

Hunger News & Hope

A Seeds of Hope Publication

How to Help Ukrainians— and Others

by Katie Cook

Editor's note: You will see a story on page 2 by Linda Freeto about the people of Afghanistan and ways to help them. You may think that the list on pages 8-9 is either a repetition of Linda's list or an argument against it, but we have both selected the groups in our lists with the specific issues in Afghanistan and Ukraine, respectively, in mind. There are duplications, but that is because we found that those organizations are hard at work in both areas. Also, neither of these lists is exhaustive. We have left out many very good and very worthy organizations in the interest of space and the readers' capacity to take in information.

I may be in a unique position, but I have seen and received a paralyzing number of recommendations about ways to help Ukrainian people as they scramble

Please see "Ukrainians" on page 8.



Above: A family flees the military offensive in Ukraine.
Photo courtesy of UN Women Moldova.

What You'll Find Inside:

2

Wake-Up Call: Desperation
Continues to Grow in
Afghanistan

4

Expert on Food Insecurity
Comes to Baylor Program:
Craig Gundersen Takes on
Endowed Chair for Hunger
Research

6

A Global Public-Health
Pioneer and Equity
Advocate:
Remembering Paul Farmer

10

Seeking Justice in the Cocoa
Trade:
An Update

12

Quotes, Poems & Pithy
Sayings



art by Erin Kennedy Mayer

Wake-Up Call: Desperation Continues to Grow in Afghanistan

by Linda Freeto

Every day the news of war and rumors of war splashes across our televisions and computer screens, as well as daily newspapers. We watch as devastation, weariness and loss of hope shows on one face after another. We ask, "What is being done to help these people?"

At this writing, the eyes of the world are riveted on the conflict in Ukraine, and some of us forget the people on whom our eyes were glued just a few months ago. Thousands of Afghans stagger across their homeland trying to flee from pain, suffering and starvation. Young children hold a parent's hand walking, walking, but going where? There is no relief.

In February of this year, six months after the pullout of US troops, the International Rescue Committee released a statement saying that starvation could now kill more Afghans than the last 20 years of war did.

Decades of war have taken Afghanistan to the edge of collapse. Mary-ellen McGroarty, Afghanistan country director for the World Food Programme (WFP) described her shock as she viewed the conditions in Afghanistan: "In all my long career in WFP, I've seen this [situation] deteriorate, escalate, and implode at a pace and scale that just stunned me. Week on week, we've just seen it get worse."¹

In 2001, declaring war on terrorism, United States military forces went into Afghanistan to punish the people responsible for the attack on the World Trade Towers in New York City. Thousands of people from around the world were killed when the Twin Towers collapsed after two American Airlines planes, hijacked by terrorists reportedly taking orders from Afghanistan, crashed into the towers. Meanwhile, another plane flew into the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and another crashed into a Pennsylvania field.²

Over the next 20 years, the Afghan people have lived in a constant state of fear as the war continued. Many thousands of people on both sides were killed as the land and culture of the Afghan people were being destroyed. Now Afghanistan is one of the world's poorest countries.

Finally, the Taliban was forced out of Afghanistan, and, as long as US troops remained, the people were able to rebuild their lives and country. Food and water became

more plentiful, and life began to be hopeful. Girls were able to attend school for the first time. Young people were trained for the military.

Financial aid provided vital resources. Food and other supplies arrived.³ Meanwhile, rumors that the US military would leave the country emboldened the Taliban to begin moving into weak spots and taking control.

The rumor became real in August 2021, as US troops, American civilians and Afghans who worked for the US government began to leave the country. As Americans left, the world saw the Afghan government crumbling. Deteriorating security for American families remaining in Afghanistan caused an increase in the speed of withdrawal. Troops secured the area around the airport in Kabul as US and Afghan citizens prepared to leave.

And leave they did. On August 15, the United States "completed the evacuation of its embassy in Afghanistan and took down the American flag at the diplomatic compound."⁴

Since the collapse of the US-supported government and the imposition of a Taliban government and social order, conditions have worsened considerably. Although the Taliban has endeavored to present a more moderate face to the world, economic conditions have worsened, schools have closed (especially for women and girls) and hunger has become widespread.

