



January 27, 2010

Dear Pastors and Churches of the Memphis Annual Conference:

According to most recent estimates, poor nutrition plays a role in at least half of the 10.9 million child deaths each year. That's over 5 million children who die because of a lack of food. According to the USDA, an estimated 16.7 million children lived in food insecure (low food security) households in 2008. Eight states plus the District of Columbia have 20% or more children under the age of 18 living in food insecure households. The top five states with the highest rate of food insecure children under the age of 18 are Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arizona, South Carolina and the District of Columbia.

The face of hunger in the United States is also that of 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 school work because the child's family couldn't afford to buy dinner the night before.

We are asking for your commitment and support in helping to alleviate suffering from hunger in the world, and hunger in our own Memphis Conference. Please help make the 2010 Lenten World Hunger Offering a success.

Enclosed in your packet are these materials:

- **Poster:** "If you offer your food to the hungry, and satisfy the need of the afflicted soul, then your light will shine in the darkness...." **Isaiah 58:10**
- **List of Suggestions:** Ideas to help you 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 2010 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 various projects, see the enclosed sheet, "Projects supported by 2010 Lenten World Hunger Offering".)

- **UMCOR WORLD HUNGER/ POVERTY**
- **HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL**
- **PEANUT BUTTER PROJECT (Sierra Leone, Africa)**
- **AFRICA UNIVERSITY DREAM FARM (Zimbabwe)**
- **SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW/POTATO PROJECT**
- **HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY**
- **REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES**
- **UNITED METHODIST NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF MEMPHIS**
- **MEMPHIS FOOD BANK, MARTIN WE CARE, RIFA FOOD DEPOT, 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, 731-422-6558, or Cathy Farmer, 731-664-8480.

In Christian love and service,

Gary Morse

Memphis Conference Advocate, World Hunger