

# Hunger News & Hope

...a Seeds of Hope publication

## *The Scandal of Redemption*

by Chris P. Jones

In an insignificant instant, everything changed. The rules did not change, per se, but the interpretation thereof. A poor baby was born, one who could not speak but would eventually explain to us the true meaning of the law. Contained within the diminutive body of a newborn was the key, the trump card, the final word on the way things were to be. Those who knew and believed in the significance of this child could only eagerly anticipate the profound expressions that would one day come from these tiny lips.

And when those lips would begin to move and express the thoughts, truths, and commands from above, very few chose to continue to believe, to follow. "Peace I bring to you...love your neighbor as yourself...do not neglect justice and mercy and faithfulness."

"Yes, Jesus, we hear you, but what about the details of the law, and what about those who oppress us? How is God going to set the chosen people free? Peace...love...justice and mercy and faithfulness."

In the mind of modern culture, peace, love, and justice have been associated as the pursuits of free lovin', dope smokin' hippies. Surely, nobody with such unseemly appearance and disreputable behavior could possibly bring a needed message. The peace, love, and justice that they preach is certainly a self-serving pursuit cloaked in holy language.

However, where are the orderly, the shipshape, the tidy when it comes to speaking out on these issues? Where are their radical works? Where are they seen in pursuit of justice and in opposition to oppression? Where are the marchers, the demonstrators, the protesters? Could it be that the rocks are crying out because of the silence of the saints? Would God be so scandalous to use those who do not acknowledge God's own name to carry out the desires of God's own heart?

Those who held, cuddled, and poked this little baby had little-to-no idea of what was in store. They just knew that he was coming to receive the throne of David, to reign over the house of Jacob, to rule a kingdom with no end. They had no idea that this baby would have no place to lay his head, be rejected by his own people, and die a painful and lonely death—all for the truth that resided within him, the truth that they held so close to their breast. And it was better that way, for the scandal of redemption earned its dishonor by coming not with the face of an innocent child, but through the image of a dirty, homeless hippie.

*And when those lips would begin to move and express the thoughts, truths, and commands from above, very few chose to continue to believe, to follow.*

*"Peace I bring to you...love your neighbor as yourself...do not neglect justice and mercy and faithfulness."*

—Chris Jones, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, is a student at Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas. The musings above were published in the Seeds Advent 2000 worship packet, as part of an "advent meditation in three parts" called "The Scandal of Salvation." Art by René Boldt.

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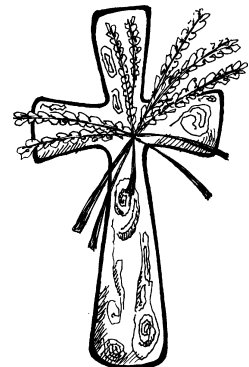
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art by Erin Kennedy

# FAO Concerned About Food Insecurity

## *UN Organization's Goal to Cut Hunger in Doubt*

In a time of unprecedented plenty, 826 million people still do not have enough to eat. Far more disturbing is the fact that little progress has been made in bringing about significant reductions in the number of the world's hungry. This is the key finding contained in the latest edition of FAO's "The State of Food Insecurity in the World" (SOFI 2000).

Released annually on October 16, World Food Day, SOFI monitors the progress made in reaching World Food Summit goals. (Leaders at the 1996 Summit pledged to cut the number of undernourished to 400 million by 2015.) SOFI 2000 indicates that, unless more determined efforts are made to speed up progress, the goal will not be reached until 2030.

In the foreword to the report, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf noted the disappointing figures and called for the adoption of more urgent measures. A reduction of at least 20 million every year between

including—for the first time—countries in transition. The depth of hunger, or food deficit, is measured by comparing the average amount of dietary energy (kilocalories) that undernourished people get from the foods they eat, with the minimum amount of dietary energy they need to maintain body weight and undertake light activity. The greater the food deficit, the greater the susceptibility to nutrition-related health risks.