People are living in more fear than ever. Decades of war, drought and loss of crops and livestock have displaced millions of Afghans.

Relief agencies are now almost solely responsible for supplying food, water and most of the life-sustaining necessities. Men, women and children are dying. They have no jobs and no money to buy food, shelter or water. The only help the people can count on is from nonprofit organizations from around the world.

In February of this year, six months after the pullout of US troops, the International Rescue Committee released a statement saying that starvation could now kill more Afghans than the last 20 years of war did. The agency says that 97 percent of the Afghan population faces poverty.⁵

The international humanitarian agency CARE recently released a statement saying that Afghanistan "remains one of the most dangerous and most violent, crisis-ridden countries in the world."⁶

Humanitarian agencies are working hard to get into the communities with the greatest need. I am listing a few global nonprofits who are already working in Afghanistan.

These agencies need more donations to continue their work. Now, with a war going on in the Ukraine and other crises around the world, resources are stretched thinner than ever. How can you and I help? Part of the answer is below.

We Can Help by Supporting These Agencies:

1. CARE. The international humanitarian agency CARE has been in Afghanistan for many years. Like those of a number of organizations, its personnel had to temporarily suspend some of their activities and field operations because of the physical danger, but CARE is now back to work in Afghanistan (www.care.org).

2. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams in Afghanistan are continuing to provide medical care across all five of their projects in Herat, Helmand, Kandahar, Khost and Kunduz provinces. Despite intense fighting in recent weeks, their teams have not stopped providing vital medical care (www.doctorswithoutborders.org).

3. International Rescue Committee. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) provides financial and physical resources to the “health, safety, education, economic well-being and power” of all people, as well as fighting for the rights of women and girls for an equal chance to succeed (www.rescue.org).

4. Islamic Relief USA. For 20 years, Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA) has continued to serve the Afghan people as they experience physical insecurity, violence and hunger. Islamic Relief staff prepare food packages to distribute to families in need and work with community partners to settle Afghan refugees in the US. (<https://irusa.org>).

5. United Methodist Committee on Relief. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has worked in Afghanistan since the mid-1960s in partnership with local Afghan communities and other humanitarian agencies. UMCOR helps with financial assistance for food, housing, and other necessities as well as refugee resettlements especially in the United States (<https://umcmmission.org>).

Right: Afghan children wait for help to come. Photo courtesy of pxfuel.

6. Church World Service. Church World Service (CWS) welcomes Afghans into the United States through its Afghan Placement and Assistance Program (APA). This program works with refugee resettlement agencies to help Afghan nationals with temporary housing and temporary legal status to expedite work authorization. As Afghan families settle into prepared housing, they will receive food supplies, seasonal clothing, health care, and assistance in school enrollment for the children up to 90 days (www.cwsglobal.org).

7. World Food Programme. A recent World Food Programme (WFP) report says that a “humanitarian crisis of incredible proportions has grown even more complex and severe...creating a new class of hungry in Afghanistan.” The report goes on to say that almost half of children under 5 and a quarter of pregnant and breastfeeding women need life-saving nutrition support for the next twelve months. WFP is focusing significant energy and resources to get food products into strategic Afghan locations. (www.wfp.org).

—Linda Freeto, a frequent contributor to Hunger News & Hope, has received a number of Associated Church Press (ACP) awards for her Special Section reports in the HNH theme issues. Her special report on Women and Poverty from the summer 2016 issue was included in ACP’s compilation, Best of the Christian Press, in 2016. Linda is a Methodist minister and a member of the Seeds Council of Stewards.

Endnotes

1. Teresa Welsh, “Afghanistan Faces ‘Starvation, Death, Migration’ says WFP,” Devex Dish (www.devex.com).

Please see “Afghanistan” on page 11.



Expert on Food Insecurity Comes to Baylor Program:

Craig Gundersen Takes on Endowed Chair for Hunger Research

by Dawn Michelle Michals

Craig Gundersen has had an illustrious history as a food justice advocate and is a much sought-after resource for information on food insecurity in the US, especially when it comes to SNAP¹—its benefits and where it's lacking.

He's honest. That's why we like him.

