

# Garden of Hope



*Worship resources for the creative church  
Hunger Emphasis 2014*

*Sacred Seasons, a series of worship packets with a peace and justice emphasis,  
from Seeds of Hope Publishers: 602 James; Waco, TX 76706; Phone: 254/755-7745;  
Fax: 254/753-1909; E-mail: [seedseditor@clearwire.net](mailto:seedseditor@clearwire.net); Web address: [www.seedspublishers.org](http://www.seedspublishers.org).*

# Sacred Seasons:



## Worship Tools with an Attitude—Toward Justice, Peace & Food Security for All of God's People.

These unique resource packets are available for the liturgical year, three packets a year for \$100 (\$125 for non-US subscriptions), one packet for \$50 (\$65 outside of the US).

### Staff and Volunteers

**Editor:** L. Katherine Cook  
**Copy Editor:** Deborah E. Harris  
**Editorial Assistants:** Taylor Grantham, Kristin Waites  
**Library Assistant:** Bill Hughes  
**ActLocallyWacoEditor:** Ashley B. Thornton  
**Artists:** Robert Askins, Sally Askins, Peter Yuichi Clark, Robert Darden, Van Darden, Jesse Manning, Erin Kennedy Mayer, Lenora Mathis, Kate Moore, Sharon Rollins, Susan Smith, Rebecca Ward

### 2013 Council of Stewards

Sally Lynn Askins (Vice President)  
Meg Cullar  
Derek S. Dodson  
Deborah E. Harris  
(Corresponding Secretary)  
Jaclyn Jeffrey  
Sandy Londos  
Recording Secretary)  
B. Michael Long (President)  
Jo Pendleton

### Board of Advisors

Dale A. Barron  
H. Joseph Haag  
Kathryn Mueller  
Jo Pendleton  
Jacqueline Saxon  
Jon Singletary  
David Wilkinson

### Statement of Purpose

Seeds of Hope, Inc., is a private, independent group of believers responding to a

# Garden of Hope

in this worship packet:

- 4 **Theme Interpretation**
- 5 **God of All the Earth**  
*A Prayer*
- 6 **Garden of Hope**  
*A Liturgy*
- 7 **Litany of Sending**
- 8 **The Stewards' Confession**
- 9 **Children of the Earth**  
*A Sermon*
- 12 **Prayer to the Creator**
- 13 **Quotes, Poems & Pithy Sayings**
- 14 **Village Life:**  
*A Simulation*
- 16 **Hunger around the World**
- 17 **Hunger in the US**
- 18 **Hunger Quiz**
- 19 **Hunger Word Search**
- 20 **Benediction**
- plus* **Garden of Hope**  
**40 Days of Discovery**  
*A Hunger Emphasis Calendar*
- and* **Garden of Hope**  
*A Hunger Emphasis Placemat*

art by Susan Daily, IBVM

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. For 23 years, the group has sought 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 hunger and poverty.

### Editorial Address

The Seeds of Hope ministry is housed by the community of faith at Seventh and James Baptist Church. The mailing address is: 602 James; Waco, TX 76706; Phone: 254/755-7745; Fax: 254/753-1909; E-mail: seedseditor@clearwire.net. Web

address: [www.seedspublishers.org](http://www.seedspublishers.org). Copyright © 2014.

Material in this packet is for the use of the purchasing faith community to enhance worship and increase awareness in economic justice issues. ISSN 0194-4495. Seeds of Hope, Inc., holds the 501(c)3 nonprofit tax status. All contributions above the subscription rate are fully tax-deductible.

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version, Copyright © 2003, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.

# A Word about This Packet

This worship packet is a little different from our 16 earlier Hunger Emphasis packets. We wanted to emphasize the importance of environmental justice, which, of course, has a profound effect on global food security.

We had help this time from Guilherme Almeida, who has been a music minister for many years and is now a lecturer in Musical Theatre at Baylor University. Guilherme, a native of Brazil, has a strong interest in liberation theology and has written many liturgies. We are honored to have his collaboration on this packet.

With input from Deborah Harris—our longtime brainstormer, lyricist, copyreader (and a member of the Council of Stewards)—we chose the scriptures for our liturgy based on the creation stories in Genesis, the depictions of creation in the Psalms, the passage in Romans describing the labor pains of creation and, finally, Jesus' words about being the salt of the earth from a slightly different angle. We chose hymns that called for our care of the earth and all of her inhabitants.

Our sermon is from Doug Donley, a pastor in Minneapolis, MN, a frequent contributor to *Sacred Seasons* packets. You will also find two prayers from Claire McKeever-Burgett, a minister who now works for The Upper Room.

We also found a litany written in 1990 for the 20th anniversary of the original Earth Day.

The exquisite cover art is created especially for you by Sally Lynn Askins, a member of the Seeds Council of Stewards and professor of Costume Design in Baylor University's Department of Theatre Arts. We have also included some new art by Jesse Manning, a high school student in Houston, TX, whose insights continue to amaze us.

Kristin Waites, our Professional Writing intern, has updated a number of statistics and created a new quiz to test your "hunger IQ." She also created a word puzzle and spent many hours on the 40-Day Hunger Calendar.

You will also find a "Village Life" simulation for a group of 48 people, written by Dustin Sanford, a high school student in Woodway, TX.

We continue to be profoundly grateful for all of the people who are so generous with their time and creative gifts, and who think of us when they have written worship materials or conceived of innovative ideas for worship themes.

We are also deeply grateful for all of you who subscribe to *Sacred Seasons*, and who make use of these gifts in your worship and work.

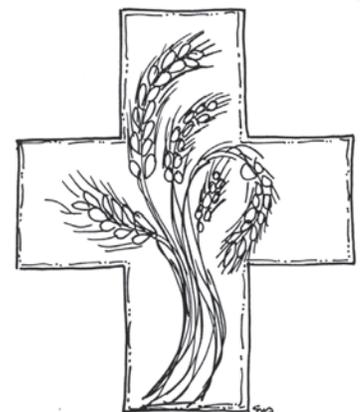
As always, we want you to feel free to play around with these liturgies and services, and adapt them to your congregation's needs and resources. If you come up with something creative and different, we would love to hear about it.

