



HUNGER FOR GOOD

DEVOTIONAL



LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

WORLD
HUNGER

WELCOME

WITH THE WORLD FACING ITS WORST FOOD CRISIS IN DECADES, the problem of global hunger can feel overwhelming. But it is a problem that cannot be ignored. Right now, as conflict, COVID-19, and severe weather affect our global food supply, **1.6 billion people do not know if they will have enough food to eat.**

Over and over again, the Bible expresses God's deep concern for the hungry. In the Psalms, it says: "He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry." (Psalm 146:6-7). In the Old Testament, the Israelites were instructed by God to leave some crops in the fields so families without enough to eat were able to glean something for themselves (Leviticus 19:9-10). Today, God's expectations remain the same—to share our abundance with others.

Every year, World Renew and thousands of people come together to recognize the struggle against hunger on World Hunger Sunday. It is a time to reflect on God's love and provision, but also a time to hear God's call to join with the most vulnerable around the world—families who face the painful consequences of hunger each day.

In this devotional booklet, you will find six passages of Scripture for reflection along with six stories of courageous people working to solve the hunger crisis in their own communities. This booklet has been written so that you can read the devotions at your own pace and in your own way—whether that is through six weeks of small group conversation with friends, six family devotions before you share a meal with your kids, or six days of personal study and reflection. In this booklet, you will find a number of questions to ponder, experiences to try, and activities to engage with online.

Through these six devotions, we hope that you will take the time to reflect on the needs of the hungry—and connect with a deeper hunger for good through God's Word.

Thank you for aligning your hearts with God as—together—we hunger for good.



DON'T FORGET, when it comes to engaging young minds and hearts on the issue of world hunger, we have even more resources like recipes, activities, and videos for kids to enjoy at

worldrenew.net/WORLDAHUNGERCHURCHES (US)



**HUNGER FOR
GOOD**

GOOD GIFTS

EDDY'S STORY

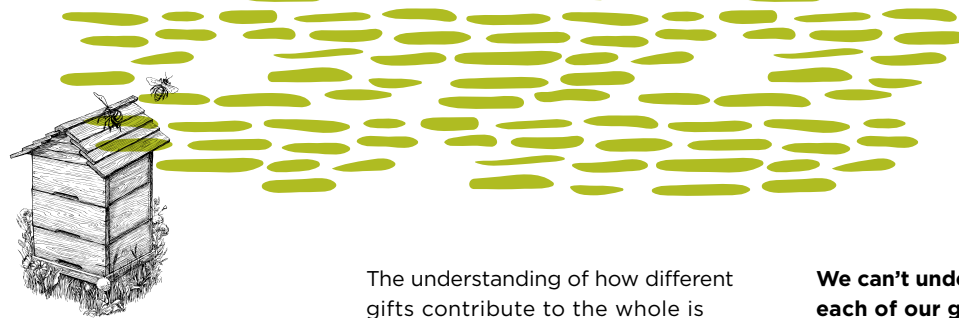
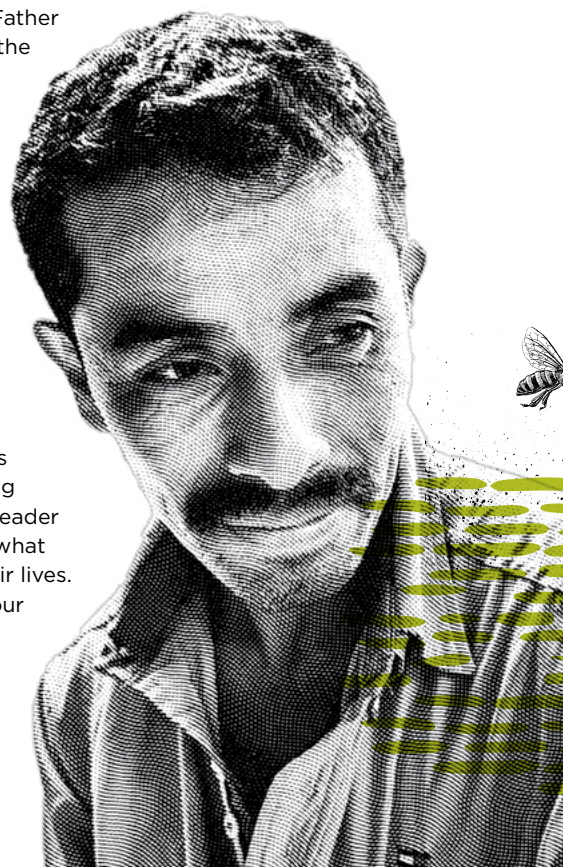
AS CHRISTIANS, WE MAKE UP THE BODY OF CHRIST. In Romans 12:5-6 Jesus says, "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us." Jesus encourages us to use our gifts not only to fulfill his mission of making disciples of all nations, but to help one another. We belong to one another in community and we are assured by Jesus that we are never alone. We always have our Father in Heaven to guide us as well as the other members of the body whom we can lean on and also help.

