

Hunger News & Hope

...a Seeds of Hope publication

World Agriculture 2030:

WFP Says Global Food Production Will Exceed Population Growth

Globally there will be enough food for a growing world population by the year 2030, but hundreds of millions of people in developing countries will remain hungry and many of the environmental problems caused by agriculture will remain serious, according to the summary report of "World agriculture: towards 2015/2030," a study launched by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Population growth will slow down and many people will be better fed. As a result, the growth in demand for food will be lower. The pressure emanating from agriculture on natural resources will continue to increase, but at a slower pace than in the past.

For many of the currently more than 1.1 billion people who are living in extreme poverty, economic growth based primarily on agriculture and on nonfarm rural activities is essential to improve their livelihoods. The majority of the poor live in rural areas. Promoting agricultural growth in rural areas and giving rural people better access to land, water, credit, health and education, is essential to alleviate poverty and hunger.

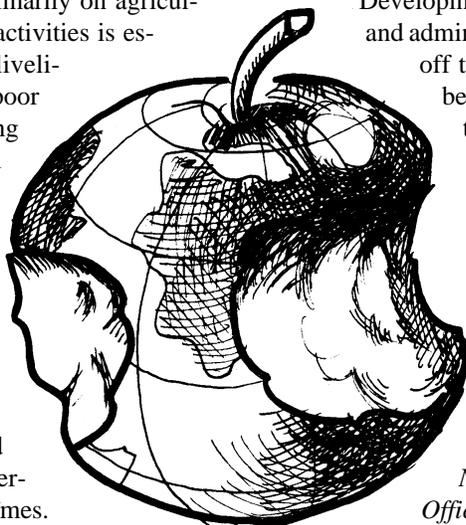
International trade plays an important role in improving food security and further agricultural trade liberalization could boost incomes.

FAO projects that the agricultural trade deficit of the developing countries will increase drastically over the period to 2030. The report calls for better access to OECD markets, the elimination of export subsidies and the reduction of tariffs, in particular on processed agricultural goods, in both developed and developing countries. In addition, where it is still the case, developing countries should stop to discriminate against their agriculture in national policy making.

Furthermore, the FAO says that the benefits of globalization in food and agriculture could outweigh the risks and costs. For example, globalization has generally led to progress in reducing poverty in Asia. "But it has also led to the rise of multinational food companies with the potential to disempower farmers in many countries.

Developing countries need the legal and administrative framework to ward off the threats while reaping the benefits." Openness towards international markets, investments in infrastructure, the promotion of economic integration and limits on market concentration, could make globalization work for the benefit of the poor.

—from the *World Food Programme*; for more information contact Erwin Northoff, FAO Information Officer at (+39) 06 5705 3105.



art courtesy of Alternatives

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Southern Africa: Six Nations in Food Crisis

Last February the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) issued an alert concerning the agricultural situation in six southern African countries, predicting that 4 million people will require food assistance this year.

In March the World Food Programme (WFP) issued a similar warning. In July the WFP launched a massive appeal to provide emergency relief food in the region. WFP is asking for \$507 million (U.S.) to fund almost a million tons of food, enough to feed 10.2 million people until the next main harvest—which will be next March. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) issued a situation report in July, describing the humanitarian crisis which affects Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland. *Hunger Notes* describes the situation as the worst that southern Africa has experienced for a decade.

WFP estimated that seven million people require food over the summer with this figure rising to just over 11 million in the fall and peaking at 12.8 million from December to March 2003. To date, WFP has fed 4.6 million people.

WFP warned that these numbers could easily rise as the crisis becomes more acute, requiring the agency to enlarge its appeal. Over the next few months, experts will closely monitor the region's food security.

In Zimbabwe, Mercy Corps Food Program Manager Tom Ewert said, "Millions are at risk if nothing is done to help them. People are slowly running out of food. The drought (in Zimbabwe) destroyed crops last year and there are no imports. It's only a matter of time before we see visible hunger on the streets."

—Sources: *Hunger Notes, USAID, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Programme, Mercy Corps International, the Hunger Site*

How many people are at risk?

Seven million people are in immediate need of food assistance in southern Africa, according to Mercy Corps workers in the area and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Over the next six months, the number of people in need of food aid is expected to balloon to as many as 13 million, with fears of a possible outbreak of famine.

What countries are affected?

Six southern African nations face development of famine: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. (*See map*)

What caused this food shortage crisis?

