

# Hunger News & Hope

... a Seeds of Hope publication

## Yunus, Grameen Bank Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, NORWAY—In October, the Nobel Committee awarded the Grameen Bank—and its founder, Muhammad Yunus—the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, “for their efforts to create economic and social development from below.”

The committee’s statement said, “Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty. Microcredit is one such means. Development from below also serves to advance democracy and human rights.”

Yunus—a doctoral graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN—was teaching advanced economic theories at the University of Chittagong in southern Bangladesh, when the infamous famine of 1974 hit his country.

In his book, *Banker to the Poor*, (written with Alan Jolis) Professor Yunus said that he tried at first to ignore all of the skeleton-like people who were showing up in the capital city of Dhaka. But they kept coming, and he soon became disenchanted with the “elegant economic theories” he was teaching. In fact, he said that he began to dread his own lectures.

In response to what he saw, Yunus went to the nearby village of Jobra and worked on several ideas with his students for improving the economic conditions there. He discovered that one of the many ideas he tried was more successful than the rest—giving small loans to very poor people, without collateral, for tiny business enterprises.

In 1976, he loaned \$27 to each of 42 fami-

lies. He believed that they could create small items with this money, for sale, without the burdens of predatory lending.

He also believed that making similar loans available to a wide population could help relieve the poverty then rampant in rural Bangladesh.

The Grameen Bank (literally, “Bank of the Villages,” in *Bangla*) is the outgrowth of this experiment. Yunus founded the Bank as a research project, in partnership with the university, to test this method for providing credit and banking services to the rural poor. The project was immensely successful.

In 1979, the government helped to introduce the project to the Tangail District (north of Dhaka, the capital). The Bank’s success continued, and it soon spread to various other districts. In 1983 it was transformed into an independent bank by the Bangladesh legislature. The project continues to expand across the country and still provides small loans to the rural poor.

In 1989 the new initiatives became so numerous that the Bank began to establish them as separate organizations. Programs like the Grameen Fisheries Foundation, the Grameen Krishi Foundation (for irrigation projects), and the Grameen Trust (which took on the international replication and health programs) are all connected under the Grameen Family of Organizations. By the middle of this year, Grameen branches numbered more than 2,100.

The Grameen model is the basis for some  
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# Grameen,

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250 microcredit and self-help group systems now at work in more than 100 countries. Within the Grameen system, a group of five individuals borrows money, but the whole group is denied further credit if one person defaults.

This creates economic incentives for the group to act responsibly and increases Grameen's economic viability. (Grameen's pay-back rate is more than 98 percent.) Its success has inspired a global microenterprise movement.

The Grameen Bank is now owned by its borrowers, most of whom are women of low income. In a country in which few women are allowed loans from commercial banks, 97 percent of Grameen's loan recipients are women. More than half of Grameen borrowers (close to 50 million) have risen out

of acute poverty thanks to their loans.

What this means is that all of their children of school age are in school, all household members are eating three meals a day. In addition, they have sanitary toilets, rainproof houses, clean drinking water, and the ability to repay 300 *takas* a week (about US\$8).

The Grameen Bank is hailed by economists and political scientists as one of the most important developments in the developing world in the last 100 years.

Yunus is the first Bangladeshi to win the prestigious Nobel award. The 65-year-old said he would use part of his share of the \$1.4 million prize to create a company to make low-cost, high-nutrition food for the poor, and sell it for a nominal price. The rest would go toward setting up an eye hospital for the poor in Bangladesh, he said. —sources: the Grameen Bank ([www.grameen-info.org](http://www.grameen-info.org)), the Nobel Foundation ([www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org)), "The New Heroes" and "Banking on People," PBS Online Newshour, Public Broadcasting System ([www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)). See also the Grameen Foundation in Washington, DC ([www.grameenfoundation.org](http://www.grameenfoundation.org)).



## A New Hunger Glossary

*from Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger*

**1. Malnutrition.** A broad term for a range of conditions that hinder good health, caused by inadequate or unbalanced food intake or from poor absorption of food consumed. Refers to both undernutrition and overnutrition—conditions of both deprivation and excess.

**2. Undernutrition.** The result of prolonged low level of food intake and/or low absorption of food consumed.

**3. Undernourishment.** The status of persons whose food intake regularly provides less than their minimum energy requirements.

**4. Chronically undernourished.** Those whose estimated annual energy intake falls below that required to maintain body weight and support light activity.