The contents of this packet are your congregation's to use freely and share with others as the need arises. We really do pray that our materials, and this packet in particular, will help you and your congregation to create a meaningful and inspiring Hunger Emphasis.

—Gratefully,  
The Seeds Staff and Council of Stewards

Driven by the desire to discover the ultimate truth of existence, human beings seek to acquire those universal elements of knowledge which enable them to understand themselves better and to advance in their own self-realization. These fundamental elements of knowledge spring from the *wonder* awakened in them by the contemplation of creation: human beings are astonished to discover themselves as part of the world, in a relationship with others like them, all sharing a common destiny. Here begins, then, the journey which will lead them to discover ever new frontiers of knowledge. Without wonder, men and women would lapse into deadening routine and little by little would become incapable of a life which is genuinely personal.

—Pope John Paul II,  
Encyclical Letter *Fides et Ratio*.



art by Susan Daily, IBVM

# Theme Interpretation

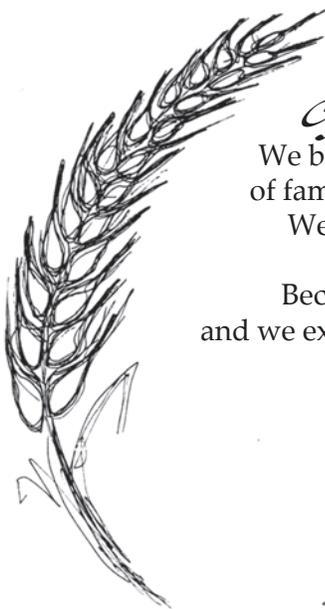


*Like your followers throughout time*  
we are drawn to your life to illuminate our own,  
and by your passion, death and resurrection  
we are infused with a passion  
to carry the great good news  
of your life and love  
into a world  
hungry for hope  
in need of salt and life.  
—Cathy Warner

*art by Jesse Manning*

# God of All the Earth

by Claire McKeever-Burgett



*God of all the earth, God who is the earth,*  
We breathe in your presence now, in the company of friends,  
of family, of new acquaintances and burgeoning relationships.  
We see you in the faces of each other, and we thank you.

Because of you, we sense the spirit, we experience the life  
and we exude the energy of our fellow worshippers around the globe.

We know and understand the faith  
that connects us to people throughout the world  
because we seek to know and understand you.

God of all the earth, God who is the earth,  
Help us now, in this time and in this place,  
to grieve with those who grieve,  
to celebrate with those who celebrate,  
to laugh with those who laugh,  
to question with those who question.

Help us not to fear life but to crave it,  
Not to run away from pain but to embrace it,  
Not to avoid relationships but to nurture them.  
God, teach us that in loving you, in loving each other  
and in loving creation we create life and love anew—  
we stand directly in the face of fear and doubt  
and hatred and violence and cry, "No."

God of all the earth, God who is the earth,  
Empower us to go where you go,  
walk where you walk, stand where you stand.  
Encourage us to love one another—  
regardless of where we are, regardless of who we are,  
help us live love, live hope, live peace, live life.

God of all the earth, God who is the earth,  
We come to you now, just as we are—  
in music, in word, in silence, in song,  
in confusion, in despair, in hope and in trust.  
You are our connector, you are our friend,  
you are our community and our beginning and end.  
Alleluia. Thank you. Amen.



—Claire McKeever-Burgett is Program Interpretation Manager for Upper Room Ministries in Nashville, TN, helping to tell The Upper Room's stories in compelling ways. She is an ordained Alliance of Baptists pastor and writes often at [www.pastorpoet.com](http://www.pastorpoet.com). She served as a Seeds of Hope intern in 2004.

# Garden of Hope: A Liturgy

by Guilherme Almeida  
with Katie Cook & Deborah Harris

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

Creator God,  
maker of all things,  
including this planet  
in which we live,  
give us the grace to honor you  
by the choices we make to care for the earth  
and for all of her inhabitants. Amen.

## Prelude

### Meditation of Preparation

To live, we must daily break the body  
and shed the blood of creation.  
When we do it knowingly, lovingly,  
skillfully, reverently,  
it is a sacrament.  
When we do it ignorantly,  
greedily, destructively,  
it is a desecration.  
—Wendell Berry, "The Gift of Good Land"

### A Song of Praise

"For Beauty of Meadows"  
(Chalice Hymnal, #696 /  
Celebrating Grace hymnal, #666)  
Words: Walter H. Farquharson, 1969  
Music: Welsh folk melody (ST. DENIO) /  
The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm.  
Dwayne Davis (EXPRESSION)

or

"Indescribable"  
(CCLI Song #4403076)  
Words and Music: Laura Story  
and Jesse Reeves

or

"Morning Has Broken"  
(Chalice Hymnal, #53 /  
Celebrating Grace hymnal, #27)

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931  
Music: Gaelic melody (BUNESSAN)

or

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"  
(Chalice Hymnal, #651 /  
Celebrating Grace Hymnal, #21)  
Words: Catherine Cameron, 1967  
Music: William Moore, *Colombian Harmony*, 1825  
(HOLY MANNA) K. Lee Scott, 1997, alt.  
(NEW PROVIDENCE, alt.)

## Pastoral Prayer for the Earth

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures  
Genesis 1:28-30

### A Gift of Music

"For the Beauty of the Earth"  
Text: F. S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)



art by Sally Lynn Askins

Music: John Rutter  
SATB with keyboard/HI.HMC550,  
Hinshaw Music Inc.

