

# Legacy of Hope

FALL 2015 ♦ VOLUME 15 NUMBER 2

## New Global Commitment to End Hunger by 2030

Pope Francis challenges the United States to take the lead in ending hunger. Bread for the World organizes a historic convocation in Washington, D.C.

**W**ith strong support from Bread for the World's members and its board of directors, a convocation of more than 100 interfaith leaders met in Washington, D.C., just days before the arrival of Pope Francis on September 24 to meet with President Obama and to address the U.S. Congress.

At a media event at the National Press Club, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, the archbishop of Washington, D.C., announced that interfaith leaders had signed a pledge that calls for a "shift in U.S. national priorities ... to put our nation and the world on track to ending hunger by 2030."

The pledge reads, in part, "We are deeply pleased to welcome Pope Francis to the United States.... He has called us all to pray and work to end hunger. We are pleased that he summoned our nation to end the hunger in our midst and support global efforts to overcome hunger."

In addition to Cardinal Wuerl, signers of this pledge to end hunger

include the top leaders from the major faith families in the United States as well as the presidents of Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service, and Lutheran World Relief. For a full list of the pledge signers, visit [bread.org/interfaithpledge](http://bread.org/interfaithpledge).

In his speech to a joint session of Congress, Pope Francis urged "legislative activity that stimulates the growth of all members [of society], especially those of greater vulnerability or risk." Citing Moses, the pope told members of Congress, "You are asked to protect by means of the law, the image and likeness fashioned by God on every human face."

Later in the week, on September 25, Pope Francis addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In support of the new Sustainable Development Goals, which call for an end to extreme hunger and poverty by 2030, he called for a "new agenda for development ... with access, on the part of all, to essential material and



**David Beckmann (left), president of Bread for the World, looks on as Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, D.C., announces a pledge to work to end hunger by 2030.**

PHOTO © ZACH BLUM / BREAD FOR THE WORLD

spiritual goods."

During the pope's visits to Washington, D.C., New York, and Philadelphia, Bread for the World organized a street canvas. As a result, thousands of individuals signed the #Pledge2EndHunger. An online message from actor Martin Sheen encouraged others to join Bread for the World in signing the pledge.

To learn more about the #Pledge2EndHunger, please visit [www.pledge2endhunger.org](http://www.pledge2endhunger.org).

The latest government report on food insecurity shows that — for the third year in a row — childhood hunger remains virtually unchanged. One in five children in the United States lives in a family that struggles to get enough to eat. Programs like school meals are a lifeline for these children.

Please call, email, or write your members of Congress and urge them to pass a strong child nutrition bill that connects more children with the meals they need to thrive. For a sample letter and contact information, visit [www.bread.org/ol2015](http://www.bread.org/ol2015).



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

# From Letter Writing to Twitter Posts: A Member's Remarkable Journey

**Y**oga instructor. Grandmother. Painter of religious icons. Interim pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Greenville, S.C.

At this stage in her life, Bread for the World member Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson wears several hats. Soon she will don another: co-leading an effort to reach unchurched people in Greenville.

"This is a project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," Linda explains. "We aim to reach people who are intentional but who feel excluded or lost touch with church. People who call themselves spiritual but not religious."

Linda says, "We will first find out where God is working in their lives already. Many do not trust. When they really see that they are truly welcome, they will stay."

Linda grew up in Boulder, Colo. "I heard about Bread for the World when it was still fairly new," she says. "As a college student, I didn't have a lot of cash. Here was a movement where you could contribute even if you did not have money. I wrote lot of letters. I talked to legislators."

After college, Linda went on to

earn a master's degree and doctorate in exercise physiology and biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During her graduate studies, she also worked in cardiac rehab. At this point in her life, she felt a call to ministry and went on to graduate from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

Linda met her husband Brian Anderson when both were doctoral students at Union Seminary in Richmond, Va. Upon graduation, Linda became a pastor in Luray, Va., at the north end of the Shenandoah Valley. Brian's call to ministry was in Lexington, at the south end of the Valley.

They maintained a long distance relationship

for a year and a half, then married. "But we lived 100 miles apart for another year and a half," said Linda, "until Brian got the call to teach at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. Then Brian, his three teenage children, and I were all together. Maybe that was God's way of easing us into family life!"

Linda says that, for her, the heart of Bread for the World is the shared belief that people who are hungry should not have to forego food. "So much influence is levied by lobbyists. If that is the way power is wielded, then we need to do it on behalf of poor and hungry people."

Linda remember visiting Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) in 1991. "He just could not see any benefit to the bill we were asking him to support, and said so, loudly interrupting our group's spokesperson. The speaker became flustered, so I started talking. I was able to give what felt like a very persuasive argument for the bill," she laughs.

Today, Linda says she has a writing relationship with Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.). "We don't agree on all things, but I always get a polite response."

Linda and Brian are part of Baker's Dozen, Bread for the World's monthly giving program. Recently, the two decided to include Bread for the World in their estate plans. "We talked about what we want to leave money to. A bequest is a way for us to leave a more substantial gift. Brian and I both felt strongly about including Bread," Linda says.

Linda and Brian currently live in Lexington, S.C., with their two cats, Marbles and Dora. Their children are grown and living in South Carolina, Minnesota, and North Carolina. Linda and Brian have five grandchildren.

The new outreach ministry in nearby Greenville is set to launch this month. Linda is educating herself on social media tools like Twitter and Instagram. "I'm also looking forward to my first flash mob worship service. In the community I envision, it will be possible!"



Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson

# 'We Are Marching in the Light of God'

By James Lund  
Vice President for Development  
and Membership

In many churches, "We are marching in the light of God" has become a popular anthem. This joyous African hymn is used to send congregants out into the world at the end of the worship service. During the closing days of the year, as daylight hours grow shorter and shorter, your spirits may be uplifted by the song's confident refrain.

