



**BREAD FOR THE WORLD** is a Christian advocacy organization urging decision makers to support policies and programs to end hunger in the United States and around the world.

## *Bipartisan Victory*

# Thanks to You, Better Nutrition for Mothers and Children

**Y**ou and other Bread for the World members helped win passage in October of the bipartisan Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act (H.R. 4693). Passed in the Senate by unanimous consent and signed into law by President Biden, this legislation will make U.S. global nutrition programs even more effective in preventing and treating child and maternal malnutrition.

“Passage of this legislation is timely as our government responds to the worsening global hunger crisis,” said Rev. Eugene Cho, president of Bread for the World. “Malnutrition contributes to a child’s death every 11 seconds. Tens of millions of young children and mothers will have the opportunity to not only survive, but also thrive.”

The act will bring greater strategic vision and accountability to existing

global nutrition efforts. These improvements will help prevent future hunger and malnutrition crises. The legislation will see that assistance reaches the children and families who need it most.

Bread for the World worked with congressional leaders to draft the bill’s language and helped guide the bill through committee and its final passage. Thousands of Bread members contacted their senators and representatives to urge them to cosponsor and support the legislation.

“Passage of this legislation shows it is possible to come together, despite the many political divisions, to help the most vulnerable people among us,” said Cho.

As the act is implemented, resources will be invested in high-impact nutrition programs during the first 1,000 days between pregnancy and age 2. Prenatal vitamins, support for breastfeeding, and lifesaving treatment for severely malnourished children will all be increased.

Adding to the impact of this legislation, the Biden administration announced it would release additional food aid funding to help address the global hunger crisis—including near-

famine conditions across the Horn of Africa.

“This funding could not be more urgently needed as 22 million people in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya teeter on the verge of famine,” said Cho.

Heather Valentine, Bread for the World’s director of government relations, added, “I hope that Bread members, encouraged by this victory for global nutrition, will now help build momentum for passage of the Farm Bill in the new year.”

The Farm Bill has a big impact on hunger in the United States because it sets policies and funding levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other nutrition programs. It also includes provisions and funding for some international programs like the McGovern-Dole School Lunch program.

Taken together, all this progress toward ending hunger—made possible by your prayers, actions, and giving—is a welcome conclusion to a challenging year.



**Because of you and other Bread for the World members, mothers and children worldwide will have access to improved nutrition.**

PHOTO © ISTOCK POCO\_BW

## ACT NOW!

Call 800-826-3688 or write to your members of Congress. Ask them to support and pass a Farm Bill that does more to reduce hunger in the U.S. and around the world.



# What Is Advent For?

I have often wished that we could re-calendar Advent for a different time of the year, not because it is disconnected from Christmas, but because it can get obscured by our culture's merchandising of Christmas. Instead of celebrating the themes of Advent, we often spend the weeks before Christmas focused on preparing (shopping) for Christmas.

In fact, Advent is *not* a countdown to Christmas. Advent *is* the Church's recollection of what we are hoping and waiting for, what we believe God is ultimately up to, and what we are called to live and work for. Advent remembers the Covenant, the words of the prophets and the birth, life, and teachings of Jesus. Advent proclaims that what God is up to is nothing less than a world in which love and justice reign. Advent is the Christian season of social justice.

Advent is a season of big dreams and big hopes. It is a season that extrapolates from God's self-revelation throughout history and recognizes implications and invitations brought about by self-revelation. What God is about is not exhausted by saving individual sinners; what God is about is not limited to private devotion and piety. What God is about is nothing less than the salvation of the world. And the salvation of the world, as best as we can talk about it, is a world characterized by compassion, justice, peace, and mercy.

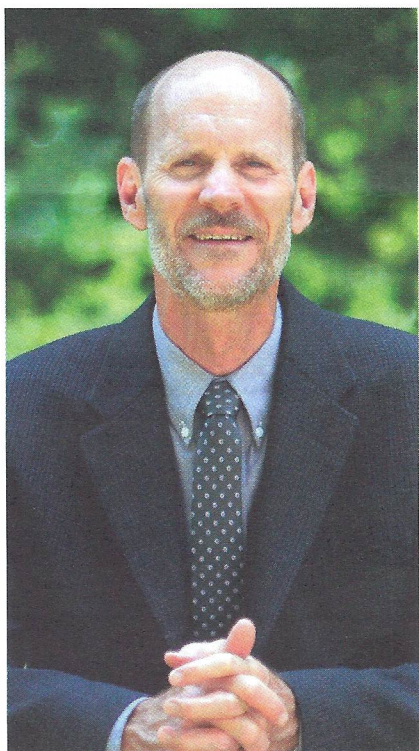
The salvation of the world is a world that is crafted economically, politically, and religiously to articulate the commitment that all children, women, and men are important. The salvation of the world is a world in which no one

sleeps in a box, no one is voiceless, no one is abandoned, no one dies of hunger. The salvation of the world is a world in which everyone is *cared for*. The salvation of the world is a world in which we all *care about* and respond to these realities.