**5. Micronutrient deficiency.** Lack of essential vitamins and minerals resulting from unbalanced food intake and specific problems of absorption of food consumed.

**6. Micronutrient malnutrition.** Refers to vitamin and mineral deficiency disorders. Often occurs as part of general undernutrition due primarily to overall inadequate food

intakes (through poor access to foods that are good sources of these nutrients or poor dietary habits).

**7. Overnutrition.** Result of excessive food intake in relation to energy requirements.

**8. Food security.** Exists when all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

**9. Food insecurity.** Exists when people lack access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food, and therefore are not consuming enough for an active and healthy life. This may be due to the unavailability of food, inadequate purchasing power, or inappropriate utilization at the household level.

Note: Energy requirements are determined by body size, activity level and physiological conditions such as illness, infection, pregnancy, and lactation.

—adapted from a 2006 statement by Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger, partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

# *Iraqis Face Crippling Cycle of Violence and Poverty*

by Meredith Mull

## ***Poverty on the Rise Since Beginning of War***

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—Violence and deteriorating security cause a host of problems for today's Iraq, diminishing the country's integrity and hope for food security. Unemployment, displacement, and lack of basic needs were identified as problem areas for the country in several IRIN reports in the last few weeks.

More than 60 percent of Iraqis are unemployed, according to reports by NGOs that have been confirmed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. As more children leave school for work to supplement their parents' income, Iraq's state of affairs becomes graver.

Since the 2003 US occupation of Iraq, it seems that concerns have only increased, including a 35 percent increase among those living below the poverty line. IRIN reported that 5.6 million live under the poverty line, and that 40 percent of those live in absolute poverty, with no access to basic human needs.

Like drug dealing and prostitution in the United States and other nations, terrorism is often the last resort for the unemployed in Iraq. Terrorism is the manifestation of violence as the beginning and end of Iraqi problems.

## ***Violence Is a Way of Life***

Reaching into the deepest grooves of Iraqi society, violence brings about an inability to cope with a wide range of concerns. Violence breeds fear among Iraqis as they are pushed away from sources of hope or comfort.

NGOs report that parents are afraid to send their children to school and families are compelled to flee their homes. Insurgent violence has forced others out of their homes or out of the country, leaving startling numbers of internally displaced persons and refugees.

The Ministry of Education reports that only 30 percent of Iraq's 3.5 million students are currently attending class—the worst attendance since the US-led invasion in 2003. Insurgent bombings and threats have forced the closure of many schools.

Delaying hope for many of these Iraqis, donors to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) have drastically scaled back their contributions for 2007.

According to UNHCR, more than 1.5 million Iraqis are internally displaced and 1.6 million are refugees in neighboring countries—the largest displacement of any UNHCR project in the world. Yet with barely half of the agency's already insufficient budget, the future looks grim.

Refugees who still face unemployment and little support in their destination countries. Refugees come for safety to countries like Syria and Jordan, with few or no resources, and then face unemployment and lack of support there.

For many, there seems to be little escape from the spread of violence. Iraqi Christians and media workers are among those targeted by militants. Letters and intimidating leaflets predict increasing danger for Christians, who are now calling on the international religious community to help them leave Iraq.

Though the number of threats has increased since Pope Benedict XVI's September comments about Muslims, this violence has been ongoing. Iraqi journalists and media workers also face continued threats.

## ***Disrupted Infrastructure***

Iraq faces a seemingly endless cycle of sectarian violence and deteriorating security. Violence leads to unemployment, which leads to poverty, which leads to decreased access to basic necessities—all of which lead back to violence and insecurity

as some Iraqis turn to desperate measures to provide for their families.

This vicious cycle also brings grief to Iraqis who are not involved in the violence. A disrupted infrastructure brings about a number of hardships.

According to IRIN, Iraqis typically have only a few hours of power a day, no clean water, and little infrastructure support. Broken sewage pipes are normal. Although the US and Iraqi governments promised 6,000 projects to repair and upgrade infrastructure after the 2003 occupation, only 35 percent have actually been completed.

A monetary inflation of 30 percent in the past year has also strained the budgets of Iraqis. In a population of 30 million, 70 percent require food rations—double the number who required it during Saddam Hussein's regime.

Maintaining support of constituents has become an increasing struggle for the government, and *vice versa*. The Iraqi government lacks control over its increasingly violent and divided constituency, and Iraqis feel unsupported by a frail government.