Drought, flooding, governmental mismanagement and economic collapse have combined to bring about the current crisis. The severity of the situation is compounded by existing, widespread malnutrition and the highest rates of HIV/AIDS infection in the world. Each of the six nations affected face their own disastrous circumstances.

Does HIV/AIDS affect the crisis?

A staggering 28.1 million people in southern Africa are infected with HIV/AIDS. The massive spread of the disease is exacerbating the impact of the food shortage. People with HIV have weakened immune systems, making proper nourishment crucial. Their extreme vulnerability to malnourishment leads to many deaths in crisis situations like the present.

Also, HIV/AIDS has taken a toll on the working population, leaving households headed by very young and very old people. People living with AIDS are too ill to work in the fields, and the cost of caring for them is a heavy burden.

How can I help?

You can help in any number of ways. First, ask someone on your church staff about your denomination's hunger resources. For additional information, go to www.thehungersite.com or www.churchworldservice.org.

How is famine different from the hunger millions face every day?

Famine is often difficult to define and distinguish from general hunger. However, it can be summarized as a plague of widespread death caused by a gradual deterioration of food supply.

Few famines are the result of a single event or disaster, but arise as the result of prolonged or successive natural disasters (floods, drought, etc.) and/or man-made calamities, including armed conflict. When food supply or intake drops suddenly, a situation of hunger may arise, while a famine results from a prolonged decline in intake and availability of food, together with disease and other factors, which ultimately causes excessive deaths.

Famine's initial impact is worsened impoverishment of the most vulnerable groups in the community (namely the poor) to a point where they can no longer maintain a sustainable livelihood. This causes a decline in food intake, which increases in severity over time to the point of starvation. The end result of a famine is widespread death, as vulnerable groups in the country or region cannot acquire enough food to sustain life.

Lesotho: Severe weather, including heavy rains and severe March frost, has wreaked havoc on the nation's food supply (crop yields). Soaring prices put the food in the markets out of reach to the two-thirds of the population who live below the poverty line. Lesotho's normally high rate of unemployment (30 percent) is rising due to the cutting of jobs of workers in South African mines. High rates of HIV/AIDS compound the problem. The government declared a state of emergency in April 2002.

Malawi: The country's worst crop failure since 1949, caused by floods and drought, produced a far from adequate harvest. The government's decision to sell off its grain reserve last year left the country vulnerable to a bad harvest. With food supply low and demand high, prices shot up 60 percent over the past year, putting it out of reach for the 65 percent of citizens who live below the poverty line. In desperation, families are selling their livestock to raise cash for food. With 19.5 percent of the population living with HIV/AIDS, the shortage is made

even more deadly. President Bakili Muluzi declared a state of emergency in February 2002. (See "Food Crisis in Malawi: A Report from the Inside" by Patrick Mawaya, on page 1 of the summer 2002 issue of *Hunger News & Hope*.)

Mozambique. A dry spell lasting half of the growing season has destroyed crops. Since 2000's devastating floods swept away crops and drowned animals, farmers have not had a full harvest in years. (See "Mozambique: Nightmares into Dreams" by Elaine Eliah, page 2, *Hunger News & Hope, Volume 2 No 2, Spring 2000*.)

Rising demand for food is increasing prices beyond the reach of Mozambique's rural poor. Many families survive on one meal a day, relying on wild foods to supplement their diet.

Zambia. Sixty percent of the population in the Southern province needs immediate food aid, as the maize crop was almost a total failure. The previous year's maize production fell by a quarter, due to severe flooding, so most farmers have

little in reserve to cope with the current crisis.

Many Zambians collect, sell and eat wild food which is quickly disappearing just by the roadside. Others have resorted to crop-stealing and poaching. Hunger forces children to drop out of school. Even when the hungry can afford food, Zambia's low population density means that an exhausting journey on foot is required to reach the marketplace. The 20 per-

cent rate of HIV/AIDS infection prevents thousands of young people from working in the fields.

Swaziland. A second successive year of erratic weather, including an untimely dry spell, has hit this landlocked mountainous country. The World Food Programme estimates that some 144,000 people in Lowveld, Middleveld and Lubombo Plateau will require emergency food aid over the next six months. In Lowveld, some 50 percent of farmers will harvest nothing.

Other alarm signs: school attendance has dropped significantly, rising costs of wheat and maize, 40 percent unemployment and a rate of HIV/AIDS infection of 20-30 percent.