On average, the 826 million chronically hungry people worldwide need to consume between 100 and 400 more kilocalories per day. In some countries, the depth of hunger is much higher. For example, in Somalia the food deficit for the undernourished reaches 490 kilocalories and in Afghanistan it stands at 480.

Strictly speaking, there are more chronically hungry people in Asia than in any other region, but the depth of hunger is greatest in sub-Saharan Africa. In 19 out of 46 sub-Saharan countries assessed in the report, the undernourished have an average food deficit of more than 300 kilocalories per person per day. In Asia and the Pacific, in only three out of 19 countries assessed, do the undernourished have average food deficits this high. (See the sidebar on this page for a list of the countries with the "deepest"

poorest countries of the world.

- "We must make the investments needed to build foundations for long-term sustainable growth and poverty reduction.
- "Countries and their development partners must target the people who are suffering the deepest hunger.
- "We must orient agricultural research towards improvement of agricultural commodity production."

SOFI 2000 also reports some good news. It cites examples from Ghana, Nigeria and Thailand, where government policies have succeeded in bringing about rapid improvements in national nutrition standards; and

*continued*

***SOFI 2000 also reports some good news. It cites examples from Ghana, Nigeria and Thailand, where government policies have succeeded in bringing about rapid improvements in national nutrition standards...***

now and 2015 is needed to reach the goal. During the 1990s, the rate of decline in the number of hungry people was clearly inadequate—slightly less than 8 million per year.

Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General of FAO's Economic and Social Department, says SOFI 2000 looks at more than overall statistics on undernutrition—it pinpoints specific groups most vulnerable to hunger. "This refining of information is an important tool for policy-makers. It will allow them to move forward in a more focused way, directing their actions and resources more precisely and effectively to the places where the need is greatest," de Haen said.

SOFI 2000 provides indicators of the varying depths of hunger around the world,

hunger.)

SOFI 2000 stresses that policy-makers also need to take into account the different nutritional needs of individual family members. A greater awareness of the specific dietary requirements of women is of particular importance, as the death of many infants and young children in developing countries is directly attributable to the poor nutritional status of their mothers.

In his foreword, Dr. Diouf appealed to the international community to focus on four essential measures that together offer possible solutions to world hunger:

- "We must address conflict, the cause of the deepest hunger in most of the

### Countries with the Deepest Hunger

Below are the 23 countries where the undernourished—not the population as a whole—have the greatest dietary energy deficit. The deficit is expressed in kilocalories per person per day. The higher the number, the deeper the hunger.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Kilocalories</u>
Somalia	490
Afghanistan	480
Haiti	460
Mozambique	420
Burundi	410
Liberia	390
Congo, Democratic Republic	380
Sierra Leone	380
Eritrea	370
Niger	350
Bangladesh	340
Ethiopia	340
Korea DPR	340
Zambia	340
Zimbabwe	340
Chad	330
Rwanda	330
Angola	320
Guinea	320
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# How Hungry are the Hungry?

## *How FAO Measures Food Deficit Depth*

Meaningful action to end hunger requires knowledge of not just the number of hungry people around the world but also the depth of their hunger.

Knowing the number of kilocalories missing from the diets of undernourished people helps round out the picture of food deprivation in a country. Where the undernourished lack 400 kilocalories a day, the situation is more dire than in a country where the average shortage is 100 kilocalories. The greater the deficit, the greater the susceptibility to nutrition-related health risks.

The depth of hunger, or food deficit, is measured by comparing the average amount of dietary energy that undernourished people get from the foods they eat with the minimum amount of dietary energy they need to maintain body weight and undertake light activity. The diets of most of the 800 million chronically hungry people lack 100-400 kilocalories per day.

In terms of sheer numbers, there are more chronically hungry people in Asia and the Pacific, but the depth of hunger is clearly the greatest in sub-Saharan Africa. There, in 46 percent of the countries, the undernourished have an

average deficit of more than 300 kilocalories per person per day. By contrast, in only 16 percent of the countries in Asia and the Pacific do the undernourished suffer from food deficits this high.

