

Hunger News & Hope

...a Seeds of Hope publication

Litany for the Hungry Crowd

by Katie Cook

LEADER: We pray to the God of hope today, our hearts heavy with care—for our families and friends in pain and sorrow; for brothers and sisters in our own country without food and shelter; for the dying children of famine-stricken countries; for the innocent victims of political turmoil all over the world.

PEOPLE: God, we call upon you for their sakes. We have felt pain for them. We have shed tears for them. We come to you again with a prayer in our hearts and on our lips for these suffering ones. We lift them up for your gift of healing.

LEADER: We also realize that you called us to put our caring into action. We know that you have called us to share our portion. But we see so much need that we hardly know where to begin. We ask that you would show us the way.

PEOPLE: We are like the hungry crowd, the five thousand who sat before you that day long ago. But our hunger is mostly spiritual, and our want is not so keen as that of others.

LEADER: You are the source of all good gifts. Feed our hungry souls, that we may be able to share from our gifts.

PEOPLE: We are like the Twelve were on that day of the great feeding. We are caught up in our own needs. We would send the crowd away.

LEADER: Forgive us for our selfish motives. Help us to see that your ways are higher than our ways, and that there is a way to feed the multitudes.

PEOPLE: Make us like the little boy who shared his tiny lunch. And make us like Andrew, who believed that such a small portion could make a difference.

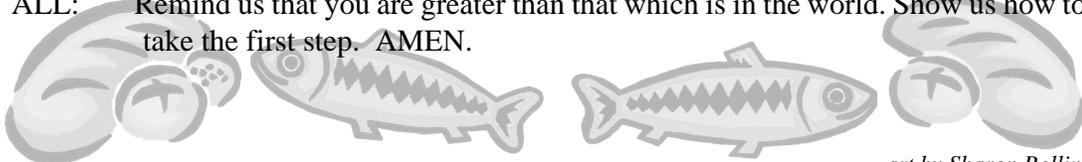
LEADER: Deliver us from the “wisdom” of the world that tells us there is no hope. Remind us that you are their hope, that you are our hope.

PEOPLE: Bring that hope into our hearts today, we pray. Take our tiny portions and use them to feed the many. Take our tired efforts and use them to ease the pain.

ALL: Remind us that you are greater than that which is in the world. Show us how to take the first step. AMEN.

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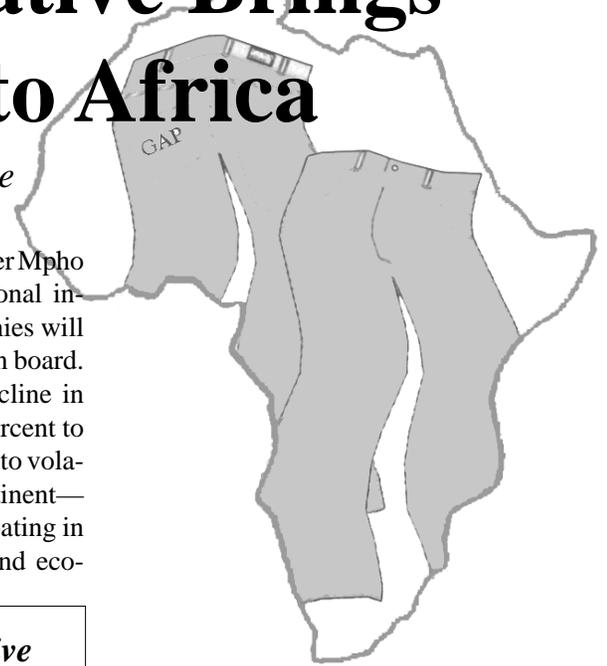
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art by Sharon Rollins

Recent Trade Initiative Brings Mixed Success to Africa

by Sarah MacIlvaine



JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA—Next time you check your Gap trousers label to see if they can handle a watery tumble to cleanliness rather than costly dry cleaning, check to see where they were made. Don't be surprised if you find they were manufactured in Africa.

Two years ago, the U.S. Congress passed a trade initiative called the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. In those two

economy. Lesotho's Trade Minister Mpho Malie is confident that international investments from reputable companies will encourage local investors to get on board.