Advent is our prayer of hope that the world might become what it was always meant to become—a place where all people celebrate daily bread. What we hope for in Advent is a reality in which the spirit of Jesus becomes all the world. What we hope for is the Reign of God overwhelming the reign of injustice. What we hope for is the prince of peace unseating the princes of war. What we hope for is the love of God eroding the love of money. What we hope for is that the world be renewed in the likeness of God. This is the stuff of in-Spirited imagination. This is the stuff *worth* waiting for and hoping for.

And, like most prayer, it recognizes that we have a part to play. What we hope for and wait for is what will decide what we work for, live for, and sacrifice for. "Come, O Lord, and set us free," we sing during Advent. Yes, set us free to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Yes, set us free to make justice roll like a river. Yes, set us free to make the pathways straight. Yes, set us free to create a banquet table in which all people—*all people*—can eat their fill and give thanks.

*Jack Jezreel is senior advisor at JustFaith Ministries. He is the original author of JustFaith, founder of JustFaith Ministries and was the first Executive Director of the organization. Prior to that, he spent five years in a Catholic Worker community working with men and women who were homeless and, after that, divided his time between faith-based justice education and organic agriculture.*



"Advent is our prayer of hope that the world might become what it was always meant to become—a place where all people celebrate daily bread."

**Jack Jezreel**

PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK JEZREEL



# White House Conference Calls to End U.S. Hunger by 2030

By Sergio Mata-Cisneros

Thanks to your support and involvement, Bread for the World played a key role before, during, and after the White House Conference on Hunger in late September. The conference brought together hundreds of advocates, business leaders, and government officials to address hunger, nutrition, and health—something that hasn't happened since 1969.

The conference took place at a time when skyrocketing food prices, conflict, and record drought are fueling a global hunger crisis. Here in the United States, too many children go to bed hungry, and people of color are disproportionately impacted by hunger.

At the conference, the Biden administration unveiled a new national strategy for ending hunger in the United States by 2030.

"I'm proud that our country is taking these needed steps to generate political will to end hunger," said Bread president Rev. Eugene Cho, who attended the conference. "If we can work together, across sectors and faiths and party lines, we have a real opportunity to end hunger and improve lives and livelihoods in America."

The conference's positive outcome was a result, in part, of the work that you and other Bread for the World members have been doing. Bread's regional organizers arranged three regional meetings with faith and hunger leaders. A conversation with more than 100 college and campus leaders also took place. These and other activities resulted in a letter to President Biden with signatures of more than 400 pastors and faith leaders calling for the conference.

Leading up to the conference, the White House and agencies spent months hosting listening sessions to help develop the national strategy. Bread members were present at every one of those sessions. Bread for the World also hosted a partner-led convening with 35 of its most active faith leaders to gather input for the conference.

Many of the policies laid out in the national strategy were recommendations raised by these faith leaders. Among the priorities were expanding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to currently ineligible individuals, tackling food waste, and advancing economic security for families. All of these issues will be critical as Bread for the World

advocates for the reauthorization of the Farm Bill in 2023.

The national strategy calls for advancing economic security by reinstating the fully refundable child tax credit, expanding the earned income tax credit, and raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. It also calls for providing free, healthy school meals for all by 2032 and expanding the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program so children don't miss meals when not in school.

The plan calls for expanding SNAP eligibility to underserved populations such as those formerly incarcerated and individuals living in U.S. territories. The plan would also provide incentives to support purchasing more fruits and vegetables for SNAP recipients.

Many of the proposed ideas laid out in the national strategy will require congressional approval. The reauthorization of the Farm Bill—slated for next year—is one legislative vehicle that could be used to expand SNAP eligibility to underserved populations, expand incentives for SNAP recipients, and reduce food waste.