Where the average kilocalorie deficit is very high, many people's diets are deficient in everything, including the starchy staple foods (carbohydrate-rich maize, potatoes, rice, wheat and cassava) that provide energy. But where the deficit is more moderate, people generally get enough of the staple foods. What they often lack is a variety of other foods that make up a nutritious diet: legumes, meat, fish, oils, dairy products,

vegetables and fruit that provide protein, fat and micronutrients as well as energy.

Rounding out these diets is crucial to food security. Lack of cash income greatly hinders both urban and rural people from obtaining the diverse foods needed for an adequate diet. Even when poor rural families are helped to produce a greater variety of foods on their household plots, they will often sell these items rather than consume them because of their high market value. Thus, their food security improves only when overall household income rises to a level that permits them to afford the other foods they need. ■

### **FAO Concerned,** *continued*

recent policy initiatives taken by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other donors to strengthen debt relief for many heavily indebted poor countries. "Debt relief can spur progress towards reducing hunger, provided the resources freed up are used, not only to feed the hungry now, but also to put countries and communities onto a longer-term path of sustainable development by investing in food security," states the report.

—from the *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*



*...every Monday night, Mass is said at the Worker... it is hard to describe the overwhelming sense of love that transforms this madness into the sacred. Without embellishment, and only with the Word and a people, a scratched and battered table which bears soup for the dispossessed in the morning bears by night the blood of the Lamb "who takes away the sins of the world." And for a strange moment the soup and the blood, the dispossessed and the Messiah, Jesus, become one.*

—Marc Ellis, *A Year at the Catholic Worker*  
photo by Matthew Lester



# We Cannot Continue to Put Debt Above Life:

## *The Final Push to Get Debt Relief in the Budget*

*a update compiled by Elizabeth Walker*

*"I do not believe that a nation, any more than a church, a synagogue, a mosque, a particular religious faith, can confine its compassion and concern and commitment only within its borders, especially if you happen to be in the most fortunate country in the world."*

—President Clinton, September 14, 2000

At press time, congressional leaders and the White House are engaged in an end-of-fiscal-year tug of war, negotiating changes to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

"The burden of external debt continues to be a major impediment to economic growth and poverty reduction in many of the world's poorest countries," stated Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA).

Waters is preaching to the choir. Both teams concur that the need for debt relief is well established. They just have yet to agree on a less than nebulous means to that end; specifically, how much should be allocated

to debt relief programs. Clinton requested \$435 million, attempting to fulfill a promise made at the G-7 Summit; in August, the Senate allotted \$75 million.

The Administration requested a total of \$435 million in funding for debt relief this year—\$210 million in the Supplemental Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000 and \$225 million for fiscal year 2001. The

House passed this Supplemental Spending bill on March 8; the Senate, however, refused it, funneling the moneys into the Military Construction Appropriations bill.

Ultimately, then, \$210 million—the proposed first installment towards debt relief—will equip Colombian Army battalions for drug interdiction (an amendment by Sen. Wellstone to divert some money to drug treatment programs in the U.S. was also defeated).

Three months later, the House tried again. In June, it passed its version of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill (HR 4811), allocating \$255 million to debt relief. The Senate revised this version, passing an allocation of \$75 million.

The Senate modification, spearheaded by Senators Gramm (R-TX) and Helms (R-NC), proposes IMF reform before full-force debt relief financing can proceed. The Senate is hesitating, waiting for the IMF to implement a "pre-qualification" program for countries that want future loans, a program through which countries would have to liberalize trade and investment first. Observers fear that, as a result of this reform, very few countries would be able to qualify for debt relief, compounding the harmful effects on the poor of previously implemented IMF economic policy prescriptions.

Meanwhile, as the Congress and the White House continue their age-old quibbling over money and means, ten countries have begun receiving partial debt reduction under the existing plan. Among the countries receiving this reduction—including Uganda, Bolivia, Mauritania, Tanzania, Mozambique, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Benin, Honduras, and Mali—annual debt service payments fell on average by 40 percent.