We will soon celebrate the birth of Christ. We will hear again those majestic words from John's Gospel: "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:3b-5).

This promise of light—and the life that is

ours in Christ—can sustain us during the weeks and months that may be filled with too many activities and too many demands. It also gives us hope and determination as Congress seems to have ground to a halt, with little concern for the damage done to those who are most vulnerable, most in need.

Our life in Christ is for many of us a well-spring for the generosity that pours out in gifts to family members and friends as well as contributions to organizations that benefit those in need.

Throughout 2015, you and other Bread for the World members have been remarkably generous in your financial support of our work together to end hunger. Because of your gifts, we have been able to involve more individuals and churches than ever before. And our collective Christian voice for an end to hunger has grown stronger. Thank you!



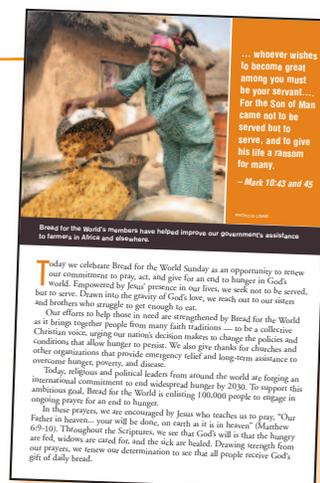
James Lund

Bread for the World Sunday 2015

## Churches Pray, Act, and Give

More than 2,000 churches across the country celebrated Bread for the World Sunday this fall, an increase of more than 10 percent over the previous year. Again this year, the largest number of churches participating were in Pennsylvania, but Alaska and Hawaii, as well as Montana and New Mexico, were well represented.

Almost all of these churches included special prayers for an end to hunger during their worship service. Many gathered special offerings to support Bread for the World or other hunger efforts. Offerings of Letters were also conducted so that church members could urge Congress to reauthorize our nation's child nutrition programs.



## Gifts of Stock to Bread for the World Institute

Before the end of 2015, you may wish to take advantage of the benefits of giving appreciated stock to Bread for the World Institute. By transferring gifts of stock to the Institute, you avoid taxes on capital gains. Securities that have increased in value and that have been held for at least a year and a day can be deducted as a charitable contribution at full market value at the time of transfer.

You may also establish a charitable gift annuity benefitting Bread for the World Institute by using appreciated

stock of \$10,000 or more. Part of the gift creating the annuity may be a charitable deduction in the year the annuity is established. The annuity provides fixed payments for your life — or for the life of someone you name. A portion of the annual payments may be tax-free.

As you consider making gifts of stock, please consult your financial advisor. This information is not intended as legal or financial advice. But you should start your planning now since transfers can take some time, and financial institutions

are very busy in the final weeks of the year.

If you wish, you may use Bread for the World Institute's brokerage service, U.S. Bank Institutional Trust (DTC #2803, Account #001050977464). For assistance with stock transfers and charitable gift annuities, please contact Kierra Stuvland at [kstuvland@bread.org](mailto:kstuvland@bread.org) or 800-822-7323, ext. 1150.

**Bread for the World's tax ID number is 51-0175510.**

# Send Christmas Cards to Help End Hunger

This summer Bread for the World members voted on several photos as possible images for the 2015 Christmas card. The winner was a photo of a child sleeping peacefully on the floor of his home in the western highlands of Guatemala.

A second card is available without a scripture verse and a simple message of "Season's Greetings." Designs from previous years may be ordered as well — while supplies last. Proceeds from the sales of these cards will support Bread for the World's work in the new year.

To view the cards available and to order, visit [www.bread.org/store](http://www.bread.org/store). or call 800-822-7323. Deadline for orders is December 7.

*Inside message: Filled with the wonder of Christ's birth among us, may you find peace and joy in the new year.*



PHOTO © JOSEPH MOLIERI / BREAD FOR THE WORLD

## Inspired by Pope Francis

By Art Simon

Founder and President Emeritus

Let me lift my little old Lutheran heart to thank God for Pope Francis and the way in which he so genuinely reflects the mercy and love of Christ and "The Joy of the Gospel," as he entitled his initial exhortation to the church.

"I am a sinner. Pray for me," were his first words as pope to the crowd in Vatican Square. The way he reaches out to those on the margins of society is a wonderful reflection of Jesus. His call for an economy that includes all people and cares for the creation fits beautifully with Bread for the World's mission.

I'm deeply pleased that Bread for the World helped gather religious leaders together in conjunction with the pope's speeches to Congress and the United Nations. Those faith leaders pledged to help end hunger by 2030. It is a tough goal, but possible. Achieving the end of hunger is a work of God, who depends on us to do it, and the doing of it has to be expressed personally and politically. Ready, set, go!



Art Simon



PHOTO © ZACH BLUM / BREAD FOR THE WORLD

**Father Paul Girguis (left) of St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Washington, D.C., and the Most Reverend Richard Pates, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Iowa and a Bread for the World board member, talk during the convocation of interfaith leaders in late September.**



**Rev. Dr. William Shaw (left), past president of the National Baptist Convention, greets Rev. Dr. Barry Black, chaplain to the U.S. Senate and the former chief of U.S. Navy Chaplains while Rev. Dr. Anglique Walker-Smith of Bread for the World looks on.**

PHOTO © ZACH BLUM / BREAD FOR THE WORLD



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

425 3rd Street SW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20024  
800-822-7323 [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

**Bread for the World**  
is a collective Christian voice  
urging our nation's decision makers  
to end hunger at home and abroad.