### *Reading from the Psalter*

Psalm 24:1-6

### *A Gift of Music*

"God Has Work for Us to Do"

Text: Carl P. Daw

Music: Mark A. Miller

SATB with Piano/CGA1288—Choristers Guild

### *Reading from the Epistles*

Romans 8:18-25

### *Song of Preparation*

"God In Such Love For Us Lent  
Us This Planet"

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1971

© 1982, The Hymn Society

Music: A LA PUERTA,

New Mexican folk song;

adapt. Lee Hastings Bristol,  
1961

(*Chalice Hymnal*, #444)

Alternative Tunes:

MORNING STAR,

James P. Harding

Worship and Rejoice, #37)

JULIAN OF NORWICH,

David A. White, 1991

CCLI Song #1671255)

STEWARDSHIP,

Valerie Anne Ruddle, 1979

(CCLI Song #4817105)

### *Gospel Reading*

Matthew 5:13-16

### *Sermon*

(See "Children of the Earth" on  
page 9.)

### *Preparation for the Table*

When we meet together to break  
and share bread, where all kneel  
side by side and receive—as it  
were—of the same loaf, then we  
are acting out in miniature what  
God desires for his creation.

It is, in its own small and local way, a fleeting  
but true foretaste of the longed-for universality  
of the Kingdom. Moreover, we are taking the  
products of the earth and doing with them what  
is intended; offering them back to their Creator  
thankfully, and sharing them equally. Each  
Eucharist, whatever else it may be, is a sign of our  
desire to redress the balance.

—Michael Mayne, *The Enduring Melody*

### *Invitation to the Table*

Come, then, to the Table of the Lord, and  
remember God's gifts to us. May we be healed,  
strengthened and emboldened by these gifts to  
become the peace of Christ within ourselves,

## *Litany of Sending*

ONE: We have faith in One God,  
One Source of all life.

MANY: *One Ground of the whole earth,  
with all its creatures.*

ONE: And thus we believe  
in the goodness of earth's life,

MANY: *In the innate worth  
of all its dependents,  
and in human partnership with nature.*

ONE: And thus we believe  
that in Christ we have been shown  
the special role of the human race:

MANY: *To bear God's likeness  
in working and caring for the earth,*

ONE: In seeking to understand its mysteries and powers,  
in gently working with these powers

MANY: *For the well-being of all children of the earth.*

ONE: And thus we believe

MANY: *That God's spirit will lead us to sensitivity  
and communion with earth's life,*

ONE: To that meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle  
by which the earth is inherited in peace,

MANY: *By which its life is transformed  
for all creatures to share justly in its bounty.*

ALL: So be it. Amen.

—adapted from "Caring for the Earth," a responsive reading,  
*Chalice Hymnal* #694)



art by *Fluclid Struckenscheider*

within our own faith community and across the global community to all the Earth and her creatures.

### *Hymn of Commitment*

“We Are Not Our Own”

(*Chalice Hymnal*, #689)

Words: Brian Wren, 1987

Music: Brian Wren, 1987; arr. Fred Graham (YARNTON)

or

“God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty”

(*Chalice Hymnal*, #514)

Words: Mary S. Edgar, 1925, alt.

Music: Carl Harold Lowden, 1925 (GENEVA)

Alternative Tune:

BUTLER, in *The Baptist Hymnal* [1991],

#500 / CCLI Song No. 6111696

Music: Aubrey Lee Butler, b. 1933;

arr. Anna Laura Page, b. 1943

### *Litany of Sending*

(See page 7.)

### *Postlude*

## *The Stewards' Confession*

by Sean Sutcliffe and Katie Cook

FIRST READER: God of wonder, you alone are able to fashion a world out of nothing;

PEOPLE: *You gave us the Earth, full of all kinds of creatures, flowering plants and beautiful people.*

SECOND READER: We look at our world, where every day the sun rises in glory and sets in splendor,

PEOPLE: *Where flowers grow wild in the craziest places, where the sky is true blue, and butterflies surprise the landscape with color.*

FIRST READER: You made for us an earth full of beauty and wonder,

PEOPLE: *And we have taken it for granted.*

SECOND READER: We've been unfaithful stewards. We haven't taken care of your gift.

PEOPLE: *Lord, have mercy.*

FIRST READER: What we haven't destroyed, we have hoarded.

PEOPLE: *Lord, have mercy.*

SECOND READER: But we also know that you are a God of grace and second chances,

PEOPLE: *And we know that you still love us, no matter how many times we mess things up.*

SECOND READER: We know that you can help us as we start again, this time to be better stewards,

PEOPLE: *To better nurture the planet you left in our care.*

FIRST READER: We know that you can help us to be better neighbors,

PEOPLE: *To share the bounty of this globe.*

FIRST READER: Together, with your help and with the help of each other

PEOPLE: *We can make this world more like you meant it to be.*

SECOND READER: Show us how. Give us the vision, the strength, the courage, and the love...

PEOPLE: *To be good stewards of your creation.*

FIRST READER: In the name of your Son, who taught us how to love and who fed the hungry crowd,

SECOND READER: In the name of your Son, who spoke to the seas and watched the flowers grow,  
PEOPLE: *Amen.*

—This prayer is adapted from a pastoral prayer written for “Earth Sunday” in 1990 as part of the Waco Ministerial Alliance’s Earth Sabbath/ Earth Sunday, an observance of the 20th anniversary of the original Earth Day. Sean Sutcliffe, a librarian in Waco, TX, was a high school student. Katie Cook was his Sunday-school teacher.



# Children of the Earth

A Sermon by Douglas M. Donley

Text: Psalm 24:1-6

This is the fourth week of joint services between University Baptist Church and First Congregational Church in Minneapolis, MN. We have been studying environmental stewardship, focusing our four Sundays together on the topics of air, fire, water and earth.

*There can be no peace until we learn how to share land with equity and with a hope toward future sustainable peace.*

As we look at these four topics, let us examine the elements of the medicine wheel, as described by the teachings of First Nations leaders.