However, because of the decline in Africa's global trade from five percent to two percent since the 1960s—due to volatile prices and conflicts on the continent—the 36 countries currently participating in AGOA have had to provide sound eco-

Two years ago, the U.S. Congress passed a trade initiative called the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. In those two years, AGOA has opened the door of one of the world's largest markets to goods from the poorest continent by cutting tariffs on African imports for almost 2,000 different products.

years, AGOA has opened the door of one of the world's largest markets to goods from the poorest continent by cutting tariffs on African imports for almost 2,000 different products. It has also given textile industries in dozens of African countries direct investments from large Western corporations, including Gap, Wrangler, and Wal-Mart.

"AGOA is helping to transform the economic landscape throughout Africa," South Africa's U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said in a statement. "It is stimulating new trading opportunities for the region's businesses and entrepreneurs, creating jobs for people who have never worked for a weekly wage, and bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment to some of the poorest parts of the world."

Zoellick mirrors the sentiments of officials from the Kingdom of Lesotho (the small country encircled by South Africa), who are increasingly excited about what AGOA investments are doing to jumpstart their country's desperately poor

economic and human rights records in order to be considered eligible. So while some nations have acquired huge profits from the initiative, others have found it almost impossible to participate.

Textile exports have quadrupled in Kenya under AGOA, and in South Africa—home of the continent's strongest economy—21 percent of their total exports have been AGOA-funded. Yet nations like Senegal and Nigeria, with struggling economies and reputations for corruption, are having little to no success attracting investments. "Nigeria is losing several millions of dollars in potential American investments under AGOA due to a lack of organization, negative image and scam activities," said Washington-based Nigerian trade consultant Emanuel Ogebe.

Nevertheless, T-shirts and trousers enter Gap stores in the West from African factories in droves. Workers earn about \$68 a month for a nine-hour-a-day, five-day-a-week schedule, not including bonuses. There are complaints that the wages

are not high enough, and above the steady hum of conversation during lunch breaks, grievances rise against forced overtime hours and occasional work on Saturdays that barely create a living wage.

Despite complaints, such jobs are still prized in places where the average income is about \$400 a year, and many factory owners have worker committees that regularly meet to resolve workplace issues and to create a more amiable environment for workers. Still, most fair trade advocates call for a boycott of transnational stores like Gap.

Overall, the new trade initiative has brought mixed success to Africa, but things are still in the works for AGOA. U.S. trade representatives met early last summer with African government ministers in Mauritius—an island nation off Africa's eastern coast—to discuss the accomplishments of the initiative over the past two years, and to brainstorm about how to further expand the investment into other nations across the continent. Hopefully the results of that meeting will increase jobs and wages for workers in Africa's growing economies.

—Source: *South Africa's Mail & Guardian*. Sarah MacIlvaine is a freelance writer based in London, England and a former *Seeds of Hope* intern.

A Summer Day Camp on Hunger? What Kind of Crazy Idea is That?

by Megan Sims and Katie Cook

It had started out to be just an innocent lunch in Waco, Texas. We had met to kick around ideas for a one-day-a-week summer camp for the elementary-aged children of Seventh & James Baptist Church. We realized that, when planning summer activities for children, one usually considers amusement parks, zoos, movies, and all kinds of lively attractions. But Megan, the interim children's minister, wanted to do something a little different.

Megan said that she wanted to spend the time touring local nonprofit organizations that deal specifically with issues of hunger and poverty. We talked about the need to make missions a part of the children's church curriculum *before* they reach the youth group and go on mission trips. We discussed the vast resources within our own church and community for teaching the children hunger and poverty awareness. So why not create a program that not only teaches hunger and poverty awareness, but also brings the children into contact with the programs and people that work in social ministries locally?

So the *Hungry for Hope* day camp was created. On Fridays during the summer, the children met at nine in the morning at the church. They came with sack lunches, sunscreen, bug spray, and an eagerness to learn and do missions work.

On the first day we issued *Hungry for Hope* press credentials (laminated and complete with a Polaroid photo identification) which they wore around their necks. We also issued notebooks and pencils, explaining that they were now reporters for a new publication, and that, in August, we would compile their stories, drawings, and photos into a newsletter.

We began each day by learning about what it means to be hungry. The children completed short hunger simulations in

which they learned how their own country compares with others and how a person with little money must live. The kids also studied the different definitions associated with hunger and developed their own ways of understanding what the word *hungry* means. (See page 5 for information about *The Children's Hunger Educational Kit*, the resource we used for this.)