And it all started with his first job out of college. After Craig graduated from the University of Notre Dame, he worked for a year at a homeless shelter in Houston. "I have always been interested in areas of poverty" he said.

And he still is.

You may remember Craig from the Summer 2020 issue of *Hunger News & Hope*. In fact, he inspired the entire issue

No one in the country has their finger on the pulse of hunger, and how to end it, as much as Craig Gundersen.

—Jeremy Everett

when he alerted us to the importance of the relationship between disability and food insecurity in the United States. He reviewed all of the articles and wrote the introduction for us.

Now he has moved to Waco, TX, to work for the Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP).

Before coming to Baylor, Gundersen worked at the Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and at Iowa State University.

He was an ACES² Distinguished Professor with the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, a fellow of global food and agriculture at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the Soybean Industry Endowed Professor in Agricultural Strategy in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois and executive director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory.

His research has been published in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Econometrics*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Nutrition*, *Pediatrics*, *Demography*, *Obesity Reviews*, *Future of Children*, *Food Policy*, *Applied Economics*

Policy and Perspectives, *Review of Income and Wealth*, *American Journal of Public Health* and *Hunger News and Hope*, to name a few.

Currently, Gundersen is the Managing Editor for *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, a Round Table Fellow of the Farm Foundation, and a Faculty Affiliate of the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) at the Notre Dame.

But he says his proudest moment is "working with the great people at Feeding America," where he serves as a member of the Technical Advisory Group and is the lead researcher on the "Map the Meal Gap" project, Feeding America's annual study of local food insecurity, child food insecurity, and food prices across the United States by county.³

"Dr. Gundersen is a critical partner in the work we do here at Feeding America," said Tom Summerfelt, the organization's vice president of research. Summerfelt continued,

His efforts on the causes and consequences of food insecurity and on the evaluation of food assistance programs are vital for us to better understand the root causes of hunger. His insights on our Map the Meal Gap study also help us work more effectively with community partners to serve neighbors in need, and inform the actions of the Feeding America food bank network.

Beginning last August, he began work at the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP). Dr. Gundersen is now the Snee Family Endowed Chair at BCHP and a professor in the Department of Economics at Baylor.

Jeremy Everett, BCHP executive director,⁴ said of Gundersen's role:

The Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty's mission is to cultivate scalable solutions to end hunger. To scale innovative solutions up to a level that can affect the maximum amount of change, it is essential that we have quality research to tell us whether what we are doing is effective, or just seems effective because it makes us feel good. Being in a top-tier research institution has always put us in an ideal place to utilize the best research

possible. Adding Dr. Gundersen to our team, though, elevates us to another level. No one in the country has their finger on the pulse of hunger, and how to end it, as much as Craig Gundersen. We are incredibly excited for the ways he will assist us in fulfilling our mission.

Everett continued, “Our work at Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty stands on the pillars of research, policy, and practice.”

“I hope my research can help strengthen the research part of the table,” Gundersen responded.

Baylor president Linda Livingstone issued this statement:

We know that this is a cause close to the hearts of the Snee family, and we give thanks that they are entrusting this part of their family’s legacy with Baylor University. We are grateful that they are entrusting Baylor and the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty to lead this incredibly important and urgent effort to find solutions and best practices to address hunger at home and abroad.

Everett added,

Food security is critical to building a more equitable and inclusive world where all children and their families have access to the food they need to flourish. We are grateful for the Snees, who have taken on a calling to combat world hunger as a personal area of concern for their family, and we look forward to seeing the impact the Snee Chair will make on our work and in the lives of the individuals, families and communities in the United States and around the globe.

Gundersen remarked that it was a “seamless transition” making his new home at Baylor. “Everything I was doing was going on at BCHP too. My day-to-day world can now be fully directed at food insecurity, which is exciting.”

The decision to move to Texas and to Baylor from Illinois was simple. “BCHP is the premier place for food insecurity research in the United States, plus the Christian mission of Baylor made it an easy decision. Baylor is a university that takes its Christian mission seriously.”

Right: Dr. Craig Gundersen at the Baylor University School of Social Work, where the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty is housed. Photo by Rod Aydelotte, courtesy of the Waco Tribune-Herald.

