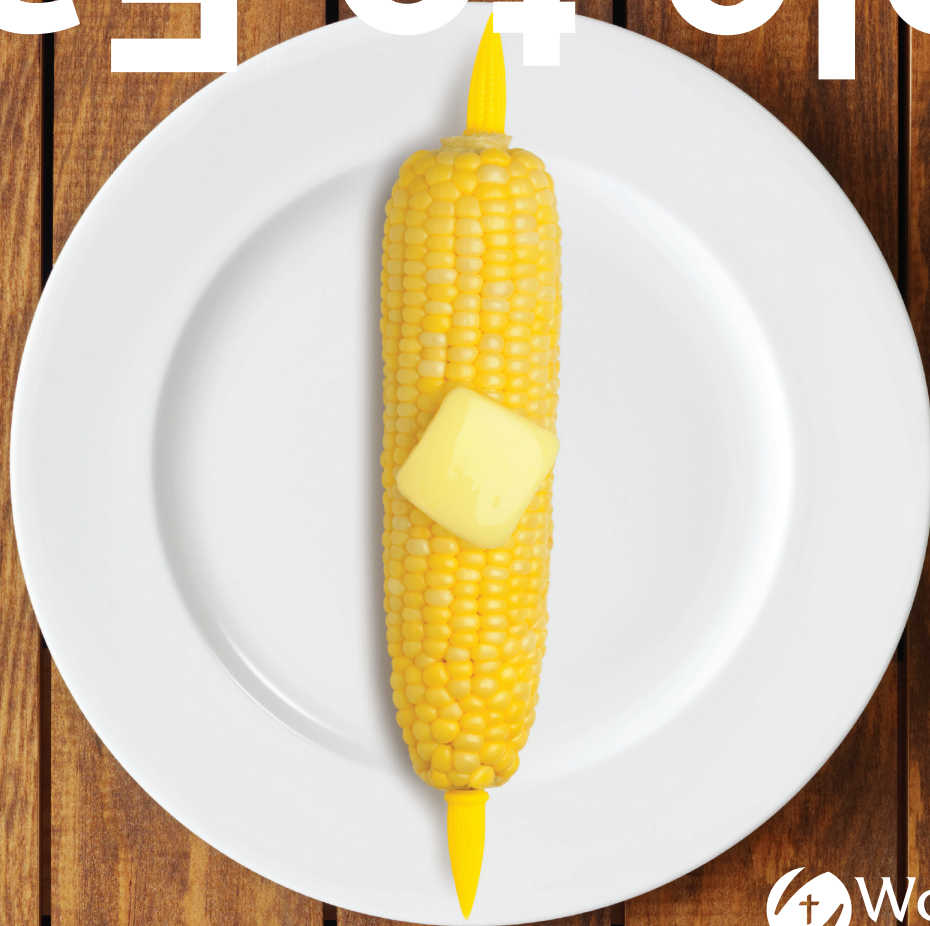


World Hunger
Campaign

LEADER'S GUIDE

Farm to Table Ways of Feeding



35
YEARS
OF FIGHTING
WORLD HUNGER

 **WorldRenew**
LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

Table of contents

Introduction.....	2
Fast Facts about Poverty.....	3
Bulletin Announcements.....	6
Deacon’s Hints.....	7
Children’s Sermons.....	8
Children’s Song.....	14
Litany for World Hunger Sunday.....	15
Sermon Notes.....	16
Song Suggestions.....	21
Youth Activity: FAST Forward.....	22
Advocacy.....	23
Additional World Renew Resources.....	24



Introduction

Welcome to the 2014 World Hunger campaign from World Renew! This year's theme is "Farm to Table" and is rooted in Psalm 34:8, ***"Taste and see that the Lord is good! How blessed is the one who takes shelter in him!"***

By participating in the campaign, you and your congregation will be reminded that food is a great gift from God. You will learn from global farmers who have much they can teach us about being aware of God's goodness and praising Him for the rain, sun, soil, seeds, and tools that make each day's food possible. You will also grow in your knowledge of the challenges farmers face as they work to produce enough food to feed their families and the needs that we can help them fill.

The following pages include all the resources you need to present the World Hunger Campaign to your congregation. A litany, children's message, song suggestions and a sample sermon will help you plan a World Hunger worship service. Bulletin announcements, additional children's messages and deacons' hints are also included to help you promote World Hunger Sunday in the weeks leading up to your event. In addition, World Renew has powerpoint slides and videos available to you at worldrenew.net/worldhunger

World Renew has also created complementary material that your congregation can use outside of formal worship times. A youth activity, called "FASTForward" could be used by our young people. There is an advocacy opportunity that you could recommend people get involved in. There are also devotional booklets for two types of audiences in your congregation.

The first is a family devotional written with young children in mind. These devotions are intended for use with World Renew's orange Peter Fish banks and bring global farms to the family dinner table with daily stories, prayers, and activity suggestions. The second is written for older youth and adults. It introduces people to some of the obstacles that farmers face in the developing world and challenges them to be part of the solution.