After the classroom time each Friday, the children went to an organization in the city for hands-on missions experience. On the first day the group traveled to the Central Texas Senior Ministry (CTSM) to see the central kitchen for Meals on Wheels. As one carload arrived at the building, one of the children rallied the others, saying,
(continued on page 4)

Below are some brief samples from Hungry for Hope:

The Meals on Wheels Trip

Today we went to the Meals on Wheels place. We helped Megan's mom and another woman. We delivered meals to people who can't go out and buy the food, and other things. First we went and saw how they make the food they deliver. There they had a big steaming pot and big ovens that bring their food. We came back to church and ate lunch and wrote a paper. The End
—written by Amber Anderson

Hunger Farm Facts

Today we went to the World Hunger Farm. We first went to an average house. 12 to 18 people live in one house. It is very cramped. It is about 1/8 of the size of the house we live in. We also did things. We collected eggs and ate watermelon and drank raw goats milk. The watermelon was yellow and much sweeter because it was fresh.
—written by John Harvey

For Caritas

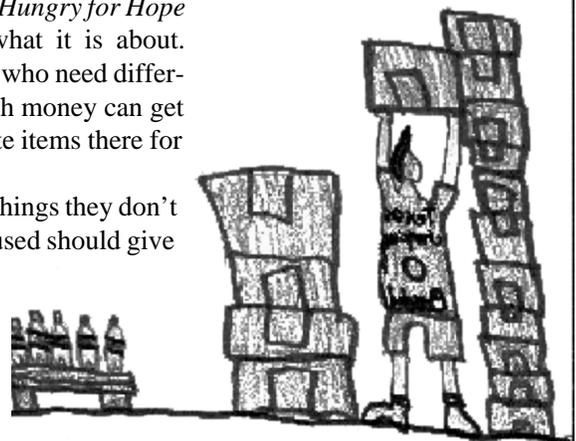
There may be some hungry people in the world, but not as many because of the fact that Caritas cares.

Today when the kids from *Hungry for Hope* went to Caritas they found what it is about. Caritas is a place where people who need different items but don't have enough money can get them for free. People can donate items there for other people.

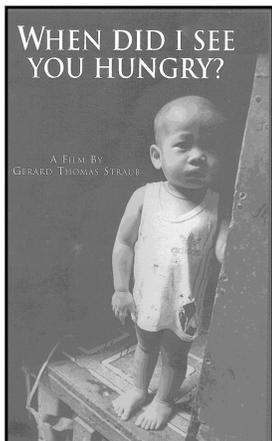
I advise anybody who has things they don't need anymore that still can be used should give it to Caritas.

—written by Talj Tatum

—art, "Working at Caritas,"
by William Underwood



When Did I See You Hungry? Now Available in Three Forms



The stunning and moving documentary, *When Did I See You Hungry?* by Gerard Thomas Straub is now available in three forms. The film, narrated by Martin Sheen, is available on VHS and DVD from the San Damiano Foundation, PO Box 1794; Burbank, CA 91507; 818/563-1947; Straubgt@aol.com (\$20 for the VHS and \$30 for the DVD.) The photos from the film have also been beautifully arranged into a large book, available from St. Anthony Messenger Press (\$29.95, ISBN 0-86716-502-2; www.AmericanCatholic.org.)

In order to collect these photographs, Straub spent several months living among poor people in impoverished sections of 28 cities (eight countries) and photographing them in what is described as “intensely personal” images.

Below is an excerpt from the HNH review of the film by Katie Cook:

The images are stark and compelling, but not desolate. Even stronger than the images, though, is the gentle compassion of the photographer that somehow comes through these portraits. Each person whose image we see is introduced to the viewer—not as a person whose plight is exploited or even thrown at us to induce repentance, but as a brother or sister whose dignity has somehow survived all the deprivation and suffering. (Hunger News & Hope, Vol 4 No 2, Spring 2002, page 9)

The book is divided into four parts. The first, “A Photographic Meditation,” consists of more than 70 black-and-white photos, ending with an essay by Franciscan poet and priest Murray Bodo. The second part, “A Meditation in Images and Words,” consist of almost 200 photos accompanied by stories or reflections. Part Three, “A Textual Meditation” presents dozens of spiritual writings about responding to poverty. The last section, “A Photographer’s Journal,” is taken from the personal journal Straub kept while taking the photographs.