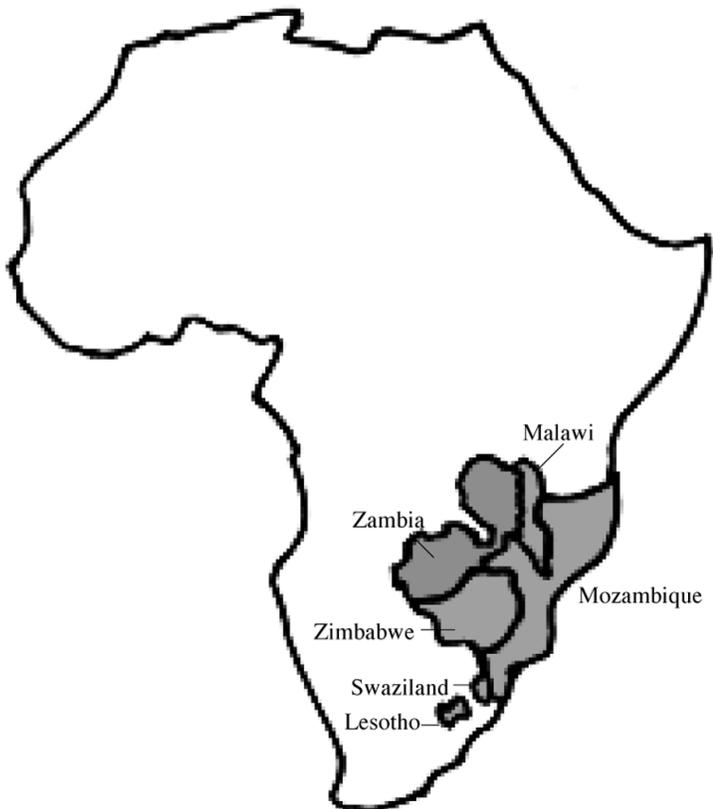
Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's longest drought in 20 years has contributed to staggering shortages, leaving five million in need of food aid. So-called "land reform" activities exacerbate the crisis, causing a near collapse of large-scale commercial farming. These crises come at a time of political instability, racial tensions, and economic upheavals.

Poor rural communities have been affected the most, along with the urban poor (there is a marked disparity between the wealthy and the poor in Harare and other cities). Also, because of President Mugabe's "land reform" policies, 825,000 commercial farm workers are out of work.

An estimated six million people will rely on food aid by the end of the year. The impact of the food crisis on everyday life can be seen in long lines for food. Families are forced to travel 70 kilometers to buy maize and are surviving on one meal a day. The government declared a state of disaster in April 2002.

—from *Mercy Corps International, the World Food Programme of the United Nations, the Hunger Site, and the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa*

—art courtesy of Brown University's World Hunger Program



What You May Not Know about Hunger, Poverty, and Malnutrition

Malnutrition is a general term that indicates a lack of some or all nutritional elements necessary for human health. **Protein-energy malnutrition (PEM)** is by far the most lethal form of malnutrition/hunger and the one referred to when world hunger is referred to. Children are its most visible victims. Malnutrition plays a role in at least half of the 10.9 million child deaths each year. These young children are prematurely—and needlessly—lost.

First recognized in the 20th century, PEM's full impact has been revealed only in recent decades. Infants and young children are most susceptible to PEM's characteristic growth impairment because of their high energy and protein needs, and their vulnerability to infection. Globally, children who are poorly nourished suffer up to 160 days of illness each year. Malnutrition magnifies the effect of every disease.

Protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) affects every fourth child worldwide: 150 million (26.7 percent) are underweight while 182 million (32.5 percent) are stunted. Geographically, more than 70 percent of PEM children live in Asia, 26 percent in Africa and 4 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their plight may well have begun even before birth with a malnourished mother.

The world produces enough food to feed everyone. World agriculture produces 17 percent more calories per person today than it did 30 years ago, despite a 70 percent population increase. This is enough to provide everyone in the world with at least 2,720 kilocalories (kcal) per person per day. The principal problem is that many people in the world do not have sufficient land to grow, or income to purchase, enough food.

Poverty is the principal cause of hunger. There are 1.2 billion poor people in developing countries who live on \$1 a day or less. Of these, 780 million suffer from chronic hunger, which means that their daily intake of calories is insufficient for them to lead active and healthy lives.

Extreme poverty remains an alarming



problem in the world's developing regions, despite the advances made in the 1990s. Progress in poverty reduction has been concentrated in Asia, and especially, East Asia. In all the other regions, the number of people in extreme poverty has increased. In sub-Saharan Africa, there were 58 million more poor people in 1999 than in 1990.