What’s next for Dr. Craig Gundersen? “To retire,” he joked. “My plan is to finish my career here at Baylor.” But then he added, there’s “so much exciting stuff to be done. How do we reach out to the most vulnerable? That would be the next step in all this.”

–Dawn Michelle Michals is a freelance writer and social media specialist living in Waco, TX. She is the Seeds of Hope Social Media editor and an award-winning reporter for Hunger News & Hope. Our readers will have seen her work under the name Chelle Samaniego. Please visit www.dawnmichellemichals.com for more information.

Sources: The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, Feeding America, personal interviews with Jeremy Everett and Tom Summerfelt. For more about Gundersen or for a list of some of his articles about food security, go to www.baylor.edu/hungerandpoverty and find him under “research.” You can find links to his Google Scholar page and his curriculum vitae.

Endnotes

1. SNAP is the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
2. College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
3. This online, interactive map is free to use and available to everyone at <https://map.feedingamerica.org>.
4. Jeremy Everett’s name will not be new to *Hunger News & Hope* readers. He wrote an editorial about the Texas-Mexico border crisis for the summer 2019 issue, and a review of his book *I Was Hungry* appeared in the same issue.



A Global Public-Health Pioneer and Equity Advocate

Remembering Paul Farmer (1959–2022)

by Sara E. Alexander

Globally acclaimed physician, anthropologist and humanitarian Paul Farmer has died at the age of 62, on the grounds of a hospital and university he helped establish in Butaro, Rwanda. As a *New York Times* obituary relates, Farmer had a profound, world-wide impact through his accomplishments in delivering high-quality health care to some of the world's poorest people.¹

"What happens to poor people is never divorced from the actions of the powerful," Farmer wrote in his 2005 book

Paul Farmer was a practitioner of "social medicine," arguing there was no point in treating patients for diseases only to send them back into the desperate circumstances that contributed to the diseases in the first place.

Pathologies of Power. He was both a doctor and medical anthropologist as well as an activist, committing his life to advocacy for health equity. He co-founded Partners in Health (PIH), a non-profit organization that provides free medical care in low-income countries including Haiti, Peru and Rwanda, in 1987.

He used results from the group's work to transform global guidelines on how to treat tuberculosis, HIV and Ebola.² More recently, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Farmer and his colleagues criticized monopolies on vaccines that help to account for why fewer than 10 percent of people have been fully vaccinated in low-income countries.³

In 1990, Farmer earned a PhD in anthropology and a medical degree from Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA, where he later taught global health and social medicine. His views were shaped by experiences he had as a child growing up in the southeastern United States in relative poverty—one of six children living in a bus, a boat and a tent, and as a young adult in Haiti.⁴

One summer, he and his family worked alongside Haitian migrant workers picking oranges, listening curiously as they chatted to one another in Creole from atop ladders. That was Paul's first encounter with Haiti, the country that would captivate him in his 20s and then propel him toward a career in public health.⁵ As Amy Maxmen wrote in her obituary,

*They were deepened by his knowledge of social theory, political theory and the Catholic philosophy of "liberation theology." This study focused his thinking on the systemic oppression of poor people.*⁵

Farmer was disparaging of "public-health for the cost-benefit" analyses conducted by governments and donors to calculate when medical technologies that they take for granted are worthwhile for those who cannot pay for them themselves. He wrote an editorial in the *World Health Organization Bulletin* in 2003,⁶ in which he decried those in the public-health community who pushed for HIV prevention rather than care in poor countries because it was cheaper. At the time, HIV drugs were astronomically expensive—but did not need to be. Two years later, policy changes allowed generics to enter the market and prices fell dramatically.

Ellen Barry and Alex Traub wrote in a *New York Times* obituary that Farmer was a practitioner of 'social medicine,' arguing there was no point in treating patients for diseases only to send them back into the desperate circumstances that contributed to the diseases in the first place. Illness, he said, has social roots and must be addressed through social structures.⁷ His primary vision was of a world in which everyone has access to health care, and he sometimes bent the rules with his colleagues to make strides, particularly in the early days.