When Did I See You Hungry? is one of the most powerful resources available for hunger education in spiritual settings. It is a profound reminder of the humanity of those people for whom we educate and advocate—and why we do it.

—HNH staff

Interfaith Group Releases New Edition of *Hunger No More*

Representatives from major religious groups have collaborated to produce a new edition of *Hunger No More*, a packet of educational materials designed for congregations. The new resource follows the group’s successful collaboration on *Hunger No More: Decisions 2002*.

The new edition is designed to help parishes discuss long-term issues related to hunger, poverty, and powerlessness in the U.S. and developing world. The theme comes from Revelation 7:16: “They shall hunger no more.”

The kit includes a six-session leader’s guide for adults and youth, handouts for each unit, and a poster. The materials are supported by a web site: www.hungernomore.org. The site provides additional children’s activities, links to helpful stories and resources, and updates on poverty news. The complete packet is available for \$5 from www.bread.org or www.hungernomore.org. For information, contact Bread for the World: 50 F Street NW Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001; 202/639-9400.

Summer Day Camp on Hunger, continued from page 3

“Let’s go get a story.” A CTSM staff member led the group in a tour of the facility, and the children immediately whipped out their notebooks and started asking questions, taking copious notes. The tour guide was astonished and delighted.

The children then delivered meals and talked (and sang, in one case) with Meals on Wheels recipients. During other Fridays they washed vans at Mission Waco, pulled weeds at the World Hunger Relief farm, and sorted food in the Caritas of Waco food warehouse. After returning from the mission encounters each week, the children ate lunch and worked on their stories. Their businesslike attitude and enthusiasm for creating a newsletter was surprising and contagious.

In August, the children presented a program for the church and distributed copies of *Hungry for Hope*, composed of *their* page designs, drawings, photos, and stories. The response from the church and from the host organizations was overwhelmingly positive.

At the beginning, we might easily have questioned the sanity of taking children into the heat of a Central Texas summer to do missions work. However, looking back, we realize that no theme park or movie could surpass our experiences. The kids pleaded to return to these organizations to do more mission work. What better response to a program could we want than the desire to learn and do more?

—Megan Sims is a student at Chandler Divinity School in Atlanta, Georgia and Katie Cook is the *Seeds of Hope* editor. Seventh and James is the community of faith that houses the *Seeds* offices.

Editor’s note: We have just begun this series on “What One Church Can Do.” We’d love to hear from other churches who are trying new ways to make a difference.

Aid Distributions Begin in War-Torn Liberia

MONROVIA, LIBERIA—After more than a decade of civil war, culminating in several weeks of brutal fighting this summer, Liberians are now beginning to truly hope for peace. By the time the ceasefire was brokered and President Taylor left the country, hundreds of people were dead in the capital city and tens of thousands displaced.

Throughout the war, hundreds of thousands of Liberians have been displaced—some 300,000 people in Monrovia alone, plus another half million throughout the country. New reports indicate that fighting has again broken out in some parts of the country, including the second largest city, Buchanan.

Because of all this, the Liberian people are in dire need of food and supplies. Action by Churches Together International (ACT) workers say that the needs are

basic: food, clean drinking water, plastic sheeting, blankets, toothpaste, and cooking utensils. Fortunately, with the recent peace accords, delivery systems are now possible.

ACT partners in Liberia include the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC), Lutheran World Federation's World Service (LWF-WS), Lutheran Church of Liberia, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)—along with local partners Concerned Christian Community (CCC) and YMCA Liberia, as well as Christian Health Association Liberia. A Norwegian Church Aid water and sanitation team is also helping with needs assessments.

Today, Monrovia alone still has some 110 locations crammed with displaced people—all live under appalling conditions, according to ACT workers.

Refugee camps near the outskirts of the city, though largely cut off from

Monrovia during the worst of the fighting, are not faring any better. As rebels took command of strategic bridges linking the countryside to the city, residents of the camps, who had already fled their homes countless times before, were once again forced to run. Chilling stories are now coming out of these camps. People have been subjected to violence and desperate hunger—many being forced to eat leaves. In the city, some resorted to eating dogs.

However, with the emergency aid assessments near completion, distribution of basic items has already started. Material aid sent by ACT members in Europe and North America is reaching the most vulnerable people—women, children, and the elderly. The small relief parcels contain a blanket or quilt, a bar of soap, a towel, toothbrush and toothpaste, high protein biscuits, and—for new mothers and babies—layettes.

