name through Southern Baptist hunger ministries. It includes descriptions of rice bowls and hunger canisters and shows boys and girls how their dollars and cents really do make a difference.



WHHELU \$5.80/20

### A Rose for Abby

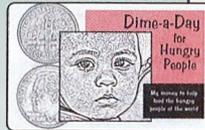
This delightful softcover children's book delicately explores the issue of America's homeless. It provides an expanded awareness that even people in our own community are suffering from hunger and that the church can aid in their relief.



BKROS \$6.95 ea.

### Dime-a-Day for Hungry People

These coin folders hold 30 dimes and are designed for children to set aside 10¢ per day for world hunger. At the end of each month, children can cash in their dimes and send in \$3.00 to the World Hunger Fund, which will provide enough money for milk for an infant in Argentina for one month (\$1.70), five pounds of food for a needy family in Washington, D.C. (35¢), two meals for a homeless person in Miami, Fla. (25¢), and food for a famine victim in North Korea for three weeks (70¢). These reusable cards make wonderful teaching tools. Sold in lots of 10.



WHDIM (sold in lots of 10) \$5.50/10

### Children's Activity Page

Five activities for children share truths about hunger and the part children can play in helping others in Jesus' name.

WHCHI 2 \$2.80/20

### PAMPHLETS

#### What are Southern Baptists Doing About Hunger?

This 1999 update explains how the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund operates and answers questions about what Southern Baptists are doing to fight hunger around the world.



WHWHAU \$2.10/20

#### Bible Studies on World Hunger

These four studies boldly teach what God's Word has to say about ministry to the poor. They are purposely written to be appropriate for a wide range of age groups.

WHBIB \$.40 ea.

#### I & A: Hunger

This concise brochure explains the major causes and opinions about world hunger. It also contains vital statistics which point out the enormity of the problem. Biblical insights as well as individual applications are shared to motivate each person to do his part.



IAHUNU \$3.40/20

#### The Bible Speaks on Hunger

The Bible speaks clearly and frequently of those who are hungry and in need. Pastors, teachers, and other leaders will find this a valuable resource in educating themselves and equipping the saints on this vital issue.



BSHUNU \$3.80/20

### VIDEOS

#### Within Your Reach: Hunger in the Homeland

Real people involved in helping others stir the emotions with the tragedies of hunger in America. Viewers will see how a small effort can make a major difference.

VTWITH (VHS, 25 min.) \$19.95 ea.

#### When Will We Cry? NEW!

This penetrating video introduces viewers to hunger and relief ministries in the U.S. and around the world. Featuring comments of appreciation from several SBC agency executives for systematic giving, the video allows Southern Baptists to see how God is using their hunger fund gifts.

VTWHE (VHS, 28 min.) \$7.00 ea.

To order hunger ministry products featured on these pages, call:

1.800.475.9127

Shipping and handling charges will apply.

## Resources for Hunger Events

### B.E.A.T. Hunger Retreat Kit

B.E.A.T. (Believers Everywhere ATtack) Hunger for student groups will help them gain a "passion for compassion" as they fast, are involved in ministry, study the Bible, and raise support through sponsorship for the World Hunger Fund. The retreat kit includes an extensive leader's manual to aid in preparing for and directing the hunger event, reproducible student hand-outs, promotional posters, 10 sponsorship receipt books, and an exciting video to encourage them to work to beat world hunger.

WHBEAKIT 50% off! \$7.00 ea.

### B.E.A.T. Hunger Receipt Books

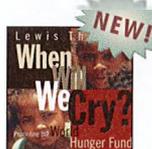
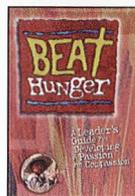
Each participant in the B.E.A.T. Hunger retreat will need a sponsorship receipt book (10 are included with the kit). All gifts received are used for hunger ministry (100%).

WHBEARECU \$6.80/20

### When Will We Cry?

This new music CD contains original songs dealing with hunger. Printed lyrics and instrumental tracks are included for sing-alongs at ministry events. All proceeds will be donated to the Hunger Fund.