If the debt relief program is expanded by the end of 2000, likely candidates for reduction are those countries that spend three-to-five times more on foreign debt payments than on health care and education combined, where the average accumulated foreign debt per person is \$2,278 and the average annual income per person is only \$829. These countries include Cameroon, Chad, Gambia,

Guinea, Guyana, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Nicaragua, Rwanda, and Zambia. Debt cancellation will directly impact these most impoverished populations, helping fight against infectious diseases, putting more children in school, building needed infrastructure, creating jobs.

### *What One Man Did for Debt Relief*

David Duncombe, a 71-year-old minister and Bread for the World member from White Salmon, Washington, spent 45 days on a continuous, water-only fast. Duncombe spent those days in Washington, DC, advocating debt cancellation among members of Congress.

"I have lost the desire to eat when others cannot, and the will to benefit from their poverty," he argued. "Until the burden of debt is lifted from the poor, I am morally constrained to stand with them in their hunger and starvation."

On October 21 Duncombe finally ended the fast, which he started on September 7, when several members of Congress, including Reps. Bachus (R-AL) and Hall (D-OH), agreed to join 30,000 people across the U.S. who were also fasting to demand action.

### *What You Can Do*

With authorization already passed in the House Banking and the Senate Foreign Relations Committees, Members of Congress must not leave Washington before appropriating greater funds to debt relief. Contact your legislators, regardless of their party affiliation, and urge a full appropriation for debt relief programs.

Or you can contact the Jubilee 2000 campaign, a coalition of national environmental, religious, and social justice groups calling for lifting the crushing burden of debt, through a fair and accountable process, by the end of the year 2000: Jubilee 2000/USA; 222 East Capitol Street, NE; Washington, DC 20003; 202/783.3566; [www.j2000usa.org](http://www.j2000usa.org)

—Sources: The *Background Paper*, *Bread* (the newsletter of Bread for the World), NETWORK, ([www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)), Jubilee 2000/USA



# Resources

## *Faith Works:*

### Newsletter of the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice



This quarterly synthesizes the religious community with the union movement in order to rediscover their common bonds: social and economic justice, the dignity and respect of all persons, and fair treatment in the workplace. Promoting

“labor from the pulpit,” this resource calls upon religious values to advocate campaigns that will improve wages, benefits, and working conditions for laborers.

This resource comes from the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice; 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., 4th Fl; Chicago, IL 60660-4627. Contact Regina Botterill at 773/728-8400 or [www.nicwj.org](http://www.nicwj.org) for subscription information.

### *Aids in Africa: A Generation at Risk*

As six thousand Africans die daily from AIDS, and as an entire generation disappears, a global community struggles to find an effective response to this catastrophe. This four-page resource from Church World Service highlights the staggering dimensions of the AIDS pandemic in Africa.

First copy free; multiple copies \$.20 each. Contact Church World Service, a ministry of the National Council of Churches, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515; 800/297-1516; [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

### *Welfare Reform and Faith-Based Organizations*

Published through the Institute of Church-State Studies at Baylor University, and edited by Derek Davis and Barry Hankins, this anthology first examines the national debate over charitable choice—including legislative history, theological perspective, and constitutional and religious liberty. Secondly, it addresses the significance of charitable choice as the opportunity to forge a new relationship between government programs and nongovernmental organizations, to create a unified agent to work with the needy.

For more information, contact the Baylor Institute of Church-State Studies, PO Box 97308, Waco, TX 76706-9989; Phone: 254/710-1510.

### *Barriers Facing Food Stamp Applicants: a New Comprehensive Study*

America's Second Harvest has released a comprehensive survey of the barriers facing food stamp applicants in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The study was prompted by the fact that in the past four years, participation in the food stamp program has declined by more than 33 percent, yet the number of Americans who are food insecure has remained constant at approximately 31 million people and demand at hunger relief agencies nationwide is up.