Though he worked in the world of development, he was sometimes skeptical of international aid, preferring to work with indigenous groups. He moved his family to Rwanda and Haiti in order to live among the people he was treating.⁸

In private, however, Farmer was passionate to ultimately restructure systems. His close colleague, Adia Benton, an anthropologist at Northwestern University, explains, "They knew that to get this many people on HIV care, you'd have to change patent law, you'd have to change manufacturing, you'd have to build obstetrician-gynecology clinics. He'd argue that you can't take care of maternal-to-child transmission without good prenatal care," she explained. "They were hustlers."⁹

Partners in Health stands apart from most other aid organizations in that it attempts not only to build clinics, but also to ensure they remain sustainable by operating within government-run services and enlisting local staff

at every level. “I am a living testament to that,” said Bailor Barrie, the executive director of PIH Sierra Leone, a branch established during the Ebola outbreak in 2014. Farmer and Barrie met when the latter was a global-health student in Farmer’s class at Harvard Medical School. “He is my teacher, my mentor, my colleague, my friend. I call him Pa because he is like a father,” Barrie says. “I am devastated.”

Over the span of his entire career, Paul Farmer encouraged scientists studying diseases to include, in their analysis, forces such as racism, sexism and poverty that hinder people’s abilities to take advantage of scientific knowledge. Although rooting out the sources of oppression is a tall order, Farmer described how medical programs could work better if they strove for equity.¹⁰

Over the years, Farmer raised millions of dollars for an ever-expanding network of community health facilities. The clinic in Haiti, at first a single room, grew to a network of 16 medical centers in the country, with a local staff of almost 7,000. He had a contagious enthusiasm and considerable nerve.¹¹ He spent his career trying to convince people that health care is a human right. For this, he ultimately became a celebrity in global-health spheres. He leaves a legacy of researchers committed to carrying his mission forward. “He wasn’t just a guy with a vision,” Benton said. “He was brilliant.”¹²

News of Dr. Farmer’s death rippled through the worlds of medicine and public health. “There are so many people that are alive because of that man,” Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said.

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, cited in the *New York Times*, said he and Farmer had been like “soul brothers.” “When you talk about iconic giants in the field of public health, he stands pretty much among a very, very short list of people,” said Fauci, who first met Farmer decades ago, when he was a medical student. He added, “He called me his mentor, but in reality, he was more of a mentor to me.”

In the latter part of his career, Farmer became a public health luminary; the subject of a 2017 documentary, *Bending the Arc*, and the author of

Paul Farmer writes a prescription for a pediatric patient at the Partners in Health hospital in Cange, Haiti, in 2003. Photo by Angel Franco/New York Times.



12 books. In 2020, when he was awarded the \$1 million Berggruen Prize, given annually to an influential thought leader, the chair of the prize committee said Dr. Farmer had “reshaped our understanding” of “what it means to treat health as a human right and the ethical and political obligations that follow.”¹³

Over the years, Farmer kept in touch with many of his patients, as well as their children and grandchildren. He was godfather to more than 100 children, most of them in Haiti, said Laurie Nuell, a close friend and board director at Partners in Health. “He had a very tender heart,” she said. “Seeing pain and suffering was very hard for him. It just hurt him. I’m a social worker by training. One thing I learned is about detachment. He wasn’t detached from anyone. That’s the beauty of it.”¹⁴

—Sara Alexander is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Baylor University and a consultant with TANGO International (an NGO that provides technical assistance). As a social anthropologist, she has worked in Central America, West and East Africa and Appalachia. Her research focuses on developing countries in such matters as livelihood security and vulnerability, food security, ecotourism, natural resource management, the human dimensions of climate change and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. She is a member of the Hunger News & Hope editorial team and a member of the Seeds Council of Stewards.

Endnotes

1. Ellen Barry and Alex Traub, “Paul Farmer, Pioneer of Global Health, Dies at 62,” *New York Times*, February 21 [2022] (www.nytimes.com).
2. Amy Maxmen, “Obituary: Paul Farmer (1959-2022),” *Nature*, March 10, 2022 (www.nature.org).

Please see “Farmer” on page 9.

Ukrainians, *continued from page 1*

to find safety and provide basic needs for themselves and others. I had never heard of some of the organizations I saw—which doesn't mean that they are not legitimate. But it made me stop and think, "What really is the best way to help? And is there a way that people wouldn't have to wade through an endless list of organizations?"