The wheel has four quadrants, each representing a color, an element, a season, a life-stage. The North represents the element of air. It is symbolized by the color white. It is associated with the elders, the winter season, the mind.

The East represents fire. Its color is yellow. It represents spring, birth and the body. The South represents water and the summer season, with the joy and excitement of youth. Its color is red, the color of the Spirit.

Finally, we have the West, representing earth. Its color is black, the fulfillment of all other colors combined. Its season is the earthy fall, representing adulthood and the heart. In the heart lies the earth.

All of these elements, ages, seasons, colors and

aspects of our beings need to be in balance in order for us to be whole.

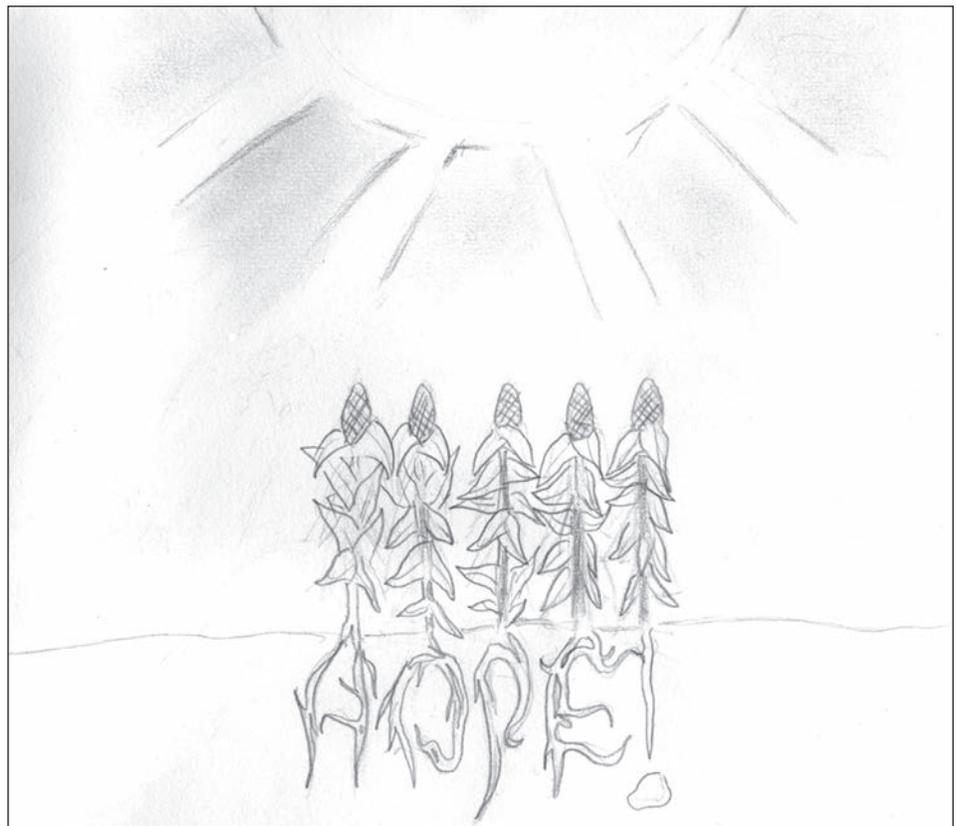
Maybe the reason we chose to focus on these elements now is because we know that we have become somehow out of balance. And we recognize that a part of our work as Christians is to bring our part of the world back into balance.

In Ojibwe, the Gospel verse in John 3:16 says that that God so love the *land*. This is different from what we usually say: God so love the *world*. The land is what God loved. The earth.

Land is at the heart of the Israel/Palestine war. They are at a bomb-laden stalemate because each group wants the same land, which both groups see as holy and God-given.

There can be no peace until we learn how to share land with equity and with a hope toward future sustainable peace.

*art by Jesse Manning*



“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof,” says the psalmist in today’s text. What have we done with this earth that God has made?

Long before the North American continent was split up to become the United States, Canada and Mexico, it was inhabited by proud nations who, for thousands of years, had referred to the land as “Turtle Island.” As the First Nations people will tell us, all over Turtle Island, the land cries out.

*This is about more than changing the kind of light bulbs we buy. It’s about challenging the system that degrades our earth and keeps us dependent on Mammon and fossil fuels.*

In Canada, we have the tar sands—a cash cow for certain industrialists, but an earth-scorching and burning death zone for the land.

In Minnesota, we have hydraulic fracking, which extracts natural gas from fissures in rocks deep underground by pumping chemical-laden water into the porous subterranean rocks. Is the natural gas worth the earthquakes, the groundwater pollution?

North Dakota is Ground Zero for oil production, and the oil comes right through the Twin Cities, where you and I are today, on old train cars prone to leaking and explosions.

Pesticides flow off our farmland and into our aquifers, poisoning bees and aquatic life. All of these things are putting the world out of balance.

As someone said recently, this is about more than changing the kind of light bulbs we buy. It’s about challenging the system that degrades our earth and keeps us dependent on Mammon and fossil fuels.

I have a clergy friend who has gotten rid of his car and has decided to ride his bike everywhere he can and rely on friends and public transportation for the rest. Steve Lee has commuted from Maple Grove by bicycle at least once per month for 40 months in a row—and counting. Even I rode my bike to church this morning. It felt good.

The biblical creation stories accentuate our connection with the earth. The very first person was named Adam, a derivation of *Adamah*, meaning “earth.” *Adam* means “earth-creature.” We are

children of Adam, children of the earth, beautifully connected with the elements.

I recently participated in a soil ritual in which people were invited to bring a little bit of soil from their various homes to an international meeting and bring it forward, pouring it together into a ritual urn. The organizers of this meeting will plant and grow something in this urn during the coming year.

