

ACTION ALERT – MAY 2006
GOOD SHEPHERD VOICES FOR JUSTICE
Bread for the World Offering of Letters

INTRODUCTION

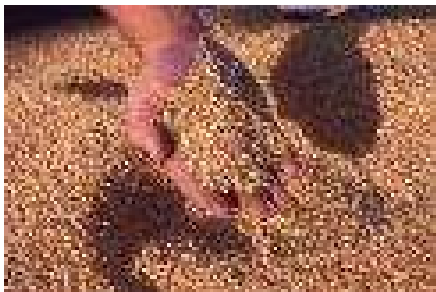


The first sentence of the Good Shepherd Destination Justice Focus Statement says much:

“We believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is inseparable from a concern for and pursuit of justice.”

Social justice is inherently part of who we are as Church, and pursuit of justice is at the innermost core of our very collective being as the body of Christ. Therefore, we are suggesting this month that you respond to the call for letters from Bread for the World to our legislators asking for their support to end world hunger. We invite you to put your faith into action

BACKGROUND



Extreme hunger and poverty in our world literally kills people and keeps 1.1 billion people living on less than \$1 a day. But it doesn't have to be that way. Right now, our government spends less than one-half of 1 percent of our federal budget on this type of aid. We can do better. We are asking our decision makers to allocate an additional 1 percent of the U.S. budget to poverty-focused development assistance by 2010.

Poverty-focused development assistance describes those accounts with the U.S. foreign aid budget that most effectively provide assistance to reduce poverty and invest in broad-base economic development.

Our nation committed to working with other countries, rich and poor, to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, eight achievable goals that show it's possible to cut hunger and poverty in half and substantially improve health, education and livelihoods in poor countries by 2015. Progress is being made in Latin America, East Asia and North Africa, but sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are lagging.



ACTION – HELP END WORLD HUNGER

You can either go to the [Bread for the World website](#) and follow the instructions there, or write a letter to your Congressperson and Senators to allocate funds to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Here is a sample letter. We suggest you use your own words where possible.

Rep. _____

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC, 20515

Sen. _____

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Rep. _____, (Or Dear Sen. _____)

Currently we give less than half of one percent of our federal budget to poverty-focused development assistance. I urge you increase that amount by \$5 billion for 2007 to make progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Poverty-focused development assistance helps poor people around the world to overcome hunger, poverty and disease. 500,000 Africans now have access to HIV drugs, in part due to U.S. government funding. Let's continue to make a difference.

We have a tremendous opportunity to cut global poverty in half. Let's take it.

Sincerely,

Your name and address