—*from an ACT story by Callie Long*

The Effect of Hunger on U.S. Children

- Widespread hunger has been documented in all 50 states in the U.S. 33 million Americans, including nearly 13 million children, are hungry or living on the very edge of hunger.

—*Mazon, a Jewish response to hunger*

- The percentage of American children living in poverty is now more than double that of other major industrialized nations.

—*UNICEF*

- The average age of homeless persons in the U.S. is seven years. One in four of the people in soup kitchen lines are children.

—*America's Second Harvest*

- Hungry children can't learn. Mounting evidence shows that children who come to school hungry cannot concentrate and have higher rates of academic failure, setting the stage for a downward spiral later in life.

—*Mazon, a Jewish response to hunger*

- Recent scientific studies link inadequate food and poor developmental outcomes in U.S. children. Food-insecure children are one-third more likely to be hospitalized than food-secure children.

- Scientific research has also linked food insecurity to emotional and behavioral impacts. Children who are at risk for food insecurity are more likely to have poorer mental health, to be withdrawn or socially disruptive, and to exhibit behavioral disorders.

—*The Center on Hunger and Poverty, along with Brandeis University, "The Consequence of Hunger and Food Insecurity for Children"*



September 2003 Report: Nearly Half of Newly Poor are Children

WASHINGTON, DC—According to a recent USDA report, 33.6 million people—including almost 13 million children—live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. This represents about one in ten households in the U.S. The USDA reported that 3.3 percent of U.S. households *actually experience* hunger. Some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too little, sometimes going without food for a whole day. This comes to 9 million people, including 3 million children.

In addition, the USDA says that 7.4 percent of U.S. households are *at risk of hunger*. Members of these households have lower quality diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need. This group numbers 24.6 million people, including 9.7 million children. The report says that the number of food-insecure people in this country has consistently risen since 2000.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that unemployment rates have also risen: in 2001, the rate was 4.8 percent. In 2002, it jumped to 5.7 percent.

A U.S. Census Bureau survey, released in early September, found that 1.4 million people fell into poverty in 2002—with nearly half of them being children. 12.2 million children were found to be under the poverty line last year, almost a million more than the previous year. The total poverty population in the U.S. went up from 33.4 million to 34.8 million.

The report also noted that the number of people employed in the manufacturing industry dropped by almost five percent, along with slight decreases in the retail trade, information, transportation, and warehousing industries.

—Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Statistics, USDA, *America's Second Harvest, Bread for the World*

U.S. Power Outage Lays Mountains of Food to Waste

NEW YORK, NY—The recent blackout in the eastern U.S. turned out to be costly to the area's food banks—and thus to hungry people in that region. Representatives of America's Second Harvest (ASH) reported in August that about 15 million pounds of perishable food may have spoiled in the freezers of its food bank affiliates in New York, New Jersey, Michigan, and Ohio.

The ASH network includes over 1,000 feeding programs in New York City alone.

ASH staff immediately began calling for help to restock the warehouses that lost food. "This is a disaster," said Susan Hofer. "We need help to restock fruits, vegetables, fish, poultry and dairy products."

Supermarkets and restaurants, on the Friday after the blackout began on Thursday, threw away mountains of spoiled vegetables, meats, and dairy products. Meanwhile, many families across the Midwest and Northeast had to scrounge as thousands of soup kitchens were forced to close or to reduce the amount of food distributed.

—from a Reuters story by Ellis Mnyandu and Ransdell Pierson

World Still Largely Unaware of Ukrainian Famine

PRAGUE—A famine purportedly engineered by the United Soviet Socialist Republic regime of Josef Stalin 70 years ago claimed between seven and 11 million lives, mostly in Ukraine. Though today it is considered by some to be an act of genocide and one of the worst atrocities of the regime, the Ukrainian famine of 1933 is relatively unknown to the world.

The realities of the famine were obscured until the last few years by the fact that many Soviet records remained classified, even after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Also, many people believed the stories of *New York Times* correspondent Walter Duranty, who had received the Pulitzer Prize in 1932 for coverage of the Soviet economy. In 1933 Duranty refuted journalists' reports of starvation in Ukraine.