Hunger is also a cause of poverty. By leading to such effects as poor health, low levels of energy, and even mental impairment, hunger can lead to even greater poverty.

Conflict is a cause of hunger, but not the most frequent cause. Worldwide, there were some 21.5 million refugees and displaced persons in 1999 – largely as a result of wars, political turbulence, civil conflict and social unrest (e.g. Afghanistan, the Balkans, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, East Timor, Somalia and Sudan). In such emergencies, malnutrition runs rampant, exponentially increasing the risk of disease and death. But, important and visible though it is, conflict is not nearly as important as poverty as a cause of hunger.

Progress has been made in reducing the number of hungry people. There has been progress in reducing the number of hungry people, but it has been slow. The target set at the 1996 World Food Summit was to halve the number of undernourished people by 2015 from their number in 1990-

92. The latest data show that the number of undernourished is falling by 6 million a year. This means that the annual rate of reduction has to be stepped up to 22 million

A number of trace elements or micronutrients such as Vitamin A, iron, and iodine are important for health. Vitamin A deficiency can cause night blindness and reduces the body's resistance to disease. In children Vitamin A deficiency can cause growth retardation; an estimated 79 million preschool children suffered from Vitamin A deficiency in 1995. (*Micronutrient Report*, 2001 pp. 30-31). In South Asia and Africa, approximately 30 percent of children suffer from Vitamin A deficiency.

Iron deficiency is a principal cause of anemia. Two billion people—over 30 percent of the world's population—are anemic, mainly due to iron deficiency, and, in developing countries, frequently exacerbated by malaria and worm infections. For children, health consequences include premature birth, low birth weight, infections, and elevated risk of death. Later, physical and cognitive development are impaired, resulting in lowered school performance. For pregnant women, anemia contributes to 20 percent of all maternal deaths.

Iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) jeopardize children's mental health and often their very lives. Serious iodine deficiency during pregnancy may result in stillbirths, abortions and congenital abnormalities such as cretinism, a grave, irreversible form of mental retardation that affects people living in iodine-deficient areas of Africa and Asia. IDD also causes mental impairment that lowers intellectual prowess at home, at school, and at work. IDD affects over 740 million people, 13 percent of the world's population. Fifty million people have some degree of mental impairment caused by IDD. —from *Hunger Notes*, an online publication of the World Hunger Education Service, the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the Medline Plus Medical Encyclopedia. Art on this page is by Rebecca Ward.

Update: Hunger-Related Films from the San Damiano Foundation

The preliminary version of *When Did I See You Hungry?*, a beautiful, stark film by Gerard Thomas Straub, was reviewed in the Spring 2002 issue of *Hunger News & Hope* (see page 9.) The film has now been officially released with a new, stunning musical score and narration by Martin Sheen—both making it more powerful than ever. The film is available from the San Damiano Foundation for a \$20 donation.

Another compelling film by Straub is *We Have a Table for Four Ready*, about a feeding ministry in Philadelphia. For information about that film, go to the Holy Cross Family Ministries web site at www.hcfmstore.org.

Straub, a lay Franciscan who has a strong and diverse background in filmmaking, recently developed a film about ministries among lepers around the world and is working on book versions of some of this films.

For more information, contact the San Damiano Foundation at PO Box 1794, Burbank, CA 91507; Phone: 818/563-1947; Fax 818/508-0346; Email: Straubgt@aol.com.

New Bibliography on Poverty from Nova Science Publishers

World Poverty: A Bibliography with Indexes, published this year by Nova Science Publishers, is a useful tool for people who want to keep up with poverty situations around the world. In the preface, author Marie V. Lane writes, "The rich are indeed getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and more numerous as we begin the 21st century. Poverty carries with it such add-ons as high AIDS rates, almost nonexistent medical care and futures at least as bleak as Dickens could ever have imagined.

The book, which at press time was just arriving in university libraries, includes primarily the book literature available on poverty issues, although there is some periodical coverage. The information is searchable through author, title, and subject indexes. The ISBN number is 1-59033-298-9.

For more information, contact: Nova Science Publishers, Inc; 400 Oser Ave, Suite 1600; Hauppauge, NY 11788; Phone 631/231-7269; Fax: 631-231-8175; Email: Novascience@earthlink.net; Web: www.novapublishers.com.

