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HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

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One in five children in America struggles with hunger. We know that children need good nutrition in order to do well in school and get a good start in life, but one in five children in America struggles with hunger.

One in four military families need food assistance.

Mass hunger in America is a moral scandal. That's why virtually all churches, synagogues, and mosques are moved to find some way to help feed hungry people.

And if you are a political leader, pay attention. Because ending hunger isn't just right. It's politically smart.

First, we know how to solve this problem.

Over the last couple decades, lots of countries have been making dramatic progress against hunger and poverty.

In our country, the programs that began with the War on Poverty cut the poverty rate by about half. And the revival of our economy has moderated food hardship.

So we can see that targeted programs and policies, coupled with expanding opportunity for all people, can get us to the end of hunger in America.

Bread for the World has found that helping hungry people is a compelling political issue... on both sides of the aisle.

Congress hasn't been able to pass much legislation this year. But just this month, Congress passed an important world hunger bill with strong support from both parties.

Two-thirds of likely voters in swing states say that ending hunger should be one of the top priorities of government.



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Bread for the World's grassroots leaders are now reaching out to voters and candidates across the country, especially in 12 swing states. Digital ads have helped us reach 50 million people in these states, and the response has been really strong. If a Bread for the World ad pops up on your cell phone, click on the ad to learn more – help end hunger.

Hunger is a personal issue for me. One of my sons, John, had a serious problem with addiction. It drove him into poverty and got him in trouble with the law.

John has now been sober for seven years. He has climbed up through a series of poverty-wage jobs, but he is now a truck driver. He is a good dad to his children.

John's success is mainly due to his own hard work. But he also got some help along the way. From Alcoholics Anonymous, we learned that God is stronger than heroin. John also benefited from two effective public programs. His community has a drug treatment court, so instead of sending him to prison they pushed him into the job market. And at a moment when he qualified for unemployment insurance, the unemployment office offered him job training instead of continued benefits.

I love my son John and am really proud of him. But each one of the millions of Americans who struggle with hunger is a precious, gifted child of God – just like my son.

So I am praying and working in this election for a president and Congress who will put us on track to end hunger.

You are political leaders. Make ending hunger part of your agenda. Ending hunger is possible, voters want us to do it, and God is calling us to do it.