People brought soil from their gardens and their beaches, and they mingled them with words of hope, of longing, of dreams. There was Arizona dry soil; Toronto, ON, clay; Minnesota sandy loam; Cuban tobacco soil; soil from a Florida retirement home; soil from an Austin, TX, church yard; from a community garden in Rochester, NY; from the Adirondacks; from Vancouver, BC; from the mountains of Chiapas in Mexico; from a memory garden in Pittsburg; from a Karen<sup>1</sup> youth farm in Louisville, KY, where these refugees now live.

We shared these stories while someone played the Ash Grove<sup>2</sup> on piano. We are all Adam, children of Adamah, connected and responsible for this creation and for each other. And yet, we act like we are Lone Rangers and that we have a right to do and get and use what we please without any thought to how it affects the earth, her creatures, or even other people.

Environmental degradation, warfare and poverty are all part of a sinful pathology that sees us as separate beings. Salvation is never just about our own personal, individual salvation; it’s about the salvation of us all. It’s about saving the world and being a part of the solution.

Think about the prayers that we sometimes use to open worship services. We call it an *invocation*. We say we are invoking God’s presence in worship, which perpetuates the illusion that God is “out there” and “other.” Maybe we ought to be invoking ourselves to awaken to God’s presence, which is always with us.

Maybe we can pray something like what Rabbi Harold Kushner said:

*Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations. Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect. Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows. Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken. Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly. So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color. Let*

*the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness, so that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors. And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors. Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty. And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.*

My friends, we are children of the earth. We are responsible. The earth is God's, and the fullness thereof. We are God's. Therefore, care for the earth, your mother, your caretaker, your heart.

Tread on the earth lightly. Preserve it for the next generation. Nurture peace in the land. Respect all living things. Live in balance. Air, fire, water, earth—they are all God's gifts to us. Treat them as you would treat God. Treat other people as you would treat God. Live in balance, so that you and your children can live in beauty and joy.

Howard Thurman, a Baptist writer and minister, wrote: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

Come alive, my friends. Nurture the Spirit at the heart of Adam, the earth-creature. For the earth is not only God's. It is God.

Let me close with a song by Pete Seeger (see the lyrics on this page). It's probably the last song that he wrote before his death. It merits learning and singing.

—Doug Donley is the pastor of University Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN, and a frequent contributor to Sacred Seasons.

## *Endnotes*

1. The Karen are an ethnic group from Burma/ Myanmar who have been consistently persecuted in their own country. Many of the Karen, who fled from the violence in Burma, have resettled in the United States.

2. This is a traditional Welsh folk song that has been paired with numerous sets of lyrics, including "Let All Things Now Living" and "Sent Forth by God's Blessing."



## *God's counting on me, God's counting on you*

by Pete Seeger & Lorre Wyatt

*When we look and we can see*

things are not what they should be  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you (2x)

*Chorus:*

Hope and we'll all pull through,  
Hope and we'll all pull through,  
Hope and we'll all pull through, me and you.

It's time to turn things around, trickle up not trickle down  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you (2x)

*Chorus*

And when drill, baby, drill turns to spill, baby, spill  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you (2x)

*Chorus*

Many wrong turns we have made, change the course, don't be afraid  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you (2x)

*Chorus*

When we sing with younger folk, we will never give up hope  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you (2x)

*Chorus*

Don't give up, don't give in, workin' together we all can win  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you (2x)

*Chorus*

When we do the work of peace, we can see God's love increase  
God's counting on me, God's counting on you (2x)

*Chorus (2x)*

*art by Susan Daily, IBVM*

# Prayer to the Creator

by Claire McKeever-Burgett

art by Susan Daily, IBVM

God of the sky and the sea,  
God of the birds and the bunnies,  
God of the grass and the greenway,  
God of the mountain and the molehill,  
God of the tree and the terrain,  
God of everything, everywhere,  
Help us to see you in the small, minutiae of our day.

Help us celebrate you as we lie in the grass, as we embrace a tree, as we look above to the vast sky in wonder, awe and reverence.

Help us to know that your care comes mysteriously, your touch comes fruitfully, your presence comes intentionally. Help us to know that you come. In the ways we move and breathe and find our being, we sense your spirit of and within the Earth, and we say thank you.

We breathe in your breath, we sigh in relief, and we begin to rest more comfortably into who we are as we sense who you are, where you are, how you are. Because we can see you in the flowers and the produce and the hills and the valley, we celebrate, today, your earth, your body, your abundance.

God—where your earth is violated, desecrated, destroyed and defamed, give us the strength, the will, the heart to go there, physically, mentally, spiritually and prayerfully to help mend what is broken. Make our hands and feet the bearers of good news, the messengers of beauty, the restorers of peace.

We rest in silence, this morning, as we remember all of the places, all of the animals, all of the birds, all of the creatures, all of the people who live in disarray and fear and exile this morning. As we breathe in and out, in and out, we trust you are present with us all.

## *Silence*

Guide us to places of deeper communion with the Earth. Help us to see you in everything. Hold our hands as we grow more of our own food, as we feed the birds and as we water the plants.

Your love is abundant, your grace is sufficient, your forgiveness is necessary and your hope is inspiring.

We come to you, on this day, Oh God, uttering prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of hope, prayers of restoration, prayers of grief, prayers of peace.

We come to you, now, joining with creation in the groanings of our hearts, minds and bodies as we hope for and plan for new ways of being within this world, this earth, this body that is yours.

May forgiveness be our work. May love be our guide. May grace be our message, and may hope be who you created us to be.

Amen.

—Claire McKeever-Burgett is Program Interpretation Manager for Upper Room Ministries in Nashville, TN, helping to tell The Upper Room's stories in compelling ways. She is an ordained Alliance of Baptists pastor and writes often at [www.pastorpoet.com](http://www.pastorpoet.com). She served as a Seeds of Hope intern in 2004.