The first thing I'm recommending seems contrary to what we've been taught about Christian ministry. We're told not to just throw money at problems. Our training and instinct tell us to go to the place where the disaster is, come face to face with the people and help. And it is true that we

So, for displaced Ukrainian people, or Afghan refugees, or the people where a flood or tornado has hit, your best gift is a monetary one. And some agencies are more prepared to help than others.

should never avoid having personal contact with people in need. However, this is not only not always feasible, but it sometimes causes problems. Sometimes we get in the way. Sometimes—probably most of the time, especially in cases of events that happen a long way away—we need to financially support aid workers who are already in the affected area, and who know what they are doing.

The second thing is this: don't send old clothes and household items to disaster or conflict areas. Displaced people do need these things, but they may not be able to use what you send. Dealing with this kind of donation often becomes a burden for relief agencies. I remember reports of relief workers in Florida, after a hurricane, being forced to take truckloads of donated clothing to the trash dump. These same agencies can use monetary donations to purchase the needed items—or, better yet, distribute them to families in need to purchase their own. It will also help bolster the local economy. This is the case in Ukraine.

There are organizations in your community that have thrift stores. Donate your clothing and household items that are in good condition to them. They use the revenue for women's shelters, homeless shelters, food pantries and emergency assistance programs. They also welcome you as shoppers, because this also provides revenue for their ministries. Also, please go through your donations carefully and make sure you are not giving them junk. This puts an additional burden on them.

So, for displaced Ukrainian people, or Afghan refugees, or the people where a flood or tornado has hit, your best gift is a monetary one. And some agencies are more prepared

to help than others. Some already have personnel in the area and can literally wire funds to them in minutes. Some partner with indigenous organizations and thus have fewer overhead expenses, so you know your donation is going to help the affected people.

Below are a few of the organizations we recommend. (This is not an exhaustive list; there are many more agencies doing great work. These are the ones we know the most about.)

1. The World Food Programme (WFP). The WFP recently issued an appeal for more funds, citing global inflation and an impending food shortage crisis as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. WFP has had a program in place in Ukraine for years. Its leaders look ahead to what will happen in the months to come and do all they can to prepare for it (www.wfp.org).

2. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This UN agency has set up a program to give grants directly to displaced Ukrainians for much-needed supplies (<https://give.unrefugees.org>).

3. Church World Service (CWS). CWS has a highly organized refugee resettlement program and was already, before this war, working with more than 70 host countries. CWS also has an efficient disaster-relief system, working with indigenous humanitarian groups for rapid response (<https://cwsglobal.org>).

4. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Armed conflict and disasters cause untold harm to human bodies. MSF can and does mobilize quickly to reach affected areas with medical help. It sends doctors into conflict zones and also to areas where diseases like cholera break out.

5. World Central Kitchens (WCK). Founded in 2010 by celebrity chef José Andrés in response to the horrific earthquake in Haiti, WCK now provides prepared meals all over the world where conflict and disaster occur. WCK has a "Chefs for Ukraine" project, which has already served thousands of meals to families across Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Moldova and Hungary (www.wck.org).

6. CARE. Founded in 1945, CARE is one of the oldest and largest humanitarian agencies in the world. CARE is organized to respond quickly and efficiently to crises such as the one in and around Ukraine (www.care.org).

7. UNICEF. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) can be found anywhere in the world where children are in need of humanitarian and developmental aid. UNICEF currently operates in 192 countries. Because children bear the brunt of most conflicts, UNICEF is working to provide relief in Ukraine as well.

8. The Ocalenie Foundation/Fundacia Ocalenie. Reports have come from the Ukrainian region that people of color

have faced discrimination in trying to flee from the conflict. This foundation, headquartered in Warsaw, Poland, has been especially helpful in getting people of color across the border as refugees (en.ocalenie.org.pl).

9. Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights. This group is working to support women, transgender and nonbinary activists in and around Ukraine with emergency evacuations, relocations, shelter and communication channels (urgentactionfund.org.)

10. Find out what your denomination is doing. Most denominations and faith groups have already set up funds and mobilized workers or partnered with workers in the affected area. Encourage your faith community to designate a missions offering for Ukraine relief or host a Ukrainian refugee family.