Traditionally, World Renew's World Hunger Campaign takes place during the two or three weeks leading up to World Hunger Sunday (designated by the CRC synod in 1979 to be the first Sunday in November). This year that would entail distribution of the materials on Sunday, October 19 and a culmination in World Hunger Sunday on November 2. However, the materials are written in such a way that they can be used at any time throughout the year.

Devotional booklets, Peter Fish banks, DVDs, bulletin inserts or bulletin covers are all available FREE OF CHARGE. To place an order call 1-800-333-8300 or visit worldrenew.net/order. You may also visit worldrenew.net/worldhunger for additional World Hunger resources that might be of value to you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact World Renew at 1-800-552-7972 (US) or 1-800-730-3490 (Canada).

Fast Facts About Hunger and Poverty

What is hunger? Why does it happen? The World Food Programme provides a few facts and statistics that might be helpful to you as you talk about World Hunger with your congregations. *(Wording is directly quoted from the World Food Programme's website: www.wfp.org)*

Poverty trap

People living in poverty cannot afford nutritious food for themselves and their families. This makes them weaker and less able to earn the money that would help them escape poverty and hunger. This is not just a day-to-day problem: when children are chronically malnourished, or 'stunted', it can affect their future income, condemning them to a life of poverty and hunger.

In developing countries, farmers often cannot afford seeds, so they cannot plant the crops that would provide for their families. They may have to cultivate crops without the tools and fertilizers they need. Others have no land or water or education. In short, the poor are hungry and their hunger traps them in poverty.

Lack of investment in agriculture

Too many developing countries lack key agricultural infrastructure, such as enough roads, warehouses and irrigation. The results are high transport costs, lack of storage facilities and unreliable water supplies. All conspire to limit agricultural yields and access to food.

Investments in improving land management, using water more efficiently and making more resistant seed types available can bring big improvements.

Research by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization shows that investment in agriculture is five times more effective in reducing poverty and hunger than investment in any other sector.

Climate and weather

Natural disasters such as floods, tropical storms and long periods of drought are on the increase — with calamitous consequences for the hungry poor in developing countries.

Drought is one of the most common causes of food shortages in the world. In 2011, recurrent drought caused crop failures and heavy livestock losses in parts of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. In 2012 there was a similar situation in the Sahel region of West Africa.

In many countries, climate change is exacerbating already adverse natural conditions. Increasingly, the world's fertile farmland is under threat from erosion, salination and desertification. Deforestation by human hands accelerates the erosion of land which could be used for growing food.

War and displacement

Across the globe, conflicts consistently disrupt farming and food production. Fighting also forces millions of people to flee their homes, leading to hunger emergencies as the displaced find themselves without the means to feed themselves. The conflict in Syria is a recent example.

In war, food sometimes becomes a weapon. Soldiers will starve opponents into submission by seizing or destroying food and livestock and systematically wrecking local markets. Fields are often mined and water wells contaminated, forcing farmers to abandon their land.

Ongoing conflict in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo has contributed significantly to the level of hunger in the two countries. By comparison, hunger is on the retreat in more peaceful parts of Africa such as Ghana and Rwanda.

Unstable markets

In recent years, the price of food products has been very unstable. Roller-coaster food prices make it difficult for the poorest people to access nutritious food consistently. The poor need access to adequate food all year round. Price spikes may temporarily put food out of reach, which can have lasting consequences for small children.

When prices rise, consumers often shift to cheaper, less-nutritious foods, heightening the risks of micronutrient deficiencies and other forms of malnutrition.

Food wastage

One third of all food produced (1.3 billion tons) is never consumed. This food wastage represents a missed opportunity to improve global food security in a world where one in 8 is hungry.

Producing this food also uses up precious natural resources that we need to feed the planet. Each year, food that is produced but not eaten guzzles up a volume of water equivalent to the annual flow of Russia's Volga River. Producing this food also adds 3.3 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, with consequences for the climate and, ultimately, for food production.

Ten Fast Facts About Hunger

1. **842 million people** in the world do not have enough to eat. This number has fallen by 17 percent since 1990.
2. The vast majority of hungry people (**827 million**) live in developing countries, where 14.3 percent of the population is undernourished.
3. Asia has the **largest number of hungry** people (over 500 million) but Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest **prevalence** (24.8 percent of population).
4. If **women farmers** had the same access to resources as men, **the number of hungry people in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million.**
5. Poor nutrition causes **nearly half (45%) of deaths** in children under five —3.1 million children each year.
6. One out of six children — roughly 100 million — in developing countries is **underweight**
7. One in four of the world's **children are stunted**. In developing countries the proportion can rise to one in three.
8. 80 percent of the world's stunted children **live in just 20 countries.**
9. 66 million primary school-age **children attend classes hungry** across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.
10. WFP calculates that **US\$3.2 billion** is needed per year to reach all 66 million hungry school-age children.



Bulletin Announcements

Here are a few announcements that you can use in your church bulletin to promote your World Hunger Sunday event.