That's what Eddy Alejandro Cacao Martinez learned through his beekeeper training with World Renew. He lives with his family in a village called Nuevo Aurora (New Dawn) in the jungle region of Peten in Guatemala. This is an indigenous area that suffered terrible violence during Guatemala's decades-long civil war. Peten has some of the poorest communities in the hemisphere, and many, like Eddy who relied almost entirely on subsistence farming, have struggled with issues around poor nutrition and very low employment.

Lack of employment prompted Eddy and several others in the community to become beekeepers. While learning beekeeping skills, Eddy also discovered he is a natural leader and teacher, and he has taken it upon himself to share what he has learned with others so they too can improve their lives. He is practicing what God taught in Romans 12 to use our gifts to benefit the body of Christ.

Learning and working together has improved the community. Eddy gives thanks to God for blessing him with this opportunity and the ability to lead. With what he has learned, Eddy can sell honey, wax, pollen, queen bees, and hives. He says that because of beekeeping and the skills he's developed, he can provide food and income to help his family survive. He has faith in this project and, more importantly, in himself.

JESUS SAYS, "SO IN CHRIST WE, THOUGH MANY, FORM ONE BODY, AND EACH MEMBER BELONGS TO ALL THE OTHERS. WE HAVE DIFFERENT GIFTS ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN TO EACH OF US." – ROMANS 12:5-6



The understanding of how different gifts contribute to the whole is reinforced through what Eddy has observed watching the bees interact with each other. Each bee has a different gift that contributes to the hive. There are worker bees, a queen bee and drones. While drones, for example, have no stinger and may seem useless in defending the hive, they help feed the larvae and help the hive to thrive. From the bees we can learn how working together benefits the growth of the whole "hive."

We can't underestimate the value that each of our gifts contribute to the kingdom of God. Even as individuals, we can help others like Eddy achieve food security and economic stability. Every person's gifts and abilities are equally important in the eyes of God, and we are all directed to use what we have for his glory.

practicing *Good*

Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.

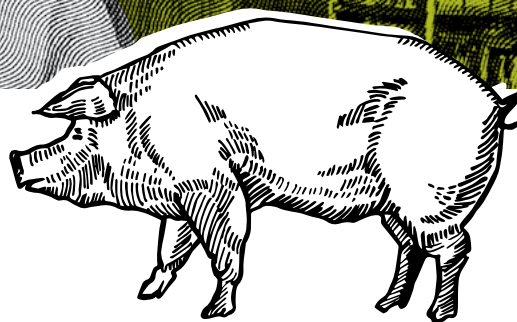
REFLECT// What are the unique talents and abilities you think God has given you? How are or how can you use them to help others? What's preventing you from using your gifts and how can you change that?

ACT// Search online and read about the roles of bees. Share what you learn with your family as an example of different talents and abilities working together for the greater good.



GOOD FAITH

LENG'S STORY



IN THE BOOK OF RUTH, there is a woman named Naomi who suffered deeply from the death of her husband and her two sons. She is left alone in a foreign land with her two daughter-in-laws who she encourages to return to their own families.

