



January 15, 2009

Dear Pastors and Churches of the Memphis Annual Conference:

Every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes – one child every 5 seconds. Across the world, 923 million people are hungry. The problem of hunger in the U.S. reaches far beyond the homeless. Some 35.5 million people in the United States, including 12.6 million children, do not have access to enough food for an active healthy life. Some of these individuals rely on emergency food sources and some experience hunger.

The face of hunger in the U.S. is the older couple. They've worked their entire lives only to find their savings wiped out by unavoidable medical bills. Or the face of hunger is a single mother who has to choose whether the salary from her minimum wage job will go to buy food or pay rent. Or it can be a child who struggles to concentrate on his or her schoolwork because the child's family couldn't afford to buy dinner the night before. The face of hunger on the global stage is even worse than you can imagine.

We are asking for your commitment and support in helping to alleviate suffering from hunger in the world, and hunger in our own Conference. Please help make the 2009 Lenten World Hunger Offering a success.

Enclosed in your packet are these materials:

- **Poster** “...Those who were hungry hunger no more.” **1 Samuel 2:5**
- **List of Suggestions:** Ideas to have a successful Lenten Offering
- **Calendar:** It encourages people to make an offering based upon their blessings
- **List of Projects:** Those ministries and programs underwritten by the Lenten World Hunger Offering
- **Bulletin Insert Hunger Quiz:** Questions and answers about hunger

The money raised by the Lenten World Hunger Offering will be distributed to the following international, national, regional and local organizations (for a description of the project, see enclosed sheet, “Projects supported by 2009 Offering”):

- **UMCOR WORLD HUNGER/ POVERTY**
- **HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL**
- **PEANUT BUTTER PROJECT**
- **AFRICA UNIVERSITY DREAM FARM**
- **SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW/POTATO PROJECT**
- **HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY**
- **REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES**
- **UNITED METHODIST NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF MEMPHIS**
- **MEMPHIS FOOD BANK, RIFA FOOD DEPOT (Jackson), and PADUCAH COOPERATIVE MINISTRY**
- **DISTRICT PROJECTS**

Thank you for making your congregation aware of these tremendous needs and the ministry we share. If you need additional information, please call Dr. Gary Morse, 731-422-4997, or Cathy Farmer, 731-664-8480.

In Christian love and service,

Gary Morse

Memphis Conference Advocate, World Hunger