Two weeks before

There are 500 million family farms in the world, the majority of which are in the developing world. Many of these farmers are unable to adequately support their families. You can do something about that. World Renew invites you to join thousands of others in this year's World Hunger Campaign, called "Farm to Table." Through daily stories and activity suggestions that you can read around your own supper tables you will learn from global farmers and discover new ways to share your blessings with those in need. Then join us on [DATE] for World Hunger Sunday.

One week before

Hunger and malnutrition are the number one risk to health worldwide and investing in farmers is one of the best ways we can combat it. Through your Peter Fish bank contributions, you are helping to fight global hunger and give small-scale farmers the training they need to produce more diverse crops and larger harvests. Please continue to read the World Hunger "Farm to Table" stories at your supper tables this week. Then bring your Peter Fish banks to church next week as we celebrate World Hunger Sunday.

World Hunger Sunday

"Taste and see that the Lord is good! How blessed is the one who takes shelter in him!" — Psalm 34:8. Food is a great gift of God that has the ability to bring us together and give us and our families healthier, more joyful lives. Thank you showing your love for others by remembering, learning from, and acting to help those in need. Today we celebrate World Hunger Sunday and share our financial gifts with World Renew. If you want to know more about what World Renew is doing to help farmers and respond to global hunger, or if you want to find out ways that you can volunteer or get involved, please visit worldrenew.net.

One week later

Thank you for your support during our 2014 World Hunger Campaign! This year our church raised \$_____ for World Renew's ministry to people around the world. For additional information about World Renew, please visit worldrenew.net.

Deacon's Hints

Here are a few suggestions to help you plan for and implement a successful “Farm to Table” World Hunger Campaign with your congregation.

TIMEFRAME	ACTION
Two months before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss World Hunger plans at a deacons’ meeting. • Share materials and dates with your 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 1-800-333-8300. • Order bulletin inserts/covers, devotional booklets, and a DVD of World Renew’s World Hunger video.
Two 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. • Consider organizing a hunger awareness dinner or potluck meal for after your World Hunger Sunday service
One week before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind people that next week will be World Hunger Sunday by asking a deacon to make an announcement during the service. Remind people to bring in their Peter Fish banks next week.
World Hunger Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect the Peter Fish banks during the worship service. • Hold an offering for World Renew during your collection. • Use the World Hunger worship materials to conduct a special worship service that highlights God’s call to “Taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8) and celebrates the gift of food by focusing on global farmers in need. Challenge people to remember those impacted by hunger and put a “Farm to Table” mindset into practice in the days and years ahead. • Hold your hunger awareness dinner or potluck meal
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 World Renew. • Report back to your congregation about how much money you raised during your World Hunger event.

Children's Message 1

What Does It Mean to Be a Farmer

by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema, ©2014

(Storyteller is dressed like a farmer and has a few tools, a package of bean seeds, and a few large pots of soil, enough for the children to each plant a bean seed in at the end of the message. Storyteller should also have enough Peter Fish banks for each child.)

Hello, boys and girls. I'm happy to see all of you. Today we are going to talk about some special people. Can anyone guess what I am? *(Children answer.)* You're right! I'm a farmer.

Farmers do a lot of hard work and grow a lot of different kinds of food for people to eat. Can you think of some foods that farmers grow? *(Children answer. Storyteller lists additional crops that the children didn't mention.)*

All those foods are fruits and vegetables, but farmers also give us other kinds of foods. Can you think of anything else that farmers grow or raise that we use for food? *(Children answer. If they don't mention raising livestock, Storyteller gives them a hint.)* I'll give you a clue. They take care of some of God's creatures. Some of the creatures say "moo, moo," and others say "oink, oink," and still others say, "cluck, cluck." Can anyone guess what I'm talking about? *(Children answer.)* You're right! Farmers raise cows, pigs, and chickens, and other animals, too. These animals give us milk, eggs, cheese, and meat.

Farmers sure raise a lot of food, but do you think that they eat all the food that they grow? *(Children answer.)* Very good answer. Most farmers in the United States and Canada grow way more food than they need for themselves and their families. Instead, they bring their food to markets where they sell it to people like your family, or their food ends up at big grocery stores or little shops where you can buy it.

In some places in the world, though, farmers only grow enough food for themselves and their families. They work very hard, but still they sometimes don't have enough. Maybe it's been too hot and dry so the plants die. Or there's been too much rain and the plants are flooded. That makes life very difficult for farmers and their families.

Today you will receive an orange fish bank. The fish's name is Peter and he is a reminder to us that just as Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish to feed 5,000 people in the Bible, so God can multiply our gifts to feed those who are hungry. This year the money you put into your Peter Fish bank will be used to help many poor farmers who want to learn better ways of farming and grow more food so their families and other people they know will have enough to

eat. World Renew is the organization that will use your money to give farmers a cow or a pig, or to give them better seeds, or to teach them ways to make their soil healthy so that they can grow more food.