# Quotes, Poems & Pithy Sayings

Our task is enormous: to co-create with God. To look at all that has gone before us, and to recognize that each one of us, however small, has a unique task in co-creation—a unique contribution to make in the world and to humanity—to recognize that by our very existence, we are related to all things; to the caterpillar, the sod, the animals, the birds, to every man and woman. We are part of an interconnected, interrelated cosmos. We cannot amputate ourselves from the rest of God’s unfolding universe. We must come to discover the part we have to play in it.

—Edwina Gateley

To dream about painting and not also to work at it doesn’t ever bring about a painting. To dream about creating a new world that is not teetering on the edge of total destruction and not to work at it doesn’t make a peaceful world. So it is important that we are creative people working daily on the greater picture as well, bringing to it all our skills of imagination and making.

—Corita Kent, *Learning by Heart*

Let us not forget: we are a pilgrim church, subject to misunderstanding, to persecution, but a church that walks serene because it bears the force of love.... The Christian religion does not have a merely horizontal meaning, or a merely spiritualized meaning that overlooks the wretchedness that surrounds it. It is a looking at God, and from God at one’s neighbor as a brother or sister, and an awareness that “whatever you did to one of these, you did to me.”

—Archbishop Oscar Romero,  
*The Violence of Love*

Jesus Christ hung out with known sinners, worked on the Sabbath, threw a fit in church and generally offended the honchos of status quo religion. One day, while talking

about the down-and-outers of his day, the hungry, the thirsty, the illegal immigrants, the naked, the sick and the prisoners, he told his followers, “To the extent that you served one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me.”

—Marv Knox

So how do we feed and nourish our spirit, and the spirit of others? First find a path, and a little light to see by. Then push up your sleeves and start helping. Every single spiritual tradition says that you must take care of the poor, or you are so doomed that not even Jesus or the Buddha can help you.

—Anne Lamott, *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*

God is a compassionate God...who has chosen to be God-with-us.... Here we see what compassion means. It is not a bending toward the underprivileged from a privileged position; it is not a reaching out from on high to those who are less fortunate below; it is not a gesture of sympathy or pity for those who fail to make it in the upward pull. On the contrary, compassion means going directly to those people and places where suffering is most acute and building a home there.

—Donald P. McNeill, Douglas A. Morrison,  
Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Compassion: a Reflection  
on the Christian Life*



art by Jesse Manning

# Village Life: A Simulation

by Dustin Sanford

This simple simulation is designed to help your group to understand day-to-day life in an impoverished village. It is designed to take place in a fellowship hall, around tables.

Your entire group will represent one village. Each table will represent a family. The numbers in this exercise are prepared for 48 people plus a leader/moderator.

If you'd like, you can "dress up" the game by choosing a specific country and adjust the events for that country and perhaps use some tablecloths or items that represent that country. These events are somewhat extreme, and therefore may be more suitable for Sub-Saharan Africa.

## *What you will need:*

- Tables and chairs for all of your recipients. If you have 48 people, you can place six people at each table, with a total of eight tables.
- 350 index cards labeled "FOOD." Everyone starts out with enough food for the duration of the game. Each card represents enough food for one period of time, or one round. There are six rounds, so each family of six will begin with 36 FOOD cards.
- 350 index cards labeled "WATER." As with the FOOD cards, everyone will begin with enough water for one round.
- 42 EVENT cards (*See the sidebar on page 15.*)
- 48 sticky notes—one for each participant. They

should be marked "CHILD," "ADULT" and "ELDER." If each table has six people, that group could have two children, two adults and two elders. This will be regarded as a family unit. (We encourage you to vary this from table to table.) Place the sticky notes under the chairs, so that participants will not know their family roles ahead of time.

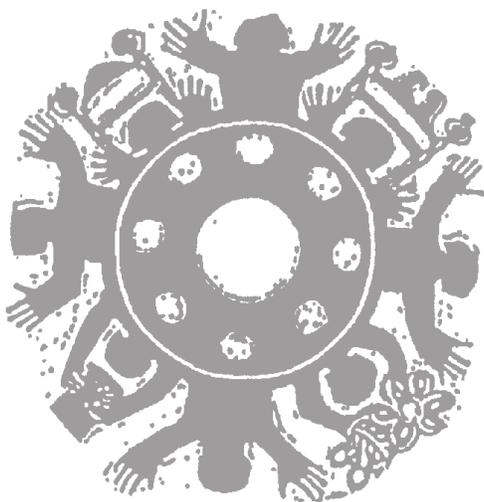
On each turn, the family has to adjust to circumstances or make a decision about survival. Each family will begin with a stack of FOOD cards, a stack of WATER cards, and a stack of EVENT cards. If the leader asks participants to "spend" their WATER and FOOD cards, and an individual does not have the cards twice in a row, that person dies and no longer participates in the game. If a family does not have enough for everyone, its members might have to choose who goes without.

•••

*Round One.* The leader will instruct everyone to take one FOOD card and one WATER card from the family pile, one for each family member, and discard them. Then each family will take an EVENT card.

*Round Two.* Everyone takes one FOOD card and one WATER card from the family pile, one for each family member, and discards them. Then each family takes an EVENT card.

*Village News.* The leader announces that there is a severe drought in the area, so all families must discard one



*art by Meinrad Craighead*

round of FOOD and WATER cards and all FOOD or WATER cards that you receive on your next EVENT card.

*Round Three.* Everyone takes one FOOD card and one WATER card from the family pile, one for each family member, and discards them. Then each family takes an EVENT card.

*Village News.* The leader announces that the village well is contaminated. All participants must discard half of their WATER cards. All of the children are now ill, and must have food and water for each turn, or they will die.

*Round Four.* Everyone takes one FOOD card and one WATER card from the family pile, one for each family member, and discards them. Then each family takes an EVENT card.

*Round Five.* Everyone takes one FOOD card and one WATER card from the family pile, one for each family member, and discards them. Then each family takes an EVENT card.

