

MAKING HUNGER HISTORY:

One Person at a time!

An Occasional Newsletter
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IN/KY Synod World Hunger Task Force Quarterly Newsletter

www.iksynod.org/hunger

Food: Banks and Pantries?

Synod Assembly 2009 was held in Ft. Wayne, Ind. at the Grand Wayne Convention Center. The World Hunger booth was staffed this year by Pastor Phil Garber and me. We had several ideas we were sharing with all who stopped by to visit. We distributed plastic bags containing 1/2 cup of rice with additional information explaining that the contents represented what approximately 60% of the world has to eat for an entire day. Pastor Phil and I approached people walking by the booth by saying we would like to buy their dinner for Saturday night. When they came over to the table we gave each of them one of the bags of rice along with the written information. Many people smiled as they took the bag and acknowledged how blessed we all are. As their heads began to nod, each told us their story. Several shared the first hand experience they had with world hunger as they had taken mission trips. More stories surfaced about efforts back home to raise awareness with the congregation. Some had taken the opportunity to hold a "Rice Dinner" at their church and had reported that many members were moved by the experience. Many talked about the excessive waste of food in this country.

Another message we shared was regarding the opportunity to act locally to impact hunger right in our own towns. Most of visitors at the booth indicated they were actively involved in one form or another of locally addressing hunger. Whether it was operating a food pantry in their church, supporting one with frequent collections of food or financial support or serving food at a soup kitchen, most everyone was very aware of the local need rising to levels we have not seen in decades. We raised the question about local involvement to share with everyone the resource that many may be unaware exists or how it works. We distributed state maps of Indiana or Kentucky with color outlines of where the regional food banks are in each state. We explained how working with the regional food bank can open access to large amounts of food for hunger relief. Paying a "Shared Maintenance Fee" (storage and distribution costs) of a few cents per pound could provide thousands of pounds of donated food to help reduce local hunger. We explained the difference of a food bank (a regional warehouse that supplies food pantries) versus a food pantry (an outlet for people in need to receive food). Several people said they were aware of the food bank in their region of the state and some said they had connected with them to help supply their church food pantry.

We were very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss local and world wide hunger challenges with

USEFUL LINKS:

ELCA World Hunger: www.elca.org/hunger

ELCA e-Advocacy: www.elca.org/advocacy

Bread for the World: www.bread.org

The ONE Campaign: www.one.org

The Tour de Revs: www.tourderevs.org

Rice Dinner Project: www.ricedinner.org

the 80 or so attendees who stopped by and registered at our booth. We know that God can see all the need and the resources to address this challenge. We pray that He will use each of us in ways that will fit His plan.

What's Happening?

Tour de Revs:



The Tour de Revs' Stop #3 was in Indy on May 15-16. There was a bike ride and presentation on both days. The bamboo "triple" is a magnificent machine. I didn't get to ride it but I did get to stand by it with the Revs and those who participated in the rides. We raised over \$2,200 with \$500 of this being a match from the South Marion County Thrivent Chapter. Thank you Thrivent!

The Revs' focus is to raise funds and awareness for domestic and world hunger. They stressed the "awareness" part...reaching as many people as they can through this Tour. The giving of time, advocacy, donations to food pantries, organizing "hunger" events, participating in the Rice Dinner Project, the giving of monies and praying are all intragal parts of alleviating hunger.

The Tour de Revs is still in first-gear as you read this. Today (June 23) they are in Lansing, MI which is Stop #29. They will end their ride at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis, MN on August 20, Stop #66.

Consider making an additional donation to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal or get involved in one of the ways that are listed above. Remember, God can do a lot with a small amount of time or money that you consistently give. We, too, can "make hunger history".

I want to thank the following people for helping out and being involved with the planning and Stop #3 in Indy.

Tour de Revs cont. from page 1

Thanks to: Dan Mowrey, Elaine Adams, Betty Darbro, Pastor Mel Schroeder, Pastor Al Rider, Pastor Laurin Vance, Pastor James Capers, Pat Lusk & ladies of Messiah Lutheran Church in Brownsburg, Chris Cozmanoff & Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Hope Moran and the youth at St. James L.C. in Greenfield, Robert Wilson/Gleaners Food Bank, Roger Burrus, Danielle Burrus, Pastor Bill Gafkjen, Sylvia Ore, Bishop Stuck, The Jordan YMCA, Dan Baldauf, Rita Juhl/Rice Dinner Project and Dave Miner with Bread for the World. If I have forgotten please forgive my oversight!

**What's Happening?****Congregational Fund-Raising events:**

Twenty of the youth of **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**, Rockport, IN, along with their chaperones took part in a 30 hour hunger strike. April 24-25 will long be remembered. From noon Fri. until 6 PM Sat. they existed on liquids only. The chaperones saw to it that they were entertained as well as gainfully employed. They made up skits from bible verses, played laser tag, watched a movie, hiked through the woods and picked up trash at the bluff on the Ohio River. They ended up at the pizza parlor at two minutes to 6:00...no one took a bite until the 30 hours was up. They spent the night in tents on the church grounds. The plan for next year is to sleep in cardboard boxes. More than \$600 was raised in pledges. Jessica Bunch said she "went home with a pretty good feeling in my stomach knowing that a little step at a time, we can help stop world hunger."

Servants of Christ in Indianapolis has a "second passing of the plate" for World Hunger the first Sunday of each month. They also have a monthly Fair Trade coffee-tea-chocolate-handcraft sale with the income going to the local food pantry.

A one to one visit is a natural but uncommon conversation with someone you want to know better. Care enough to be curious about another person's life, values, vision and motivation...both of you will be strengthened by the conversation.