British historian Robert Conquest's 1986 study of the famine, *Harvest of Sorrow*, brought much information about the famine to Western audiences for the first time. Conquest suggests that Duranty knew of the deaths, but was under duress from the Stalin regime to deny it. Members of the Ukrainian diaspora, as well as Ukrainian politicians and academics, have now launched a campaign to have Duranty's award posthumously revoked.

—from a story for Radio Free Europe by Askold Krushelnycky.

AUSTIN, TEXAS—In the last year, former journalist Kendall Klym wrote a novel as a part of a Masters program in creative writing. His research for the novel, about a young American boy of Ukrainian descent, brought him to new information about the famine. The following excerpt comes from *Sidestepping*, Klym's novel-in-progress. The title of the chapter that begins with this information is "Starving."

STARVING

In *Fraud, Famine, and Fascism*, Canadian author Douglas Tuttle says that Ukrainian nationalists made up the idea of a 1932-33 famine in Soviet-occupied Ukraine. Specifically, he denies the claim that Joseph Stalin's collectivization of Ukrainian farms led to a brutal campaign in which Soviet Communists confiscated enough food to directly cause the starvation of as many as seven million Ukrainians.

The Executive Summary of the Commission on the Ukraine Famine, submitted to the United States Congress on April 22, 1988, unequivocally recognizes the famine and the millions of deaths related to it. It cites the Soviet seizure of the 1932 agricultural crop—from wheat to eggs—as the undeniable cause, and notes that the U.S. Government had "ample and timely information about the famine but failed to take any steps to ameliorate the situation." The report also includes a special note that certain members of the American press corps cooperated with the Soviet government to deny the existence of the famine.

In a March 29, 2003, *Washington Post* article, the Ukrainian Congressional Committee of America demands that the Pulitzer Prize, given to former *New York Times* Moscow correspondent Walter Duranty, be revoked. The celebrated journalist received worldwide acclaim for a series of articles praising Stalin's five-year economic plan in the early '30s, while denying the famine.

—Kendall Klym is a 2003 MFA-Fiction graduate from Southwest Texas State University. A former professional ballet dancer and journalist, Kendall teaches English at Friends University in Mission, Kansas.



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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

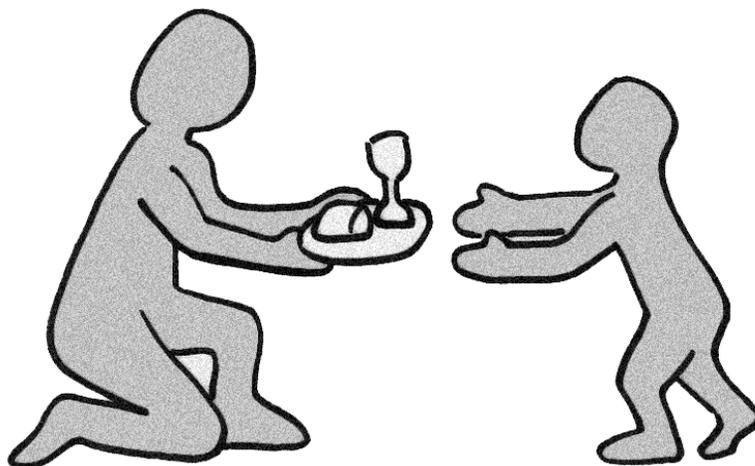
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quotes, poems, & pithy sayings



art by Sharon Rollins

Where there is love and wisdom,
there is neither fear nor ignorance;
where there is patience and humility,
there is neither anger nor annoyance;
where there is poverty and joy,
there is neither greed nor avarice;
where there is peace and contemplation,
there is neither care nor restlessness;
where there is the fear of God to guard the dwelling,
there no enemy can enter;
where there is mercy and prudence,
there is neither excess nor harshness.

—*Francis of Assisi*

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

—*from the Talmud*

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

—*Mohandas K. Gandhi*

Love is the one business in which it pays to be an absolute spendthrift: give it away; throw it away; splash it over; empty your pockets; shake the basket; and tomorrow you'll have more than ever.

—*Author Unknown*

I have a dream that one day, in the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood... This is our hope. This is our faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

—*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Seeds of Hope also produces *Sacred Seasons*, quarterly packets of worship materials for the liturgical year—with an economic justice attitude. These include litanies, sermons, children's and youth activities, bulletin art, and drama.

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