Get the full study, as well as first-person stories about the obstacles many Americans face when applying for food stamps, and links to news coverage of the release at [www.secondharvest.org](http://www.secondharvest.org), or contact Second Harvest at 116 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 4; Chicago, IL 60603; Phone: 312/263-2303.

# the Way

## Preparing



### a worship packet for Advent and Christmastide 2000

Four 20-page packets each year filled with prayers, litanies, sermons, activities, art, and more. \$50 per packet or \$120 for all four (US). To order, call 254/755-7745; fax 254/753-1909; write 602 James, Waco, TX 76706; or e-mail [seedshope@aol.com](mailto:seedshope@aol.com). Web: [www.seedspublishers.org](http://www.seedspublishers.org).

### Resources for Celebrating the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Bulletin Insert — "Faithful Witness: The Testimony of Scripture and Martin Luther King, Jr." (\$5 US, \$7 Canadian)
- Book — *Dreaming God's Dream: Study Materials for Church, Home, and School* (\$9.95 US, \$14.00 Canadian)
- Book — *Dreaming God's Dream: Family Activities Guide* — (\$7.95 US, \$11.00 Canadian)

#### **Other resources about overcoming racism:**

- Book — *Transforming Power: Bible Studies on Racial Reconciliation* (\$3.95 US, \$5.00 Canadian)
  - Book — *Walk Together Children: Congregations in Partnership Across Racial Lines* (\$6.95 US, \$10.00 Canadian)
  - "Be Reconciled: A Collection of Quotes on the Reality of Racism and the Hope for Healing" (4 pages) (\$2 US for first copy, 10 cents each additional copy; Canadian: \$2.50, 15 cents)
- Contact LeDayne McLeese Polaski, Managing Director; Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America; 4800 Wedgewood Drive; Charlotte, NC 28210; Phone: (704)521-6051; Fax: (704)521-6053; [ledayne@bpfna.org](mailto:ledayne@bpfna.org)

## Stop Hunger Now Teams up with Children of Vietnam

RALEIGH, NC—Fifty thousand pounds of rice is relieving the hunger of orphans and desperately poor street kids in the Danang area of Southern Vietnam. This food aid, distributed by Children of Vietnam, a new ministry headquartered in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was funded by Stop Hunger Now.

“Working together is what it’s all about,” said Rev. David Harvin, director of development for SHN. “Stop Hunger Now is modeling a new mission profile, one that make sense in today’s world. Children of Vietnam is doing a great job in feeding hungry children. We are pleased to work with them.”

Started less than two years ago, Stop Hunger Now provides food, commodities, and other emergency direct relief to agencies and organizations already active in crisis areas around the world. Having already distributed over \$10 million in food and medical aid to 22 different countries, SHN launched a new initiative earlier this year. Executive Director Rev. Ray Buchanan went to Vietnam last March to plan future joint efforts with Children of Vietnam.

—For more information, contact Eileen Helton at 9101-121 Leesville Road; Raleigh, NC 27613-7546; Phone: 888/501-8440 or 919/676-3956.

## Washington Group Launches ‘Covenant to Overcome Poverty’

Washington, DC—All during the past year, a coalition of religious and civic leaders—as part of what they have christened the “Call to Renewal” campaign—have urged religious and secular leaders, as well as political candidates to join a “covenant” among all sectors of society to roll back poverty and address its disproportionate impact on racial minorities.

“Overcoming poverty is a non-partisan issue and a bipartisan issue [that] will require ‘partnerships’ between religious and secular groups,” said the Rev. Jim Wallis (of Sojourners), convener of the campaign.

The group’s manifesto, the “Covenant to Overcome Poverty,” was originally signed by 57 national religious leaders. Since that time, a number of other groups have signed on. The Covenant defines “a good society” in terms of minimum equality of health, housing, and education for every one.

The Call to Renewal campaign came about in response to the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, which initiated the “charitable choice” option. Under this law, faith-based groups can use federal funds for social services without having to neutralize their religious identity.

The Covenant also serves to end the split between liberal and conservative churches and to address a unanimous concern for alleviating social problems.