However, the Biden administration is taking immediate steps to reduce food waste and to improve access to federal nutrition programs. The Treasury Department will clarify charitable deduction rules for businesses donating leftover food—to ensure that businesses don't just throw food away. The Agriculture Department will work to increase awareness of the availability of federal nutrition programs and help enroll more eligible individuals.

Your continued support and involvement as a Bread for the World member will help urge our nation's leaders to see that this new national strategy comes to fruition and that an end to hunger is realized by 2030.

*Sergio Mata-Cisneros is an advocacy and policy analyst at Bread for the World.*



**Bread for the World President Eugene Cho, President Emeritus David Beckmann, and Eric Mitchell, president of the Alliance to End Hunger, all participated in the White House Conference on Hunger in late September.**

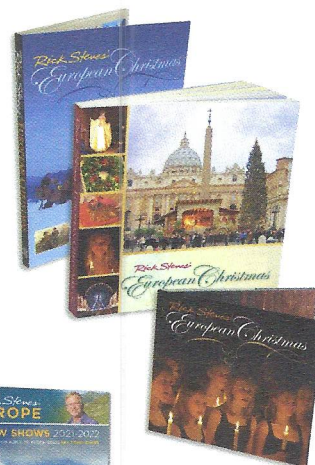
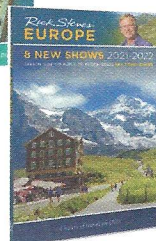
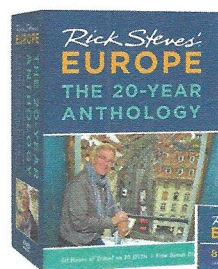


# Double the Impact of Your Gift and Receive a Thank-You Gift

Give \$100 or more today, and you can request a complimentary copy of Rick Steves' European Christmas gift package or his 20-Year Anthology DVD box set—plus eight new shows from this current season. In addition to providing these wonderful gifts for Bread members, Rick has promised to match *all* gifts up to \$500,000 with his own gift to Bread for the World.

Rick is making this extraordinary offer to help Bread continue its advocacy for an end to hunger. Your gift will support our work together, including to urge Congress to provide emergency relief to millions of people suffering from war or famine and help prevent food insecurity in this country.

To receive your thank-you gift in time for Christmas, please respond by December 5. You may use the enclosed reply form or contribute online by visiting [bread.org/advent](http://bread.org/advent) or scanning this QR code with your mobile device.



## Tax-Smart Giving at Year's End

Your year-end gifts help create the financial foundation for our work together in the critical first few months of the new year—and the new Congress. Your support now will enable Bread for the World and Bread for the World Institute to play a role in efforts to address the growing hunger crisis here in the United States and around the world.

You may wish to consider ways to add impact to your giving.

1. The standard income tax deduction is now \$14,350 for individuals 65 years and older, and even larger for married couples. If you use the standard deduction, you may want to make a gift to *Bread for the World*. These gifts are not tax-deductible because we lobby Congress on behalf of specific legislation. But if you do not itemize deductions, a gift to *Bread for the World* may be a good fit for your year-end giving.
2. For some Bread members, giving stock to *Bread for the World Institute* enables them to increase their support for efforts to end hunger. If you have held a stock for a year and a day, you may transfer it to *Bread for the World Institute* and receive a tax deduction for the full market value of the stock. Charitable transfers of stock can be a way to avoid capital gains taxes. Remember that charitable transfers must be made by December 31 for tax purposes.
3. If you are 70 ½ years and older, you are eligible to make a qualified *charitable* distribution from your IRA directly to *Bread for the World Institute*. These gifts are not considered taxable income—but they can satisfy the required minimum withdrawal from an IRA. So they may be helpful even to non-itemizers. And QCDs offer other tax benefits for you and your family now and in the future.

This information is not intended as legal or financial advice. Please consult your professional advisor. For preliminary information and assistance with your gifts, you are welcome to contact Vince Mezzera at 800-822-7323, ext. 1128 or [vmezzera@bread.org](mailto:vmezzera@bread.org).

## GET INVOLVED

Learn more about what you can do to help end hunger at [bread.org/act](http://bread.org/act). There you will find the latest information, tools, and resources. You will also learn how other Bread for the World members and churches are taking action.

**Stay up-to-date** with breaking news and the latest information on hunger and poverty by following Bread's social media. Share and like Bread posts and help grow the movement to end hunger!



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