Nineteenth Annual World Food Day Teleconference
October 16, 2002

**HUNGRY FARMERS:
A NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE FOR ALL**

The paradox of great hunger and poverty in rural areas and the potential for disorder and despair that this creates is the theme for the 2002 World Food Day satellite teleconference. The program will feature Prof. Michael Lipton, an international authority on the plight of the rural poor. Prof. Lipton serves as the head of the Sussex University Poverty Research Unit which he founded and was the Lead Scholar for the *2001 Rural Poverty Report* published by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The program will be broadcast live from the studios of George Washington University in Washington DC, **Wednesday, October 16th, from noon to 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time.** There are no restrictions on videotaping or re-broadcast.

For additional information on the World Food Day teleconference or other World Food Day resources please contact Patricia Young, National Coordinator.

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Instability in Colombia Hampering Aid Deliveries

MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA—With insecurity hampering the World Food Programme's efforts to deliver food aid to displaced persons in Colombia, the agency has called for all parties to respect international law guaranteeing the free movement of humanitarian aid.

The articles of the Geneva convention say that "persons outside of combat and those who do not take a direct part in hostilities are entitled to respect for their lives and physical and moral integrity." The articles go on to state that civilian populations and individuals are specifically protected from attack. Since January, however, WFP food aid convoys in Colombia have been stopped or robbed on more than 40 occasions.

Delays in food aid deliveries are affecting the agency's ability to reach its main beneficiaries in Colombia: malnourished infants; school children; pregnant & breastfeeding women; displaced persons who have fled recent attacks. "When food deliveries are delayed, vulnerable women and children go hungry," said Els Kocken, a WFP Colombia representative.

Deliveries to small, remote villages are the most vulnerable to insecurity, with the province of Antioquia particularly vulnerable to risk from illegal armed checkpoints, armed blockades, or common robbery. The roads linking Medellin-Quibdo, Medellin-

Bogota and Cartagena-Sincelejo, as well as around Barrancabermeja, are the most frequent targets.

The WFP was set to deliver 264 metric tons of food aid to over 53,000 people in 11 provinces in August. WFP Colombia provides food aid to 130,000 people displaced by violence through school feeding, assistance for pregnant and lactating mothers and food-for-work programmes.

—*from the World Food Programme of the United Nations*

CARE Act Compromise Finding Little Support in Senate

WASHINGTON, DC—A proposed law intended to stimulate charitable giving and make it easier for religious and other community-service organizations to do charitable work is getting a lukewarm response in the U.S. Senate.

The White House is supporting the CARE (Charity, Aid, Recovery and Empowerment) Act, sponsored by Senators Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) and Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.), as a compromise with President Bush's much-touted "faith-based initiative."

Democratic critics, however, say the bill is little more than a watered-down version of a controversial "Community Solutions Act" passed last year along party lines in the House of Representatives.

At a "mark-up" session this summer, Senate Republicans criticized the Santorum-

Lieberman bill for not expanding "charitable choice" programs, making it easier for churches and religious charities to receive government funds.

Other critics were skeptical that the bill's centerpiece, which would allow non-itemizing taxpayers to deduct charitable donations between \$250 and \$500 from their taxable income, would do much to stimulate giving.

"I am concerned that this deduction won't provide much incentive for charitable giving and will make the tax code more complicated," said Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) Baucus, chairman of the mark-up committee, said a similar approach was tried in 1986, but charitable giving did not increase much.

On the other hand, America's Second Harvest (ASH) has expressed strong support of the bill, saying that the Good Samaritan provision of the CARE Act (formerly the Good Samaritan Tax Incentive Act) is absolutely vital to increased hunger-relief assistance.

A spokesperson for ASH said that the bill, especially the "Good Sam" provision, encourages charitable giving by creating incentives for individuals, businesses and foundations to donate to charitable causes. "These incentives can generate significant additional funding for charities," the spokesperson said, "... which have been required to provide increased services with scarce resources during an economic slowdown and the aftermath of 9/11.

—*from America's Second Harvest and Associated Baptist Press*

U.S. Violent Crimes Decrease While Hunger and Homelessness Increase

NORTH MANCHESTER, INDIANA—A trio of Manchester College researchers discovered that the country's hungry population nearly doubled and the homeless population increased by an alarming 45 percent from 1995 to 2000.