Farmers plant their seeds in soil. The Bible talks about how God has planted faith in our hearts like a tiny seed that will grow and grow. God wants our faith in him and our love for him to grow and grow. Did you know that the Bible also sometimes compares our hearts to soil? When our hearts are open to Jesus and the way he wants us to live, they are like good soil where healthy “plants” like joy, generosity, and love can grow. When our hearts are filled with love and generosity, we will want to share with people who don’t have enough food.

Before we pray, I’ll give you each a bean seed and you can plant it in the soil in these pots. When you do that, remember that God has planted love and faith in your heart and he wants your heart to be good soil.

(As children leave, they are given a Peter Fish bank to take back to their families. Note that this distribution could also occur during the Sunday School class time.)

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you for farmers. Please be with the farmers who are having a hard time growing food. Make us loving and generous so that we share with them. Bless World Renew as they help farmers. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Children's Message 2

God Gives Us Tools To Help People

by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema, ©2014

(Props: a wheelbarrow; placed inside it are tools — a hoe, garden rake, and shovel.)

Hello, boys and girls. It's good to see you. What did we talk about last week? *(Children answer.)* Right! We talked about farmers and the food they grow. Do you remember what we said about some farmers who have a difficult life? *(Children answer.)* That's a good answer. Some farmers in the world have a hard time growing food. Maybe it's because of bad weather or because they can't get good seeds. Also, we learned about how World Renew is helping those farmers to grow more food so their families and neighbors will have enough to eat.

Farmers all over the world need tools to get their work done. Let's talk about the tools that farmers use. Have you ever been to a farm and seen a farmer's tools or machinery? *(Children answer. If they can't think of an answer, Storyteller provides hints.)* What do farmers drive in their fields? *(Children answer.)* Very good. They drive tractors. The tractors pull wagons, combines, cultivators, seed drills, and other farm equipment.

Many farmers in the world work on small farms. They don't need large farm tools or machinery. They might use tools like these. *(Storyteller points to the wheelbarrow and the tools inside it.)* What is this? *(Children answer.)* Right! A wheelbarrow. What are wheelbarrows used for? *(Children answer. Storyteller fills in details that the children don't mention, e.g., wheelbarrows are used to carry material like soil, manure, organic waste that needs to be taken to a compost pile, etc.)*

What's inside the wheelbarrow? *(Storyteller chooses three children to take the hoe, garden rake, and shovel out of the wheelbarrow, and to hold them as the message continues.)* Let's talk about what a shovel, a garden rake, and a hoe are used for. *(Children answer. Storyteller fills in any details that they don't mention: e.g., shovels are used to turn over soil to prepare it for planting seeds, to spread manure, to distribute composted material on the soil, etc. Hoes are used to break up clods of soil and to make rows so seeds can be planted. A garden rake is used to smooth out soil.)*

God has given farmers tools. Did you know that God has also given all of us different kinds of tools so we can help people who are having a difficult time? The tools I'm talking about are tools that you can't see or hold in your hand.

One tool God has given us is our ability to pray. The Bible teaches us that God wants us to pray for people who are poor or hungry and who want to have a better life for themselves and their families. We can pray that all farmers will be able to grow enough food for themselves and their families and have lots extra to share with others.

Another tool God has given us is our ability to share. In the Bible we also learn that God wants us to share with people who don't have enough. That's what you are doing at home when you put money into your Peter Fish bank to give to World Renew. Next week Sunday, when you bring your Peter Fish bank to church, World Renew will take that money to help poor farmers.

One last tool I want to mention is our ability to serve. God has given us bodies, and minds, and hearts that we can use to serve other people. When you give money to World Renew, you are serving other people who live far away. You can also serve people in your family and at school by offering to help with chores or encouraging someone who is having a hard time.

In the next week, try to remember these three tools: prayer, share, serve. And remember to return your Peter Fish bank next week Sunday. Let's pray.

Prayer: *Dear God, Thank you for giving us tools like our abilities to pray, share, and serve. Help us to pray for farmers around the world, to share our money with them, and to serve other people because that's what you taught us to do. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Children's Message 3

God Multiplies Our Gifts

by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema, ©2014

(Props: live fish in a glass bowl or small aquarium.)

Hello, boys and girls. I'm happy to see all of you. What have we been talking about for the last two weeks? *(Children answer.)* Right! We've been talking about farmers and the food they grow. We've been remembering farmers in the world who have a hard time growing food because of bad weather or because they can't get good seeds. Also, we've learned about how World Renew is helping those farmers to grow more food so their families and neighbors will have enough food to eat.

(Storyteller holds up the glass bowl with the fish inside.) What have I got here? *(Children answer.)* Right! Some fish. It is fun to watch these fish swim around, isn't it? Many people have fish in an aquarium so that they can enjoy them.

Do you know another reason why people raise fish or catch fish? *(Children answer.)* Good answer! People raise fish for food. It's amazing because when you have a few fish, within a few weeks they begin to have babies and soon you have even more. That's called multiplying.

The Bible also tells us a story about multiplying fish. In this story, though, it didn't take a few weeks for the fish to multiply. How long do you think it took? *(Children answer.)* Jesus took a few loaves of bread and a few fish, and in just a few minutes he multiplied them so that there was enough to feed thousands of people. Can you take a look at the fish in this aquarium and imagine how many of them it would take to feed our whole church? And that isn't even close to 1,000 people!