Boosted international effort will be needed for Iraq to move out of this quagmire. Cultural and religious differences need to be pushed aside for the sake of the Iraqi people.

—from various IRIN reports. IRIN is the Integrated Regional Information Networks, a humanitarian news agency covering sub-Saharan Africa, eight countries in central Asia, and Iraq.



# Amid Strong Controversy, House and Senate Pass Bills to Stem Flow of Immigrants

by Jessie Campbell

**H**undreds of miles of fencing line the border between the US and Mexico, burdening taxpayers and closing off communities. Millions of residents in the US play a vital role in its society and economy, yet are officially recognized as undocumented and illegal.

Lawmakers and private citizens have a wide range of opinions about the issue of immigration, and a myriad of solutions have been proposed, but what is actually being done to address this complex problem?

There are various concerns to be considered on the topic of immigration. Obviously, one question that must be addressed is what to do about the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants currently residing in the US.

This question is one focus of the bills that passed in both houses of the US Congress in early fall. The Senate's bill deals more directly with the issue of immigrants who are already living in the country, proposing guest-worker programs and a three-tiered system for securing eventual legal status for many residents who are currently undocumented.

A few years ago, President Bush put forth a proposition for a temporary-worker program in which foreign workers could obtain jobs in the US (jobs which had proven otherwise unwanted by American workers) for a specified period—such as three years—and then would leave the country once this period ended.

This plan would have used “tamperproof” identification cards, it would not have offered citizenship to workers, and it would have imposed a fine on illegal immigrants before they entered the program. Still, it was seen as “overly

amnesty-like” and rejected because of that.

The current Senate bill is more “comprehensive,” meaning that it combines guest-worker programs and legalization paths (to address current immigrants and undocumented residents) with stricter border security measures (to stem the immigration flood and protect American interests).

The tightening of border security is the main topic of the House bill. It proposes 700 more miles of fencing along the US/Mexico border that would be protected by the thousands of Border Patrol agents already stationed in these communities. This type of fencing is no average backyard, chain-link project.

Past fences have been composed of two to three layers of 15-foot walls, surrounded by a large security zone that is monitored 24 hours a day with high-tech surveillance, agents, and guard dogs, and is governed by military protocol.

Construction of such fencing is also a serious undertaking cost-wise, as one such project in San Diego gave actual estimates of \$4 million to \$12 million per mile of fencing.

Past surveys have shown the American public to be against such fencing projects, but the new bill includes this component as part of its “comprehensive” approach despite such opposition.

Some lawmakers are concerned about the practicality of getting these bills implemented right now. They propose alternatives such as concentrating on the guest-worker and border control programs this year and leaving the more complicated

legalization issue until next year in order to avoid a road block of too many legislative details at once.

Immigrants and their supporters are calling for legalization, family reunification, rights in the workplace, and participation in the community. The government has seemingly tried to respond with the compromise of recognizing the vital role that these residents play in the economy and society, while continuing to maintain enforcement of the law.

As the issue has heated up over the past year-and-a-half, hundreds of thousands of people have marched in the streets for immigrant rights. A year ago,

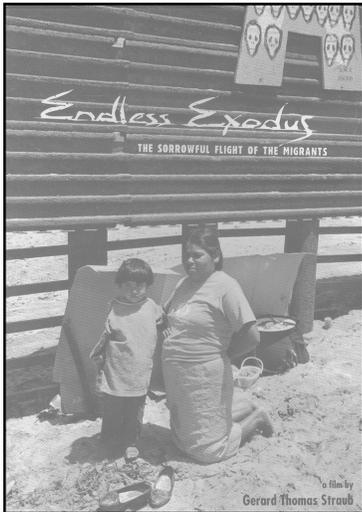
*continued on page 5*

*To learn more about the issue of immigration and current legislative activities, go to the following web sites:*

- American Friends Service Committee:  
[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)
- Border Working Group:  
[www.rtfcam.org](http://www.rtfcam.org)  
(See their *Las Posadas Packet*.)
- Christian Peacemaker Teams:  
<http://cpt.org/arizona>
- Justice for Immigrants:  
[www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)
- Mennonite Church USA:  
[www.mennonitesusa.org](http://www.mennonitesusa.org)  
(See their statement on immigration; also their “Strangers No More” congregational resource.)
- Mennonite Central Committee US:  
[www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org)
- Third Way Café:  
[www.thirdway.com](http://www.thirdway.com)

# Endless Exodus: *A Review and Introspection*

by Traci La Brie



It was Saturday afternoon when I sat down to watch Gerard Thomas Straub's film, *Endless Exodus*. As I sipped my hot chocolate, the documentary on migrant workers from Mexico and Central America began, as did my own introspective journey.