*Village News.* The leader announces that a rebel army has moved into the village. The cartel says each family must give them half of their food and half of their water. Ask each family what they decide to do. After all of the families have decided, each family that has decided not give up the food and water will lose one of their children.

*Round Six.* Everyone takes one FOOD card and one WATER card from the family pile, one for each family member, and discards them. Then each family takes an EVENT card.

*Discussion.* Ask for feedback from the participants about how they felt about the events that were unfolding around them. They may think this simulation was too extreme, and that people don't experience events like this. The leader may need to use the statistics on pages 16-17 of this packet to answer some of their questions.

—Dustin Sanford is a junior at Midway High School in Woodway, TX, and a member of the Seventh & James Baptist Church youth group, aka the "James Gang." A serious student of robotics, Dustin has also created award-winning science projects in the field of psychology. He wanted to try his hand at creating a hunger simulation for at hunger emphasis at his church.



## Event Cards

for the "Village Life" Simulation

Below are six events. You should make eight cards containing each event and then shuffle them. Each table should get six EVENT cards, but not necessarily the same six.

- Your crop has done well. Take an extra FOOD card for each family member.
- Your crop is being eaten by insects. Discard two FOOD cards per family.
- You were able to save water from your last trip to the well. Take two extra WATER cards for each family.
- All is normal. Take no extra action.
- Someone has been hunting and has brought home game to eat. Take two extra FOOD cards per family.
- Someone has gone out in the surrounding area and brought home wild herbs and nuts. Take one extra FOOD card per family. ■

# Hunger Around the World

compiled by Kristin Waites for 2014

The vast majority of hungry people (98 percent) live in developing countries, where almost 15 percent of the population is undernourished. Around three-quarters of these undernourished people live in low-income rural areas, principally in higher-risk farming areas. —World Food Programme (WFP)

Approximately 805 million people in the world do not eat enough to be healthy. That means that one in every 10 people on Earth goes to bed hungry each night. However, there is hopeful news: the number of people living with chronic hunger has declined by 200 million people over the past 20 years. —United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Hunger is number one on the list of the world's top 10 health risks. It kills more people every year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. —Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Nearly half of all deaths in children under the age of 5 are linked to poor nutrition. Some studies estimate this to include 3.1 million children. —WFP, UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME)

The first thousand days of a child's life, from pregnancy through age 2, are the critical window in which to tackle under-nutrition. A proper diet in this period can protect children from the mental and physical stunting that can result from malnutrition. —IGME

It costs just US\$0.25 per day to provide a child with all of the vitamins and nutrients he or she needs to grow up healthy. —WFP

If women in rural areas had the same access to land, technology, financial services, education and markets as men, the number of hungry people could be reduced by 100 to 150 million. —FAO

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region (the part of the world in or near the Western Pacific Ocean) have some 563 million food-insecure people, which equals about two thirds of the total number. —WFP

One out of six children in developing countries is underweight. —WFP

About 180 million children under the age of 5 suffer from stunting and are not reaching their potential. About 80 percent of these children live in just 20 countries. —WFP, UNICEF

Across the developing world, 66 million primary school-age children are hungry when they attend classes, with 23 million in Africa alone. US\$3.2 billion would feed all of the hungry school-age children in the world for one year. —WFP

There is enough food 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. —FAO

As of 2008, the World Bank has estimated that there were an estimated 1,345 million poor people in

*continued on page 17*



*adapted from art by Susan Daily, IBVM*

# Hunger in the US

updated by Kristin Waites for 2014

Nearly 49 million people in the United States live in food-insecure households or a household where the members are unable to consistently access the adequate amount of nutritious food necessary for a healthy life. — United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

A key cause of food insecurity in the United States is the lack of sufficient resources to cover the cost of food in addition to meeting other basic needs. —Feeding America

Ninety percent of all counties in the US have a majority of food-insecure children living in households with incomes at or below the federal poverty line. —Feeding America

One in six people in America faces hunger. —Do Something (*An organization for youth volunteering opportunities*)

Households with children reported a significantly higher food-insecurity rate than households without children. —Do Something

Food insecurity exists in every county in America. —Do Something

In the US, hunger isn't caused by a lack of food, but rather the continued prevalence of poverty. —Do Something

One in seven people is enrolled in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Nearly half of them are children. —Do Something

Forty percent of food is thrown out in the US every year, or about \$165 billion worth. All of

this uneaten food could feed 25 million Americans. —Do Something

More than one in five children are at risk of hunger. Among African-Americans and Latinos, nearly one in three children is at risk of hunger. —USDA

Of the more than 20 million children who receive free or reduced-price lunch each school day, less than half receive breakfast and only 10 percent go to summer feeding sites. —USDA

About half of all American children will receive SNAP benefits at some point before age 20. —Bureau of Labor Statistics

Low-income households spend a greater share of their income on food. Food accounts for 16.4 percent of spending for households making less than \$10,000 per year, compared to the US average of 12.7 percent. —Bureau of Labor Statistics ■

## Hunger around the World,

*continued from page 16*

developing countries who live on \$1.25 a day or less. —WHES

Under-nutrition among pregnant women in developing countries leads to one out of six infants being born with low birth weight. This is not only a risk factor for neonatal deaths, but can also cause learning disabilities, mental retardation, poor health, blindness and premature death. —World Hunger Education Service (WHES)

By causing poor health, low levels of energy, and even mental impairment, hunger can lead to even greater poverty by reducing people's ability to work and learn, thus leading to even greater hunger. —WHES

One out of three people in developing countries is affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies. —World Health Organization (WHO)

A child dies from hunger-related causes every 13 seconds. That's as many as 7,000 children younger than 5 killed every day. —30 Hour Famine ■

# Hunger Quiz

by Kristin Waites

Think you know about hunger issues? Take this quiz to test your knowledge!

Once you have answered all of the questions, unscramble the letters of the correct answers to discover the secret word! (Check your answers below or on the hunger statistics page if you aren't sure.) Once you've discovered the word, do some research to see why it's important in ending hunger and what you can do to help. (Hint: the secret word is also one of the terms in the word search!)