Jesus multiplied the fish because he saw that people were hungry and he wanted to feed them. I see that you brought some fish with you today, too. Your Peter Fish are another way that God feeds hungry people. He will take all the money that you have given and use it to help people all over the world.

Let me tell you one story about someone that was helped through Peter Fish bank donations. Sowkot is a farmer who lives in Bangladesh. He grew rice in a flooded field and tomatoes and radishes near his house, but he had trouble growing enough food for his family. World Renew, the organization that receives money from your Peter Fish banks, used some Peter Fish donations to send an agriculture worker to Sowkot's village.

World Renew taught Sowkot to put fish in his flooded rice field. That way as the rice grew in the water, Sowkot could also grow fish. Do you remember what happens when you put just a few fish into some water and wait a few weeks? (*Children answer.*) That's right. They multiply. When Sowkot harvested his rice he was also able to catch all his fish. Then he had enough food for his family.

Thanks for collecting money so World Renew can help farmers like Sowkot all over the world. With God's help, your money will be multiplied so that many people will have enough to eat. Let's pray that God will do that.

Prayer: *Dear God, Thank you for giving us money to share with farmers and World Renew. Please multiply our money so that people around the world will be fed. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Children's Song

Taste and See That God is Good!

by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema, ©2014

(To the tune of This Little Light of Mine)

Taste and see that God is good!

He takes care of us! (3x)

Refrain:

God is good! (3x)

Farmers grow the food we eat.

May God bless them all!

Refrain:

God is good! (3x)

Seeds and soil, and sun and rain —

all are gifts from God. (3x)

Refrain:

God is good! (3x)

Berries, peaches, apples, pears —

God makes food for all. (3x)

Refrain:

God is good! (3x)

Wheat and barley, oats and rye —

God makes food for all. (3x)

Refrain:

God is good! (3x)

Beans and beets, and yams, and corn —

God makes food for all. (3x)

Refrain:

God is good! (3x)

Cows, pigs, ducks, and chickens, too —

all are gifts from God.

Refrain:

God is good! (3x)

Taste and see that God is good!

He takes care of us! (3x)

Refrain:

God is good! (3x)

Litany for World Hunger Sunday

Taste and See That the Lord is Good!

by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema, ©2014

Reader 1: Taste and see that the Lord is good! How blessed is the one who takes shelter in him! (*Psalm 34:8*)

Reader 2: For sun and rain, soil and seeds, trees and shrubs . . .

People: We thank you, Lord!

Reader 1: For chickens and eggs, cows and milk, meat and vegetables . . .

People: We thank you, Lord!

Reader 2: For city gardens and country gardens . . .

People: We thank you, Lord!

Reader 1: For farmers who work on small farms and big farms, for people who harvest our food, and for those who prepare our food . . .

People: We thank you, Lord!

Reader 2: When we fail to taste and see all the goodness you have bestowed on your world and to acknowledge that all our food comes from you . . .

People: Forgive us, we pray.

Reader 1: When we forget to thank you for farmers who grow our food . . .

People: Forgive us, we pray.

Reader 2: When we ignore the plight of billions of people who struggle to survive on small-scale farms . . .

People: Forgive us, we pray.

Reader 1: We thank you because we are being transformed into your image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from you, Holy Spirit. (*2 Corinthians 3:18*)

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come! Help us to not only taste your goodness, but increase our hunger for justice and our desire that all people will be fed.

Reader 2: Help us to not only see your goodness, but to have eyes opened wide to the plight of our poor brothers and sisters in the world.

People: You have commanded us to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (1 Timothy 6:18)

Reader 1: By your grace alone, Father God, we will do good, we will be rich in good deeds, and we will be generous and willing to share.

People: Help us to taste and see that you are good. We are blessed because we take shelter in you.

Sermon Notes

Taste and See the Goodness of our Lord

by Rev. Roy Berkenbosch

Introduction:

This year's World Hunger theme is a complicated one. The world's food system is very broken and we in North America are complicit in its brokenness in different and confusing ways.

- We are all consumers of food, but we rarely know where our food comes from and how it gets to our table.
- We've become convinced that food should be inexpensive. We shop for bargains, unaware that "cheap" food is a myth and only appears to be cheap when we overlook the poverty of the producers, especially when foods are imported from the global south.
- We often overlook the environmental cost of producing "cheap" food.
- We forget that the least expensive foods are often highly processed and are nutritionally poor.
- On the flip side, a growing number of people are interested in eating organically produced, local food. These healthy foods are often too expensive for the average wage-earner. Too many North Americans may be forced to consume this nutritionally poor food because it's all we can manage on a low income budget.

In addition, many of us in North America are farmers and these farmers are some of the most generous supporters of our churches and of World Renew's ministry. Yet, these farmers also face challenges.

