



2011 Memphis Conference United Methodist Church Lenten World Hunger Offering

Let us love... in truth and action

“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” |John 3:17-18 NRSV

The Face of our Campaign

***By Rev. Dr. Joe Geary, Paris District Superintendent
Co-Leader of September 2010 Volunteers in Mission Team to Fond Doux, Haiti***

This picture is of a precious little boy from the village of Fond Doux, Haiti. He appeared to be three to four years old, but children often look younger than they actually are due to malnutrition and stunting of growth.

Each day when he came to the Bible School we offered, he wandered about the job site where our team and local workers were constructing the new Methodist Church from the ruins of the former church destroyed in the January, 2010, earthquake.

He stood out because he was among the poorest and frailest of the children. While most children had clothing, he only had a t-shirt that was too short. He was nude from the waist down. My heart went out to him.

Each day we would feed the workers and the children and youth from the village. The wife of the Methodist pastor at Fond Doux cooked red beans and rice with bits of fish. Our Volunteer in Mission (VIM) team served the meals. The children of the village were so hungry that most would come back for three to four helpings as long as the food would last.

Each child brought a plastic or ceramic or even a metal bowl from home and we would ladle Red beans and rice into these receptacles as the children would quickly get down to the business of eating with their fingers.

This little boy was so poor that he did not have a "regular" bowl like the other children. A Frisbee that had been given to him by a prior VIM team member served not only as a toy; but, turned upside down, it became his food bowl.

His plaintive hungry face becomes the face of Jesus making his appeal through the least of these to say "Let the little children come to me" and "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

25 cents given today to the 2011 Memphis Conference Lenten World Hunger Campaign will fill his Frisbee and give him and other hungry children here and around the world the opportunity to develop and live.