The film was broken into three segments. The first looks closely at the inhumane conditions and poor quality of life that migrant workers and their families endure in their homes in Mexico and Central America.

The second part takes the watcher along the long, arduous journey of migrant workers from their homes and families to the United States. Finally, the film ends by examining the lives of migrant workers in the States, if they ever make it here.

Since 1995, over 3,000 immigrants have died trying to get to the US. Today, as uninformed American citizens, it is easy for many of us to fall into the trap of thinking that these immigrants want to live here.

In many cases, this is simply not true. The migrant workers do not wish to leave behind their families, culture, traditions,

and homeland to come to the US, but rather they are forced here by starvation and poverty. Forty percent of the Mexican population is unemployed.

These workers' families are starving, and in order to feed their children, they must leave them.

This documentary was eye-opening and filled me with overwhelming sorrow. I began to ask myself, "How is it possible that such social injustice exists, and nobody is doing anything to put an end to it?" I was shocked, and then convicted, by Straub's harsh words, "the poor will always be with us because we do not care."

This made me think about the ways in which my own self-centeredness renders me unable to see the sufferings of others. As I sat in tears of conviction, Straub finished his thought by saying that "a society that turns a blind eye to such a shameful place has lost its soul."

*Endless Exodus* is available from the San Damiano Foundation in Burbank, CA. For more information, go to [www.sandamianofoundation.org](http://www.sandamianofoundation.org).

I introspectively wondered, "Have I lost my soul? Has humanity lost its soul?" I cannot survive plagued by such thoughts of hopelessness. I have not—we have not—lost our souls, but this documentary is a potent reminder that our souls are imperfect, and need polishing.

People across the globe are suffering. Rather than dwelling on the bad, I started thinking about ways I could help. If we all did something, even a little something, then something would be better—not everything, but something, and something is as good a place as any to start.

—Tracie La Brie is a writer in Arcadia, California. She is a recent graduate of

***This documentary was eye-opening and filled me with overwhelming sorrow. I began to ask myself, "How is it possible that such social injustice exists, and nobody is doing anything to put an end to it?"***

Baylor University in Professional Writing and served as editorial assistant at *Seeds of Hope*.

## **Immigration Bills, continued from page 4**

President Bush proposed sending National Guard troops to assist the Border Patrol. Union organizations like the United Farm Workers of America and the AFL-CIO responded with skepticism, which continued as they monitored legislative activity this fall.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney told *People Weekly*, "Reasoned border security is important, but it will not fix our broken immigration system." Sweeney called instead for immigration reform that provides "protection of rights and standards" for all workers including the millions of undocumented workers.

While there is rarely a perfect solution to such complicated issues as these, there is the hope that lawmakers, citizens, and immigrants can work together to achieve a satisfactory result that benefits and strengthens the community as a whole.

—*Jessie Campbell—a native of Longview, Texas—wrote this article as part of a class in poverty issues at Baylor University.*

Sources: *Sacramento Bee*, *Washington Post*, *People's Weekly*, *American Friends Service Committee*, *Mennonite Central Committee*; and *Justice for Immigrants*. See also [www.imminfo.com](http://www.imminfo.com) and [www.cirnow.org](http://www.cirnow.org).

art courtesy of Hermandad.com



### **Jubilee USA Calls for Broader Relief for Haiti**

WASHINGTON, DC—The folks at Jubilee USA are calling for US citizens to contact their representatives in Congress, asking them to House Resolution 888. The resolution calls for 100 percent debt cancellation in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

“People in Haiti and around the world are hopeful that 2006 will mark a positive shift toward just and equitable development in the most impoverished country in the Americas,” Debayani Karr wrote in the Jubilee USA newsletter.

Under the 29-year rule of the Duvalier father-son dictatorship, the Haitian people suffered immeasurable human rights abuses, increasing poverty levels and skyrocketing debt. In 2005, the country’s total external public debt reached \$1.3 billion, nearly half of which was accrued under the Duvalier regime.