- Agriculture has become such a complex business that farmers are not always in control and decisions get made on their behalf.
- We live in an age with amazing technological advances for farming. These advances can produce great yields of food that can be used in service of the poor, but the industrial food model also plays a role in perpetuating poverty by displacing smaller farms.

The preacher who wishes to provoke his/her congregation to thoughtful engagement with food justice, will be careful not to make simple pronouncements. Instead, I suggest that the sermon ask, "How can what we eat and how our food gets produced and distributed be a way that tastes like the goodness of the Lord."

I believe that the best outcome of a sermon on this topic is for a congregation to launch a deliberate and thorough study of food justice. A topic of this complexity and importance cannot be managed in a single sermon but requires sustained reflection.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good..." Psalm 34:8

This passage invites us to taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Now there's an invitation that begs an RSVP.

The Bible offers many appetizers of what the great Banquet of the Lord might be like — descriptions of food and feasting abound. The garden of Eden verdant with every kind of fruit

and vegetable, manna that tastes like coriander and honey, roasted lambs and fatted calves, fish and bread, mountains dripping with wine, lands flowing with milk and honey, fields well larded with rain to produce fat crops, the cattle of a thousand hills, all belonging to the Lord, figs and grapes and dates and pomegranates and the list goes on.

God could have made a world where our nutrition was perfunctory and boring, but God instead makes a world that dazzles the senses. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Most of us in North America do, and do so easily and regularly. Ethnic food, specialty shops, artisanal bakeries, wine boutiques, food shows, scotch-tastings, garlic festivals, culinary tours and on and on.

But then one must raise a question or two: why does this epicurean extravagance not generate more praise and thanksgiving than it does? When we indulge our appetites, do we really taste the goodness of the Lord? Does our eating create community? Does it respect the earth? Does it honor the vast network of people whose labor and effort make our eating possible?

And when we taste so much, why do so many taste so little? When there is so much why does it belong to so few and why are there so many others who “look hopefully to the Lord” but yet go to bed hungry?

Part of the answer to these questions lies in our alienation from food. Many people no longer know where their food comes from, who produces it and how it gets to their table. Food has become commodity, mere fuel for the body, and, worse, simple economic unit to be exchanged for currency.

When that happens, food becomes opaque and we lose our ability to see “through” food and witness the farmer, the picker, the transporter, the merchant, the marketer. We also lose the ability to discern in our food the God who calls us into community with the earth, with each other and with God’s own self. We lose the sense of the sacredness of food that comes from everything that we eat having first died for our sake.

Wendell Berry writes, “To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of Creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament. When we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration. In such destruction we condemn ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness, and others to want.” (*The Gift of Good Land*, p. 281)

Norman Wirzba writes, “To receive food as a gift and as a declaration of God’s love and joy is to receive food in a *theological* manner...eating is an invitation to enter into communion and be reconciled with each other...To eat with God at the table is to eat with the aim of healing and celebrating the memberships of creation”. (p. 11)

When we eat without consideration for God or neighbor we act destructively; but when we recall the holiness and the gift-nature of what we eat, when we care deeply about our food, not just the taste, but the very nature of food as life coming to us from the God of life, then we will care about our neighbors and the earth — and we will learn to care about the food systems we inhabit and use.

We will want them to reflect the goodness of God, that is, God's justice, God's loving kindness. And we will live in such a way that not only we, but every neighbor and every creature can taste and see the goodness of God.

Connection with Global Poverty

Too many people in our world do not taste the goodness of the Lord, at least not in their eating, because they do not get enough food and not enough nutrition.

One of the most striking images that I (Roy Berkenbosch, Pastoral Advisor for World Renew) recall from my time in Bangladesh is that of children playing near a garbage dumpster, where they had found a glossy magazine among the rotting refuse. In this magazine were pictures of food, ice creams cones, hamburgers, soda and more.

I will never forget seeing a young girl look hungrily at the picture of the ice cream cone - and then she began licking it, as if it were real. Such rich food was for her but a fantasy. It looked so real, so good and tasty, but it was oh so unavailable to her.

A similar contrast appears in the musical, *Oliver*, where the children sing, "Food, glorious food" while their bowls are being filled with watery gruel. They can imagine a great meal, "food, we're eager to try it, three banquets a day, what a diet!" but it remains so elusive. And of course that scene ends with Oliver asking, 'please sir, I'd like a bit more.'

In his book, *Hungry for Change*, agrarian economist, A. Haroon Akran Lodi describes such inequities on a more global scale. Here's a quote from his introduction:

The world faces a calamity of historically unprecedented proportions. The planet produces enough food to feed ten billion people — enough for the world's population when it peaks in around 2050. Yet almost a billion people are, day in and day out, chronically malnourished, and yet another billion people are always under the imminent existential threat of not knowing for sure where their next meal will come from. The result is that every seven seconds a child under five dies somewhere because they have not had enough to eat. This obscene brutal picture has another side to it: the 500 million people around the world who are clinically obese, the 1.5 billion who are overweight and the astonishing acceleration in the last fifteen years of type-2 diabetes in developed and developing capitalist countries, a potentially life threatening disease commonly associated with an unhealthy sugar intensive diet. There is plenty of food to go around; and yet we see the particularly paradoxical combination of too many not getting enough of any food and too many getting too much of the wrong sort of food.