—from *Sojourners and The Washington Times*. *Editor’s note: the concept of charitable choice is not without controversy; some groups fear that it will violate separation of church of state. For information about these issues, see Welfare Reform and Faith-Based Organizations under “Resources” on page 5.*

## Food First Presents a Case Against Genetically Altered Foods

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA—In the debate over genetically altered foods, proponents argue that such products are essential to feed the world. However, according to opponents (the most outspoken being the analysts at Food First, the Institute for Food and Development Policy in Oakland), this claim rests on two persistent myths about world hunger: 1) that people are hungry because of high population density, and that 2) that genetic engineering is the best means to address the needs of the hungry.

In response to the first misconception, opponents say there is no relationship between the prevalence of hunger in a country and its population. Consider, for example, Brazil, a sparsely populated yet simultaneously hungry nation.

In response to the second misconception, which claims that genetic engineering is the best way to boost food production, opponents point out that research has shown that none of the genetically altered seeds significantly increase the yield of crops. Instead, they say, the rapid introduction of genetically engineered crops are a threat to environmental and agricultural security. Opponents say that herbicides already threaten 74 endangered plant species.

**To see the universal and all-pervading Spirit of Truth face to face, one must be able to love the meanest of creation as oneself. And one who aspires after that cannot afford to keep out of any field of life. That is why my devotion to Truth has drawn me into the field of politics; and I can say without the slightest hesitation, and yet in all humility, that those who say that religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion means.**

—Mahatma Gandhi

Additionally, many of these non-crop plants are used by small farmers in developing countries as supplemental food sources and as animal feed. There is also a new genetic engineering technique that renders a crop's seeds sterile. If that technique is used, farmers—who ordinarily rely on their own saved seed for each year's planting, would be forced to purchase new seed every year.

To solve the problem of world hunger, these analysts say, first one must define it properly. Most hunger activist and analysts agree that the real problems are poverty and inequality among both producers and consumers of food.

"Too many people are too poor to buy the food that is available or lack the land on which to grow it themselves, asserted Peter Rossett, director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy.

Rossett says that a food system increasingly dependent on genetically altered seeds is a step in the wrong direction.

—*adapted from Food First Backgrounder and a New York Times editorial by Peter Rossett*

## Share Our Strength Enters Partnership with Tyson Foods

Washington, DC—Share Our Strength, a Washington-based anti-hunger organization, recently announced a \$10 million commitment from Tyson Foods, the largest producer of chicken in the U.S. Through a three-year partnership, Tyson will donate 6.5 million pounds of chicken, which will provide 32.5 million meals to people at risk of food insecurity.

In addition to its financial and product contributions, Tyson will also serve as the national sponsor of Operation Frontline, an educational program that teaches classes on nutrition and food budgeting to victims of hunger and malnutrition.

"Companies today are realizing the benefits of doing well by doing good," says Bill Shore, founder and executive director of SOS. "We're excited about the partnership with Tyson because it allows us to provide much-needed, high-quality protein in the food emergency assistance channels and

touch more people with Operation Frontline. We know this generous commitment will impact many of the 31 million Americans who are hungry today."

—*Share Our Strength and Food Journal, the newsletter of the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA)*

## "Chili Project" Grows into Food Bank Farming Program

Officials of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts say that when they first decided to begin growing food for the food bank's agencies, the intention was not to develop a self-sufficient, organic farm that would feed families in the area for almost a decade. The original plan was to make chili.

"The Chili Project" began in 1989 as a way of supplementing the supply of high protein products available to hungry people. The Food Bank used two acres of land owned by Hampshire College to grow the produce necessary to make a vegetarian chili, which was then frozen into quarts and distributed to agencies. It quickly became clear that the agencies needed fresh produce as much as they needed the chili, so three years later the food bank began a search for its own land that would be turned into what is now known as the Food Bank Farm.

"We started the farm primarily because we wanted a controllable source of high

quality fruits and vegetables to get out to member agencies and people in need...And we recognized that high quality organic produce shouldn't be something that only people with money have access to."