–Katie Cook is the *Seeds of Hope* editor.

Author's note: These organizations are going to need help for some time to come, so please remember that, when Ukraine fades from the headlines and nightly news, the needs will continue. Also, please remember that there are refugees and internally displaced people (see the story on page 2 about Afghan refugees), as well as people suffering from conflict and disaster, in many places around the world.

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last six years.
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*Email seedseditor1@gmail.com for a pdf of this four-session workshop from *Seeds of Hope*. If you are in the Central Texas area, a *Seeds* representative will lead the workshop for you for gas money.*

Farmer,

continued from page 7

3. Parsa Erfani, Agnes Binagwaho, Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, Muhammad Yunus, Paul Farmer, Vanessa Kerry; "Intellectual Property Waiver for COVID-19 Vaccines Will Advance Global Health Equity." *BMJ* (British Medical Journal) 2021 (<http://bmj.com>).
4. Maxmen.
5. Barry and Traub.
6. Maxmen.
7. Paul Farmer, "AIDS as a Global Emergency," *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 81 (10), 699; 2003; World Health Organization (www.who.int).
8. Barry and Traub.
9. Ibid.
10. Maxmen.
11. Joia Mukherjee, et al; "A Practical Approach to Universal Health Coverage," *Lancet Global Health* 7; 2019 (www.sciencedirect.com).
12. Barry and Traub.
13. Maxmen
14. Barry and Traub.
15. Ibid.

Seeking Justice in the Cocoa Trade : An Update

by Lincoln Crowder

The Nestlé corporation has a reputation for flirting with immoral business practices, at times skipping the flirtation and moving straight to direct abuse. It was the target of an international boycott in the 1980s for pushing dehydrated baby formula to mothers in Ethiopia, which, according to relief and development organizations in the region, caused the deaths of countless children. In 2003, Nestlé sued the government of Ethiopia for \$6 million, prompting 40,000 people to contact its headquarters in protest.¹

More recently, the corporation has been accused, along with Cargill USA, of violating the Alien Tort Statute (ATS), a briefly worded portion of the Judiciary Act passed by the First US Congress in 1789, which has a long, complex history. In short, it provides legal authority for foreign nationals to sue in the US for violations of international law. However, due to its brevity, it has been interpreted differently by various courts across the land and throughout US history. The application of the law is currently under review by the courts as a direct result of these two corporations and their heavy involvement in the global cocoa industry.

Cocoa harvesting in Côte d'Ivoire relies heavily upon child slavery, trafficking children from across Northern and Western Africa as its source of labor. Nestlé and Cargill have both been accused by six men from Mali of aiding and abetting the child slavery trade in Ivory Coast to maintain low prices in the cocoa market. These men are former child slaves who say they worked 12-to-14-hour days in the cocoa

fields under brutal conditions, including torture. They, like most children who are forced to do this labor, would have been handed a machete and told to go work without any kind of training, let alone receive sufficient food or shelter.

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It is clear through the methods by which these corporations do their business that they are not only aware of the enslavement of children to harvest the cocoa that they purchase, but that they intentionally use this method of business to keep costs for their chocolate business low.

the enslavement of children to harvest the cocoa that they purchase, but that they intentionally use this method of business to keep costs for their chocolate business low, increasing profits of products like Nestlé Crunch Bar and Wilbur Chocolate. The US Supreme Court recently ruled that the ATS does not provide protections for the Malians in the case that they have brought, but it was not rejected entirely. It rather received split opinions and was remanded back to the lower courts.

This ruling generally provides protections to such corporations, and it leaves only a small handful of available options for stopping such actions. The most likely to achieve success is to utilize consumer techniques similar to those used against Nestlé before: boycott. Social rejection of Nestlé's and Cargill's practices in this sector through outright refusal to purchase any of their products has drawn their attention, and it will again. However, boycotting Cargill products is much more difficult than avoiding Nestlé products because Cargill does not typically sell consumer-grade products, but primarily sells industrial chocolate.

Another avenue would be to press for congressional action, but it would require a change to some of the oldest legislation in the US: the Judiciary Act. This change is



art by Robert Darden

unlikely, though the existing opinions concerning the ATS show that prior courts have felt that the act was insufficient. Unfortunately, it will likely remain so.