For the third consecutive year, researchers Dr. James Brumbaugh-Smith, Dr. Neil

You emptied yourself to enter the city, and though your coming may not make it good, it makes you cry, and there you are. In the oily streets, damp with rain and human sin, lit by a single light, I see your face reflected. O God, your incarnation's in the streets. I see the city, and I cannot help but see you.
—Walter Wangerin, Jr., *Ragman and Other Cries of Faith*



art by Sharon Rollins

Wollman, and Dr. Brad Yoder have released the National Index of Violence and Harm, which compares data from 19 different variables from 1996 to 2000—the most recent years of available data—to 1995.

Wollman (the senior fellow of the college's Peace Studies Institute) said, "After examining trends in the hungry and homeless populations from 1990 onward, we speculate that at least some of the increase is due to welfare law changes in 1996. How much can't be determined by our analysis."

The index is divided into two categories: personal and societal. The personal scale includes measures traditionally associated with violent acts, such as batteries, sexual assaults and homicides, while the societal scale includes measures such as hunger, air pollution, and infant mortality. The latter don't involve physical attacks, but result in individuals being hurt physically or sometimes psychologically. "Societal harm and violence is not as visible or dramatic as personal violence, but it can be just as devastating and typically affects more people," Wollman said.

Notwithstanding any personal responsibility that the homeless and hungry must take for their plight, the researchers consider these populations to be two indicators of "social negligence," or the way our nation has neglected and harmed its citizens. Social negligence, which also includes measures of inadequate health care and education, grew as a whole by nearly 30 percent during the time studied.

While government-related indicators (such as capital punishment, deaths by police intervention, and civil rights complaints) had generally been increasing from 1995 to 1999, this trend abated, at least temporarily, in 2000.

However, the news is not all bad. In addition to the well publicized drop in street crime (homicides and robberies down more than 30 percent each*), the researchers found other encouraging results, with significant improvement in several societal areas: infant mortality; child abuse; hate crimes; and poverty disparity between whites and racial minorities, as well as between age groups).

And corporate-related indicators also had a significant downward trend, mainly due to drops in occupational injuries/illnesses and in occupational fatalities.

Interestingly, this good news-bad news result showed up even in ways that people harm themselves. Deaths attributable to smoking increased, while suicides/self injury and fatalities from alcohol went down.

Overall, the researchers' analysis reveals that personal harm and violence have decreased significantly since 1995, while the societal index has remained relatively stable. "It's remained stable because some measures have increased and others have decreased," Wollman said. "It's good, of course, that personal violence has gone down. But our society and societal institutions still tolerate harm to some segments of our population."

—from *Manchester College*. For details about the index, visit www.manchester.edu/academic/programs/departments/peace_studies/vi/index.htm.

*FBI figures recently released for 2001 show an increase in homicides for the first time in many years. This, of course, will be reflected in next year's index.



art by Sharon Rollins

Americans Waste More than 21 Million Tons a Year

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Jell-O mud-wrestling, egg-throwing contests and bowling with frozen turkeys may be recreation to some people but to a former missionary who has seen hunger firsthand, these games are not fun—they are wasteful.

One in 10 households in the United States is living with hunger or is at risk of

hunger, while about 27 percent of America's food gets thrown away. That means more than 300 pounds of food per person end up in the waste can every year.

In the United States, 31 million people, including 12 million children, live in households where people have to skip meals or eat less to preserve their limited food supply.

In other parts of the world, the issue of hunger is much more serious. According to statistics released by Bread for the World, a nonprofit group lobbying against world hunger, more than 800 million people in the world go hungry. In developing countries, 6 million children die each year, mostly from hunger-related causes. More than 780 million people in the developing world are malnourished.

Yet U.S. Americans will deposit 21,380 million tons of food in landfills this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA estimates the disposal costs of food exceed \$1 billion in local tax funds annually.

Churches, schools, businesses and communities are signing up with a new USDA effort to recover and redistribute food. "Waste Not Want Not" is a campaign that reduces waste by recovering unwanted food to feed the hungry. The campaign encourages businesses to donate extra food and for states and municipalities to formally build food donations into their waste reduction and prevention plans.

Nonperishable food and wholesome, unspoiled, perishable food can be donated to local food banks, soup kitchens and shelters. Local and national food recovery programs frequently offer free pickup and provide reusable containers to donors.

Food unfit for human consumption can be converted in animal feed. Some companies are developing ways to recycle human foods that are not animal products into the feed. Appropriate excess food may also be provided to zoos to feed select animals. The USDA says that excess food can be recovered and recycled for industrial purposes and composting to improve soil fertility.

—from a story by Ray Furr in *EthicsDaily.com*, a publication of the *Baptist Center for Ethics*.