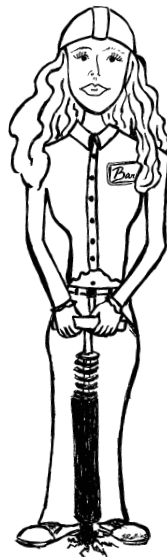
David Sharken, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The Food Bank was able to lease 60 acres of prime farmland that was later purchased with the community's support. A community supported agriculture (CSA) component was implemented to ensure that the farm could be self-sufficient. The CSA concept is simple.

Consumers pay a set fee for a "share" of the harvest—in this case, considerably less than what they would pay for the same products in a grocery store. The farmer grows the produce and distributes a specific portion of the weekly harvest to the shareholder. In 1992, The Food Bank Farm had 100 shareholders. Today that number has grown to more than 500 with an additional waiting list.

While the shareholders fees cover all operating costs of the farm, they only receive 50 percent of the produce grown. The other 50 percent, which includes organic strawberries, zucchini, broccoli, carrots, and squash, goes directly to food bank agencies.

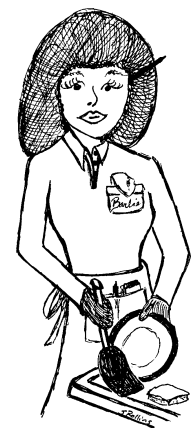
—*from America's Second Harvest*



## It's More True Than Funny...

Blue Collar Barbie: Comes with overalls, protective goggles, lunch pail, UAW membership, pamphlet on union-organizing and pay scales for women as compared to men. Waitressing outfits and cashier's aprons may be purchased separately for Barbies who are holding down second jobs in order to make ends meet.

—*from a list of "alternative Barbies" by Eva Clontz*



art by Sharon Rollins



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### **Statement of Purpose**

Seeds of Hope is a private, independent group of believers responding to a common burden for the poor and hungry of God's world, and acting on the strong belief that biblical mandates to feed the poor were not intended to be optional. The group intends to seek out people of faith who feel called to care for the poor; and to affirm, enable, and empower a variety of responses to the problems of poverty.

### **Editorial Address**

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Seeds of Hope Publishers also produce quarterly packets of worship materials for the liturgi-

## *et cetera*



Christmas speaks above all else to the poor and homeless, the hungry, oppressed, and friendless of our world. We must never let ourselves forget that, or our celebrations will be false as Santa's whiskers. But it also speaks to those who are burdened in any way, whether with regrets for the past, heartache in the present or foreboding of the future. God says to us this night, "Be strong, fear not, for I am with you. I am for you and I will never let you go. Here is my son to prove it."

—*J. Barrie Shepherd*

Saint Lawrence [(or Laurence) of Rome, d. 258] was a protector of the poor. When the prefect of Rome demanded the Church's treasures, Saint Lawrence presented to him the poor and the sick, announcing, "This is the Church's treasure!"

—*from the Good News Ministry of Tampa Bay web site*

But is it not true that among these bent bodies and bowed heads, perhaps in the corner patiently waiting to be served a bowl of soup, is Jesus himself?

—*Marc Ellis, A Year at the Catholic Worker*

And where there is no love, put love, and you shall find love.

—*St. John of the Cross*

If God's incomprehensibility  
does not grip us in a word,  
if it does not draw us  
into God's superluminous darkness,  
if it does not call us out  
of the little house  
of our homely, close-hugged truths...  
we have misunderstood  
the words of Christianity.

*Karl Rahner, Poetry and the Christian*

If we hold on to any beliefs, ideologies, or world views we consider Truth, then these must make us true—true to ourselves, to God and to our fellow human beings. We genuinely become true by loving God and our neighbors as ourselves, and the social manifestation of love is justice.

—*Laju M. Balani*

Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

—*attributed to Francis of Assisi*



cal year—with an economic justice attitude. These include litanies, sermons, children's and youth activities, bulletin art, and drama.

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