The sad irony is that many of the world's hungriest people live in the countryside where they work as small scale peasant farmers or as landless waged laborers. Food should be plentiful, but is unavailable to them. Unlike Isaiah's vision of the good life, where people harvest what they sow, these farmers grow food for the consumption of others, often thousands of miles away.

The reasons behind this are complex, but they have to do with power imbalances, where the poor lack access to land and to markets.

- In some cases, agricultural subsidies in North America and Europe create an unfair playing field where unsubsidized farmers in the global south are at a serious disadvantage.
- The history of colonization in some parts of the world has left a legacy of unequal and unjust distribution of land, resulting in a large class of landless peasants who have no choice but to work for large landholders for below subsistence wages.
- The industrialization of agriculture has resulted in the concentration of food power in the hands of just a few global corporations whose interest is the generation of wealth. The poor don't count in their calculus.

Here's how Akram Lodi describes it:

"Here's the rub, though. In a world where some with plenty of food cruelly collide with many that have a pittance, the way in which those who have plenty is inextricably threatening those with a pittance. That's right: the way that we get our food is considerable exacerbating the increasingly dense difficulties faced by small scale peasant farmers and landless rural workers, because the way we that we get our food is directly strengthening the multiple and convoluted processes that virulently marginalize the food insecure and deepen the extent of the food-based inequality that permeates the globe. We are witnessing an unparalleled betrayal of a fundamental human right — the right to food — that is ceaselessly crushing the rural poor. There has never been anything like it.

That states the case about as forcefully as it can be stated. And it leaves us with the inevitable question, what can we do about it?

I would propose three lines of action:

- The first is to learn more (don't just *do* something, sit there!). Food justice is a big topic and the best ways to engage it are the ways you discover for yourself. Many faith communities have formed study groups to engage this topic and in the process have discovered actions that are appropriate, meaningful and sustainable for their communities.
- Secondly, and obviously in this context, support World Renew, a ministry that has many varied programs around the world aimed at helping communities achieve greater food security. In some places World Renew helps small farmers increase their yield through conservation farming — teaching small farmers about composting, soil management, and weed control. In other places they help landless farmers form cooperative groups where they pool their resources, gain literacy skills, develop entrepreneurial skills and increase household

income. World Renew has a long history of working with the most food-vulnerable people on the planet and partnering with World Renew is the best way of helping hungry and financially poor people meet the challenges posed by the world food system.

- Third, become a more “theological” eater. We know that generosity goes a long way and we are grateful for that. But World Renew’s efforts to overcome food insecurity are often thwarted by a global food system that resists change. You can help by the very ways in which you shop and eat.

There are so many ways you can become part of a more sustainable and earth-friendly food system. Join a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group. Shop at local farmer’s markets and reduce the carbon footprint of your next meal (the average mouthful currently travels 1,500 miles to get onto your plate — surely we can change that). Look for direct trade products. Ask, ‘where does my church get its coffee’? While you are at it, ask, where does my team get its jerseys? Support local producers and get to know the people who produce your food. Grow your own food. Get creative and find new responses that others can imitate.

Suggested Resources for Additional learning:

- *Food and Faith, or The Essential Agrarian Reader*, both by Norman Wirzba (His bibliography could help shape your further studies).
- “Hunger” Reports by Bread for the World at www.hungerreport.org (see especially “Healthy Food, Farms and Families”, 2007 Hunger Report, and “Rebalancing Act - Updating US Food and Farm Policies, 2012 Hunger Report).
- *Stations of the Banquet* by Cathy Campbell;
- *Scripture, Culture and Agriculture* by Ellen Davis.

Song Suggestions

Here are a few songs for you to consider for inclusion in your World Hunger Sunday service.

Songs from the *Gray Psalter Hymnal*

- *Lord I Bring My Songs to You* (#34, stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5)
- *Whatsoever You Do to the Least* (#210)
- *Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread* (#290)
- *What Does the Lord Require* (#293)
- *For the Fruits of His Creation* (#455)
- *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* (#456)
- *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* (#458)

Songs from *Sing! A New Creation*

- *Creation Sings! Each Plant and Tree* (#36)
- *God of Justice Ever Flowing – Lenten Stanzas* (# 101)
- *Psalms 34* (#255)
- *When a Prophet Sings of Justice* (#264)
- *God, Your Justice Towers* (#272)

Songs from *Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*

- *We Sing the Mighty Power of God* (#10)
- *Touch the Earth Lightly* (#18)
- *We Are People on a Journey* (#141)
- *When Asked, Who is My Neighbor* (#294)
- *Let Justice Flow* (#295)
- *Every Heart Its Tribute Pays* (#388)
- *Praise God for the Harvest of Orchard and Field* (#397)
- *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (#534)
- *Sing unto the Lord* (#544)
- *See My Hands and Feet* (#929) Youth Activity



Youth Activity

FAST Forward

World Renew’s FASTForward project is a 24-hour fast to help end world hunger.