In April of this year, shortly after the February election of President Rene Preval, Haiti finally became eligible for admission into the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) program. Countries listed as HIPC countries will hopefully receive debt cancellation from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

“After three years of exclusion from debt relief programs, Haiti’s entrance into HIPC signals a renewed hope that the unrest that has plagued Haiti for decades might come to an end,” Karr said. Unfortunately, it does not look like this will happen very quickly.

Under the conditions of the World Bank and IMF’s debt relief program, Haiti will not see any debt relief until December

2009 at the earliest. By that time, the country will have paid \$220 million in debt service that could have gone toward education, health care, and other social services. The existing program also excludes cancellation of Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) debt, which makes up nearly half of Haiti’s debt to international financial institutions.

Immediate debt cancellation for Haiti is a matter of justice and as an essential tool in the global fight to end poverty under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the set of development targets to which world leaders, including US President Bush, committed themselves in 2000. Jubilee grassroots activists and concerned legislators are working to make this debt cancellation happen.

To accelerate the process to cancel Haiti’s debt, several members of the US Congress introduced HR 888 last summer. The measure urges the World Bank, IMF and IDB to completely and immediately cancel Haiti’s debt.

Organizers have helped to secure more than 50 cosponsors for the resolution, but Jubilee spokespeople say that many more are needed for the resolution to make it to the floor of the House of Representatives. To find out how your representative has responded, or to find out how your representative can join the cosponsors, go to [www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org).

In the coming months, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will decide whether or not to extend debt cancellation to the small group of countries in Latin America that qualify under the terms of the 2005 G-8 nations’ debt deal.

—From the Fall 2006 edition of *Drop the Debt: NEWS and ACTION from Jubilee USANetwork*, Washington, DC. Debayani Karr is the Communications & Advocacy Coordinator for Jubilee USA.

### **Child Poverty Surges in Midwest**

WASHINGTON, DC—While overall child poverty in the US has risen dramatically since 2000, a new report by the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)

reveals that children and families in some regions have been harder hit than others. The report, *The New Poor: Regional Trends in Child Poverty*, finds the greatest increase in child poverty among working families in the Midwest.

Although child poverty has increased 12 percent nationally since 2000, the rise in the Midwest was a stunning 29 percent—by far the most substantial of any region. Accounting for nearly half of the increase nationwide, the Midwest was the only region where poverty increased among children with employed parents, due in part to the loss of relatively well-paid manufacturing jobs.

Child poverty increased in the Northeast by 11 percent and in the South by nine percent. In the Northeast, the increase was greatest among white children; in the South, the most substantial increase was immigrant children. The child poverty rate in the West remained virtually unchanged.

The report calls for policy solutions that strengthen regional economies and address the wide-ranging problems associated with low-wage work. The NCCP points to a number of immediate policy changes that would improve conditions for low-wage workers and their children, including raising the minimum wage, enacting or expanding state earned-income tax credits, restoring immigrants’ access to health care, and strengthening Unemployment Insurance.

When this report was published, the newest poverty statistics from the Census Bureau were not reflected. Therefore, these numbers do not account for the effects of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, which will almost certainly have a significant effect on the statistics.

—To read the full report, visit [www.nccp.org](http://www.nccp.org).

### **Changes in Store for WIC Food Packages**

WASHINGTON, DC—In August, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued proposed changes to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The revi-

sions improve the nutritional value of the WIC food packages, last updated in 1980.

In 2005, at USDA's request, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a report with recommendations for a revised set of WIC food packages to reflect current nutritional science. Per USDA's request, IOM's recommendations were intended to be cost neutral. Many of the IOM proposed changes were consistent with recommendations made by Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and others in public comment letters and meetings as part of the review process.

USDA's proposed WIC food packages increase participants' choices, improve the health and nutritional quality of the foods in the program, and expand cultural food options by offering fruits and vegetables, whole grain bread (with the option to substitute corn tortillas, whole grain rice, or other whole grains) and the option of soymilk and tofu.

The proposal also includes package enhancements that will better promote breastfeeding (such as allowing canned salmon instead of tuna) and expand support for medically fragile participants. USDA has also proposed allowing state agencies to authorize farmers at Farmers Markets to accept WIC vouchers for fruits and vegetables from WIC participants.

The American Dietetic Association (ADA) supports the increased flexibility of choice offered by the proposed package. WIC currently serves eight million women, infants and children.