Naomi has not only suffered great loss, but she has also lost hope. She feels so strongly that the Lord has turned against her that she insists on being called Mara (meaning bitter), because she believes the Almighty has made her life bitter. She laments that the Lord has afflicted her and has brought misfortune upon her. Despite Naomi's wishes, her daughter-in-law Ruth refuses to leave and insists on staying by Naomi's side.

The same kind of story could be written about Leng from Cambodia, whose husband was forced to leave her and their three children because there was no work for him to support their family in rural Cambodia. He migrated to Thailand with the promise of work and Leng was left alone to raise their three children. She wondered how she would feed her family and felt the weight of hardship upon her.

Just as Ruth stayed by Naomi's side, World Renew stayed by Leng's side. With help from OREDA, our local partner, we looked for income opportunities that would allow families, like Leng's, to support themselves and stay together. It began with the establishment of an agricultural cooperative in Leng's village, which she eagerly joined right away. Because of her commitment and potential, Leng was selected by the group to be the pork seller for the cooperative. Soon, Leng and her friends in the cooperative started to make money.

When she realized she was making far more than her husband was sending home, Leng asked him to come back. She had a plan for him. He could buy pigs from members of the cooperative and operate a slaughterhouse. This experience restored Leng's family and provided a way to help support and feed them. Leng also gained more confidence and more self-respect as a wife, a mother, and member of the cooperative.

In Scripture we see how God eventually restored Naomi's family at a time when she felt unsure of how she and Ruth would survive. God brought a friend to them—a "kinsman-redeemer" named Boaz—who helped Naomi and Ruth endure their hardship. Boaz and Ruth would eventually marry and start a family through which Jesus, Savior of the world, would come.

When we feel the weight of misfortune upon us and are broken-hearted, we may find ourselves reacting like Naomi—feeling alone and only seeing what is right in front of us. We don't always think about or know what God might be doing on our behalf. But we can always trust the promises of Hebrews 13:5 and that he is always there.

"HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." - HEBREWS 13:5

practicing GOOD

Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.

REFLECT// When you felt broken-hearted or hopeless, think about how God showed up in your life and restored your hope. How did you grow from that situation and how has it helped you handle similar situations since then?

ACT// Find a prayer or Bible verse that reminds you of God's faithfulness and promises. Write it out and tape it on your mirror, or any place where you will see it and commit to memorizing it so you can recall it during difficult times.



GOOD HARVEST

ELIZABETH AND PETER'S STORY

IN MATTHEW 9, Jesus and his disciples visit many towns and villages, sharing the Gospel with people in desperate need of hope. From the outset, the story in Matthew has been centered on Jesus and his individual mission as the longed-for Messiah of the Old Testament. In his ministry, Jesus interacts many times with his followers and disciples, people who that have eagerly flocked to see him.

But in verses 37-38 where Jesus mentions the urgency of the harvest and that the “workers are few,” it is the first time Jesus signals to his disciples the divine plan for them. It is also one of the first glimpses we get in the Scriptures of his church—a collective “coming together” of believers to share the hope of the Gospel to the world.

“JESUS WENT THROUGH ALL THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES, TEACHING IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES, PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM AND HEALING EVERY DISEASE AND SICKNESS. WHEN HE SAW THE CROWDS, HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM, BECAUSE THEY WERE HARASSED AND HELPLESS, LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD. THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, ‘THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD.’”

— MATTHEW 9: 35-38



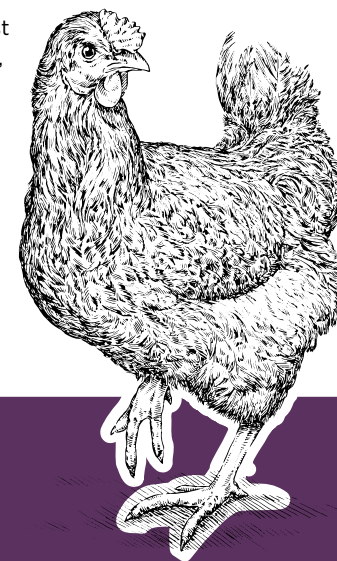
Jesus points to a plentiful, never-ending harvest. He sees the great need, feels the urgency, and calls on his disciples to pray for more hands to meet the pressing needs of his people.