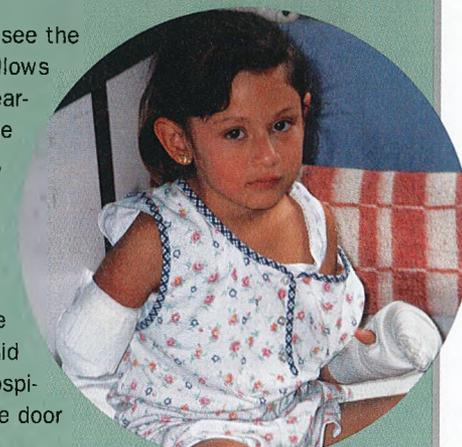
CDWHE \$5.00 ea.



# faces of hunger

## COLOMBIA

In her beautiful eyes, one can see the hopelessness that so often follows a natural disaster. This five-year-old girl lost her arm during the 1999 earthquake in Armenia, Colombia. Over 1,000 people died and thousands more lost their homes. Through Southern Baptists' gifts to the World Hunger Fund, missionaries were able to share emergency food aid and to bring snacks into the hospital for children. This opened the door for ministering to their families.



(ERLC) Photo by Steve Nelson

What difference can you make?

100%

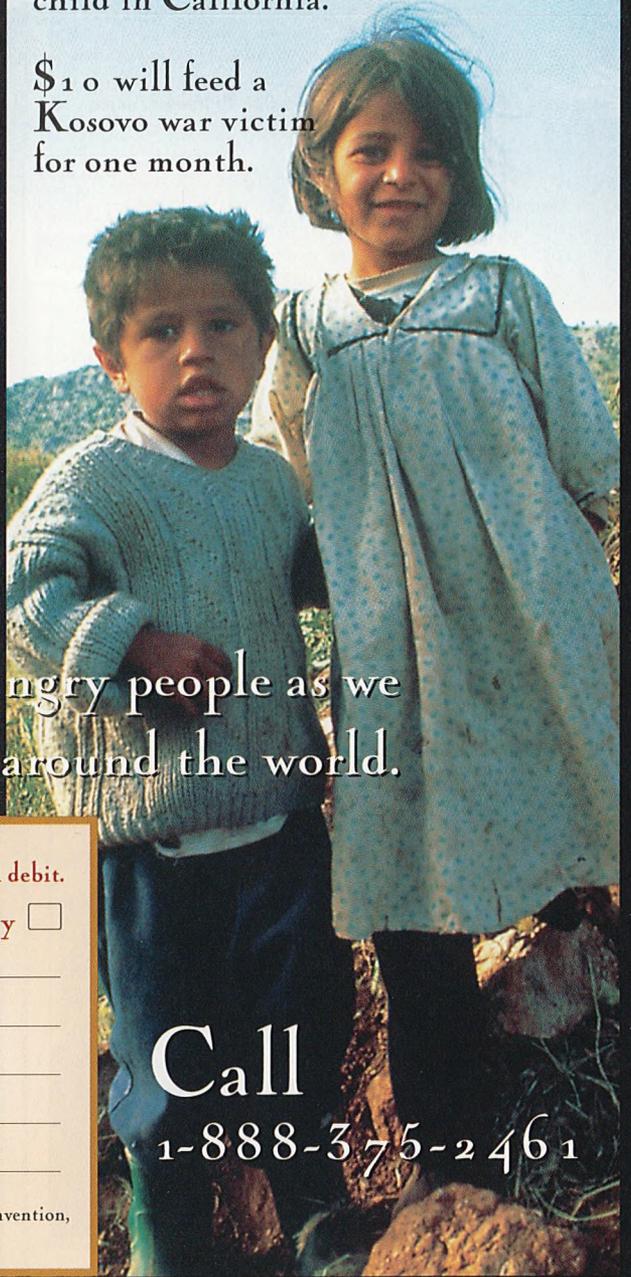
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