*For more information about the proposed food package, contact Geri Henchy at FRAC for more information: ghenchy@frac.org, 202/986-2200 x3025. See the 08/07/06 Federal Register for USDA's complete notice.*

### **Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service Team Up to Rebuild Gulf Homes**

NEW YORK, NY/AMERICUS, GA—As part of a first-time partnership, Church World Service (CWS) and Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) announced in August that \$446,000 of a \$3 million grant will be

distributed to repair 82 homes on the Gulf Coast. The effort is aimed at helping low-income individuals and families displaced following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to return to their homes.

The funds and repair projects will be managed locally by nine long-term recovery organizations in the region.

The \$446,000 project is the first stage of a house repair grant from Habitat to CWS, who will disburse the \$3 million over two years to support residential reconstruction projects in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Church World Service traditionally plays a key role after disasters by facilitating the development of long-term recovery groups, and Habitat for Humanity has a long history of building homes. The CWS and HFHI partnership draws on the organizations' strengths to better address the extensive recovery needs facing communities throughout the Gulf Coast region.

A CWS spokesperson said their local long-term recovery efforts are guided by focus on vulnerable populations, are led by community leadership, and are often wholly dependent upon financial resources from outside the community—especially when it comes to the overwhelming costs of rebuilding homes. The local groups use both volunteer laborers and paid contractors to complete the repair or building work on the homes.

In all, 500 homes will be repaired or rebuilt through this partnership. The two organizations say they intend to not just repair homes but also rebuild lives. In the words of one survivor in Mississippi, "when they started work on my home, it brought us hope, but the

rebuilding has healed our hearts."

Habitat for Humanity International's long-term hurricane recovery effort, Operation Home Delivery, intends to build a thousand new homes in the affected region by mid 2007.

—*from Habitat for Humanity International (www.habitat.org) and Church World Service (www.churchworldservice.org).*



### **Different Worlds by Nadine Doughty**

Lunching with our son downtown,  
We picked a sleek and costly spot,  
"Rosebud" was the restaurant's name.  
The outside world we soon forgot.

"And did you have a reservation?"  
Hostess asked with silken voice.  
"Here's your table. Enjoy your meal."  
We scanned the menu, made our choice.

"Reservation?" the word, it captured  
Thoughts of yet another place,  
A vast and sprawling reservation,  
With struggling missions, and as its base,  
A town called "Rosebud", a central site  
For Native Americans to buck their plight.

West of us five hundred miles,  
Drinks don't come in a frosted glass,  
But likely from a simple pipe,  
Available, but second class.

I could not find more different places  
That strangely share a common name.  
They're worlds apart in every way,  
Yet both are "Rosebud" all the same.

—*Dee Doughty, a longtime contributor to Seeds publications, has worked in soup kitchens and ministries for the poor in Evanston, Illinois for many years.*

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- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
  - Covenant World Relief
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
  - Presbyterian Church USA
  - Reformed Church in America
- United Methodist Committee on Relief

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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**

Seeds of Hope Publishers are housed by the community of faith at Seventh and James Baptist Church. The mailing address is 602 James, Waco, Texas 76706; Phone: 254/755-7745; Fax:

## *quotes, poems, & pithy sayings*

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our great-grandchildren really did have to go to museums to see what abject poverty was like?

—Argye Hillis

If ten percent of the world's military budget were converted to meet the needs of the hungry in the world, hunger would be totally obliterated.

—World Bank

I do not want to die...until I have faithfully made the most of my talent and cultivated the seed that was placed in me until the last small twig has grown.

—Kathe Kollwitz

All we're ever asked to do in this life is to treat our neighbor—especially our neighbor who is in need—exactly as we would hope to be treated ourselves. That's our ultimate responsibility.

—Fred Rogers, *Life's Journeys According to Mister Rogers*

Yes, I am my brother's [and sister's] keeper. I am under a moral obligation to [them] that is inspired, not by any maudlin sentimentality but by the higher duty I owe myself. What would you think me if I were capable of seating myself at a table and gorging myself with food and saw about me the children of my fellow beings starving to death?

—Eugene V. Debs, in a 1908 speech

When we meet around our conference table at Caritas, we look for new ways to enlarge our circle of caring. That circle is limited only by the size of our hearts. And, in a way, we gather around a larger table of fellowship to share the blessings of life and the bounty of labor with our neighbors, the ones the scriptures tell us to take care of...

—Eugene F. Jud, former director of Caritas of Waco



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Seeds of Hope Publishers also produce 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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