Therefore, a boycott of Nestlé and Cargill products is the most likely path for success in correcting what are seen as the moral crimes they commit against humans in the name of private profits. In the 1980s, when Nestlé seemed to view profits as more important than the lives of infants and mothers in Ethiopia, it actively promoted its powdered baby formula, similarly to how tobacco companies promoted cigarettes while knowing their product was harmful.

At this writing, other American chocolate companies such as Hershey, as well as European chocolate firms, seem to be following international agreements such as the Harkin-Engel protocol. They have agreed to reduce and terminate, over time, the use and purchase of chocolate harvested using slavery (child or adult).

—Lincoln Crowder grew up at Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco, TX, where the Seeds offices are housed. He writes, “I was surrounded by people passionate about social justice, hunger especially.” He is working now to complete a Master of Nonprofit Management degree from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, and is on track to graduate this spring.

Endnote

1. See the following *Hunger News & Hope* stories: “Nestlé Gets in Hot Water—Again,” Vol 5 No 2, Spring 2003; “Bittersweet Reality: Chocolate Companies and Child Labor” and sidebar “What about Nestlé?,” Vol 12, No 2, Fall 2011; “Hunger in Ethiopia” and sidebar “The Nestlé Chronicles,” Vol 14 No 1, Winter 2014; “Bittersweet: Nestlé Waters Battles Local Groups on Water Rights,” Vol 18 No 2, Summer 2018.

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continued from page 7

2. Keith D. McGrew, “Afghanistan War,” History.com, August 20, 2021.
3. Teresa Welsh.
4. Lauren Said-Moorhouse, Melissa Mahtani, Melissa Macaya, Maureen Chowdhury, Brad Lendon and Joshua Berlinger; “August 15, 2021: Afghanistan-Taliban News,” CNN (www.cnn.com).
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6. “Afghanistan Remains One of the Most Dangerous and Most Violent, Crisis-Ridden Countries in the World,” CARE (www.care.org).

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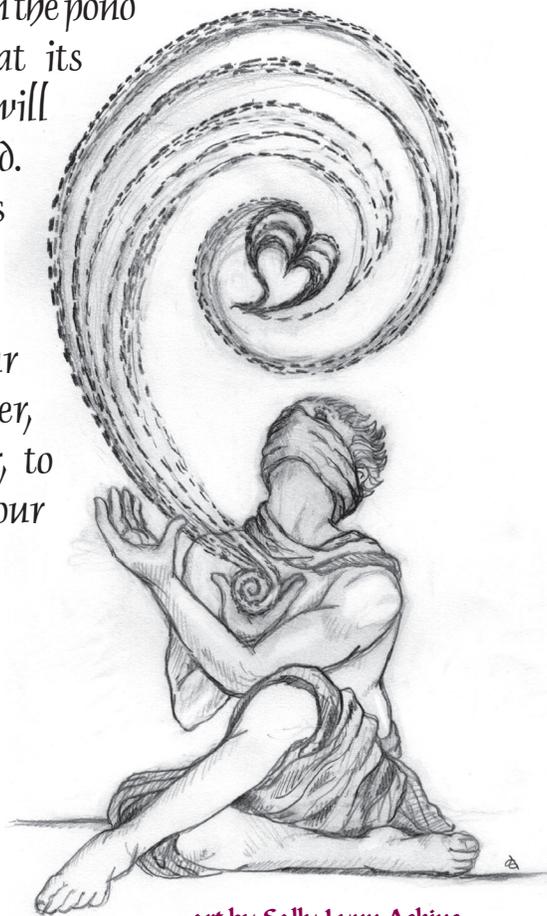
Statement of Purpose

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

Quotes, Poems & Pithy Sayings

What we would like to do is change the world—make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute—the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, in other words—we can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend.

—Dorothy Day



art by Sally Lynn Askins

Editorial Address

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Seeds also produces *Sacred Seasons*, a series of worship materials for Advent, Lent and an annual Hunger Emphasis—with an attitude “toward justice, peace and food security for all of God’s children.” These include litanies, sermons, children’s and youth activities, bulletin art and drama.

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