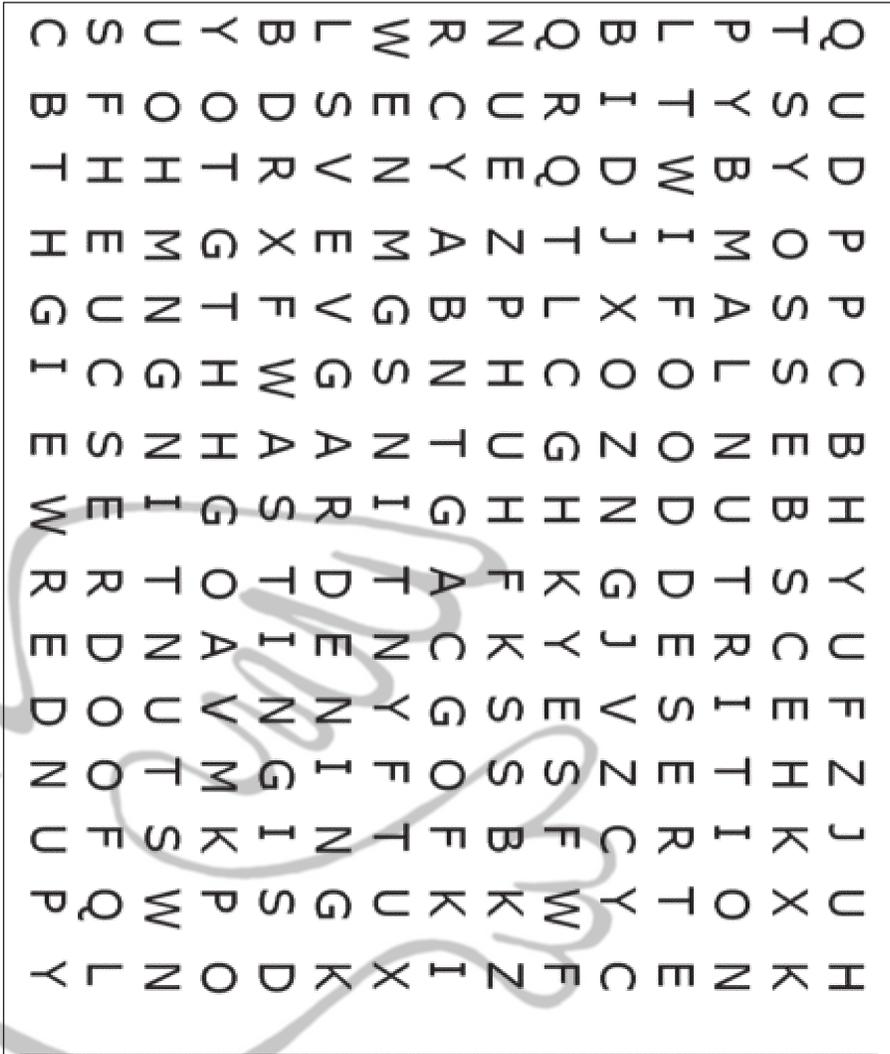
1. One in \_\_\_ Americans does not have enough food.  
D. five E. two F. six G. eight
2. True or False: The lack of adequate nutrition during early childhood can affect cognitive, physical and behavioral development.  
S. True T. False
3. Approximately how much of the population in developing countries is undernourished?  
O. 15 percent P. 20 percent Q. 10 percent R. 5 percent
4. How many US dollars does it cost per day to provide a child with all of the vitamins and nutrients he or she needs to grow up healthy?  
A. \$1.30 B. \$5.75 C. \$0.25 D. \$7.50
5. How many people in the world do not have enough to eat?  
A. 50 million B. 100 million C. 500 million D. 805 million
6. 1.345 billion people in developing countries live on \_\_\_ per day or less.  
N. \$0.40 O. \$1.25 P. \$1.00 Q. \$0.75
7. 80 percent of the stunted children in the world live in just \_\_\_ countries.  
S. 47 T. 8 U. 20 V. 14
8. One in \_\_\_ people will go to bed hungry tonight.  
C. eight D. six E. ten F. five
9. True or False: There is enough food in the world to provide everyone with enough nourishment.  
E. True F. False
10. How many people live in food-insecure households in the United States?  
Q. 30 million R. 49 million S. 12 million T. 73 million

Correct answers: 1-F, 2-S, 3-O, 4-C, 5-D, 6-O, 7-U, 8-E, 9-E, 10-R  
Secret Word: Food rescue

# Hunger Word Search

by Kristin Waites

Instructions: Circle the terms from the list in the word search above. They may be forwards or backwards, as well as up, down, or diagonal. Once you've found all of the words, look up the ones you don't know in the hunger glossary online at [seedspublishers.org](http://seedspublishers.org).



- FOOD DESERT
- FOOD RESCUE
- FOOD SECURITY
- GARDENING
- HUNGER
- MALNUTRITION
- SNAP
- STUNTING
- UNDERWEIGHT
- WASTING

—Kristin Waites, a native of Rowlett, TX, is a Professional Writing student at Baylor University and a Seeds of Hope intern.

# Benediction

by Katie Cook

*Let us go now from this place,*

remembering that our Creator God  
called us to nurture this planet.

Let us go now from this place,  
remembering that Jesus Christ  
called us to care for our neighbors.

Let us go now from this place,  
clothing ourselves with love  
for all creation,

for all people

and for the tasks set before us.

Let us go and be tenders of the Earth  
healers of the nations,  
sowers of new seeds  
and harvesters of new abundance.

Let us build up the ancient ruins,  
repair the ruined cities  
and bring comfort to those who mourn.

May God's will be done here, where we live;  
may impossible things come to pass.

May we find strength in the journey  
and joy in the struggle,  
through the grace of God,

Amen.