

Our Story

- Read together (as a family, as a community) Luke 10:25-37. Discuss:
 - What do you think is the main message of the parable?
 - How do you answer the question – “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
 - How would you apply this message most effectively in today’s world?
- To learn effective actions you can take, check the websites of the following organizations which have partnered in these materials:
 - African Methodist Episcopal Women’s Missionary Society, www.wmsame.org, 202-371-8886
 - American Baptist Churches USA, www.abc-oghs.org, 800-ABC-3USA
 - America’s Second Harvest, www.secondharvest.org, 800-771-2303
 - Bread for the World Institute, www.bread.org, 800-82-BREAD
 - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), www.disciples.org, 317-635-3100
 - Christian Reformed Church, www.crcjustice.org, 616-224-0840
 - Church World Service, www.churchworldservice.org, 800-297-1516
 - Community of Christ, www.cofchrist.org, 816-833-1000
 - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, www.cbfonline.org, 770-220-1600
 - The Episcopal Church, www.episcopalchurch.org, 800-334-7626
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Program, www.elca.org/dcs/worldhunger.html, 800-638-3522
 - Franciscan Friars, www.hnp.org, 202-541-5245
 - Good Ground Press/Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, www.goodgroundpress.com, 800-232-5533
 - Heifer International, www.heifer.org, 800-422-0474
 - Maryland Province of the Jesuits, www.jesuit.org, 410-532-1403
 - MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, www.mazon.org, 310-442-0020
 - National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., www.nccusa.org/publicwitness/tanf.html, 212-870-2299
 - Presbyterian Hunger Program, PC(USA), www.pcusa.org/hunger, 800-334-0434
 - Reformed Church in America, www.rca.org, 800-968-3943
 - Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, www.bgct.org/bgctroot/clc, 888-332-5870
 - United Church of Christ, www.ucc.org, 216-736-3710
 - United Methodist Committee on Relief, gbgm-umc.org/umcor, 212-870-3816
 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/sdwp, 202-541-3380 with support from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Pray together as a family, or as a community, three times:
“O God, give us – all of us – this day our daily bread.”



Go and Do Likewise

God’s Story

Just then, a lawyer stood up to test Jesus, “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers.... [Finishing the story, Jesus asked]

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

- Luke 10:25-30, 36-37 NRSV



Making a Difference

U.S. Families are Helped

Patsy had always been able to support herself and her three children with jobs in the hotel and food service industries, but when her mother died, that changed. Her 12-year old brother and 9-year old sister needed a new home, and Patsy didn't think twice before opening her doors. "It was hard when I first got them," Patsy says. "I was used to feeding myself and my kids, but not this. I eventually got some government assistance to help out with my brother and sister, but it took a long time to go through the courts. Before that was worked out, I found myself having to cut back on a lot of the food I bought. I was forced to make the choice between feeding my kids and being in the dark or having electricity. I chose to feed the kids."



Patsy's welfare counselor referred her to the Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank in the Twin Cities where she enrolled in the Kitchen of Opportunities culinary job-training program. When she graduated three months later with a certificate in culinary arts, she was able to get a higher paying job at a hospital.

"Now that I've got this job and I'm getting assistance, it's not as bad as it was," Patsy explains. "We all get to eat. Growing up I watched my grandmother make something out of nothing, so I know how to do that, but I still can't really buy them the things they want. We can't afford it. But because of everything I've been through, I know how fortunate I really am."

- America's Second Harvest <www.secondharvest.org>

Grassroots Citizens Help Win Billions

In March 1999, Bread for the World members Pat Pelham, Elaine Van Cleave, Roger McCollough and Bobby Cardwell flew from Alabama to meet with Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL), head of the subcommittee of the House Banking Committee with jurisdiction over the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They convinced Bachus that debt relief for the world's poorest countries should be an important congressional priority, and Bachus became a leader on debt relief in the U.S. House of Representatives.



Their visit was part of a BFW campaign for debt relief that generated 250,000 letters to Congress, lobbying on Capitol Hill and widespread publicity in the media. Other individuals and organizations were also pressing for debt relief, from Pope John Paul II to Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Billy Graham.

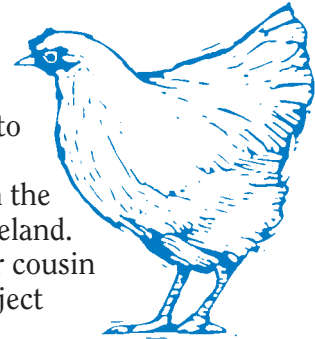
The result? Congress appropriated \$545 million for debt relief. They also authorized the IMF to sell a portion of its gold reserves to pay for its share of the debt relief plan, freeing up an additional \$2.3 billion to be used for programs to help the world's most vulnerable people.

<www.bread.org>

A Head Start

After the peace accords were signed in El Salvador in 1992, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, a United Nations agency, designed a rehabilitation and development project (known as Prochamate) in collaboration with the government of El Salvador and co-financed by the European Community, other international and several nongovernmental agencies.

Aida Gutierrez, 33 years old, was born into a family of farmers and pig breeders. Aida and her parents, brothers and sisters fled from El Salvador to escape the war. They went to Nicaragua where she worked as a teacher in a rural community, but with the economic crisis, Aida decided to return to her homeland. She arrived in Chalatenango without anything. Her cousin told her about Prochamate, and the fact that the project was giving loans to women without collateral.



"I attended a meeting in Prochamate and asked them whether they could give me funds to set up a small farm to raise chickens," she said. "That same night I wrote a small project describing the farm and how much I needed for infrastructure and seed capital to buy the animals and fodder. I got the loan, and now I run a small farm with 2,500 chickens. The loan was initially to finance 1,000 chickens, but now the business has expanded and I make enough profit to buy more chickens. I feel very happy to be back in my own country and my hometown."

This project benefits 10,500 families.

<www.ifad.org>