FASTForward provides a concrete way for teens to act on their desire to share God’s love with people in need and grow spiritually at the same time.

Not only does FASTForward raise awareness about world hunger, it also 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 FASTForward project is easy. Everything you’ll need is provided, free of charge, by World Renew. In fact, most of the resources you’ll need are available right on our website (worldrenew.net/fastforward).

The first step is for your school or youth group to decide to participate. You can hold your FAST during lent, in November in conjunction with World Hunger Sunday, or choose another time that works best for you.

Next, you can determine the type of fast that you’d like to participate in. We recommend a fast from food for 24 hours, but other options include an electronic fast (going without cell phones, tablets, televisions and computers for 24 hours) or a carbon fast (where you reduce your carbon footprint by making lifestyle changes for a 24 hour period).

You and your group could also raise money from donors and sponsors — asking them to give a gift of love to their neighbors around the world who do not have enough to eat in response to your fast.

The group then participates in their chosen fast for 24 hours. During this time your school or youth group engages in different activities from community service projects, to Bible studies, to interactive games. Our hope is that you will benefit spiritually from your 24-hour fast and also discover ways to grow and learn together.

Through your participation in FASTForward, you will give up something that you’ve become accustomed to and be reminded of how dependent we all are on God. It is also a great way to raise money for a specific World Renew ministry and impact countless lives around the world. Learn more or sign up today at worldrenew.net/fastforward.

Advocacy

Aid for Agriculture

Government aid is not THE answer to ending hunger, but it does have an important role to play in the wake of crisis. A significant portion of government aid is actually implemented by Christian organizations, including World Renew, and our staff members often have opportunities to advise Canadian and U.S. government on how aid can be implemented in sustainable ways.

Poverty-focused aid is a small portion of our federal budgets. When used wisely, however, even this small amount can have a significant impact in the countries where we work.

With smart improvements our governments can respond more quickly when disaster hits. We can provide food that is more nutritious, especially to women and children in the critical 1,000 day window between conception and a child's second birthday. We can better support small-scale farmers in other countries by buying food closer to where it is needed.

World Renew and our partners like Food Resource Bank, Bread for the World, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Micah Network ask that you join us in urging our governments to reform aid programs in ways that strengthen small farms and lead to long healthy lives.

Many partners joining their voices together can make significant change for farmers and their communities.

Please prayerfully consider sending a letter, speaking with your government representative, or participating in another way with one of the following campaigns.

- **In the US:** Bread for the World has launched an offering of letters campaign around the issue of US Food Aid Reform. You can learn more, watch a video, and find sample letters at www.bread.org/ol/2014/
- **In Canada:** The Canadian Foodgrains Bank has launched a harvest of letters campaign to encourage the Canadian government to maintain its levels of support for agricultural development in its foreign aid budget. You can learn more at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/letters

World Renew also has speakers, worship resources, and educational and advocacy materials that can help your congregation become effective advocates with the government. Please contact us to get involved. We value your voice. www.worldrenew.net/advocacy

Additional World Renew Resources

World Renew has a variety of resources available to help you carry out a successful World Hunger campaign or to promote global issues at another time during the year. Here are a few for you to consider:



Gift Catalog — Buy a latrine for someone in need for each toilet stall in your church. Give a goat or sheep to a poor farmer. Whatever your interests, the World Renew gift catalog has an item to match. This year, why not help your congregation remember the true meaning of Christmas with a campaign featuring World Renew gift catalog items? You can distribute the catalogs during advent and hang ornaments on a Christmas tree for each item donated. To learn more, visit worldrenew.net/gifts



God Created Us Equal — God created us equal, but we don't all get the same opportunities in life. This new small group resource from World Renew outlines four topics (food, money, water and health) to explore how our lives in North America are similar to and different from our brothers and sisters in Niger, West Africa. The resource includes four videos and an accompanying discussion guide to help your small group or Bible study dig into these issues and consider how God might be calling you to respond. For more information, visit worldrenew.net/createdequal



Travelling Our Father's World — Do you want to help the children in your congregation learn more about God's world and the people who live there? This new children's giving project from World Renew takes children on an exciting journey to four countries where World Renew works. Along the way, they will meet children of World Renew staff members, hear about life in different countries, and be encouraged to pray for and support the work. For each country they visit, children can add a sticker to their "passports." Order materials at worldrenew.net/order

To order these and other materials, visit worldrenew.net/order or call 1-800-333-8300

**Look for other World Renew offering materials
for the following dates:**

- **Thanksgiving (U.S.) — November 27, 2014**
- **Christmas Day — December 25, 2014**
- **Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday (Canada)/
Disaster Response Services Sunday (U.S.) — March 1, 2015**
- **Refugee Sunday (Canada) — April 12, 2015**
- **Child and Maternal Health Sunday — May 10, 2015/Mother's Day**
- **Thanksgiving (Canada) — October 13, 2015**
- **World Hunger Sunday — November 1, 2015**



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