Elizabeth and Peter, farmers in Kenya, are no strangers to urgent needs. Once, they too struggled at every harvest with no help. Their crops were small and weak and their yields low. They could never harvest enough to feed their family, let alone surplus to sell at the market to earn income. They never had enough money, their children went hungry, and their marriage suffered.

When Elizabeth and Peter received food security training through World Renew and learned new farming techniques, they saw hope for the first time. Their crop yields were beyond their greatest expectations: their first harvest after their training yielded a 750% increase from the previous year! Now, their harvests are so plentiful that Elizabeth and Peter are able to donate their extra earnings to help vulnerable local families meet their urgent needs.

Elizabeth and Peter’s thankfulness to God has deepened their faith—and it has strengthened their resolve to share the bounty of their harvest with others. “I will remain in the footsteps of Christ for he has never forsaken me...” Elizabeth shares. “By his grace today, he has promoted me and my family to a new glory, from poverty to a wealthy state. I will remain in the Lord forever.”

Elizabeth and Peter have found that a good harvest is meant to be shared. As workers in God’s harvest, they take every opportunity to share his blessings with others. May we pray, like Elizabeth and Peter, for God’s help to recognize that rich harvest around us every day.



practicing **GOOD**

Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.

REFLECT// For many of us, World Hunger coincides with the fall harvest season. Take some time for a walk to reflect on the beauty of this time of year. While you do, take some time to also reflect on how you can be a blessing to those around you this harvest season.

ACT// Consider joining with World Renew to host a Dinner for Good this month. This is a chance to share a meal with friends and neighbors—with the option to donate what you would have spent on an evening out together to help families around the world achieve food security through World Renew.

worldrenew.net/DinnerForGood or
worldrenew.ca/DinnerForGood



GOOD HEALTH

LUFINA'S STORY

JEREMIAH WAS A PROPHET called to speak God's truth to the kingdom of Judah. Often, that truth was a heavy burden to bear. The kingdoms of Israel and Judah had failed to remain faithful to God, and to show justice and mercy to the poor. As a result, both kingdoms were ultimately headed for destruction and exile at the hands of powerful foreign empires.

practicing **GOOD**

Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.

REFLECT// When God restores you to "good health," he makes your situation better than before. How have you seen God's restoration in your life?

ACT// Grow an indoor kitchen garden of your own! Try growing herbs like basil, chives, and oregano to add flavor and vitamins to your meals. You can even give growing cherry tomatoes indoors a try. Look for mini varieties of cherry tomatoes like Micro Tom, Little Bing, and Tiny Tim.

But Jeremiah's words also carried a message of hope. Despite their many sins and guilt, God promised that he would one day restore health and wellbeing to his people. The Hebrew word for "restore" is *arukah*, which means "to recover, to heal, and to restore to health." Jeremiah 30:17 teaches us that God not only has the power to restore us physically, but to restore every aspect of our being as well. **When something is restored, it is always made better than it was before.**

In Jeremiah's time, the people of God experienced sickness, poverty, and exile, but God never abandoned them. Today, those promises for physical and spiritual healing remain as true as they did in the Old Testament.

Lufina is a young mother living in a food-insecure region in Malawi. Like so many other families, Lufina and her husband often struggled to find enough to eat, especially during the dry season when food is even more scarce. So when Lufina became pregnant, she worried that her baby was not getting the proper nutrition and would not be born healthy.

"'BUT I WILL RESTORE YOU TO HEALTH AND HEAL YOUR WOUNDS,' DECLARES THE LORD." – JEREMIAH 30:17

In 2018, World Renew started a nutrition program to address the needs of pregnant women, mothers, and young children in Lufina's village. Health volunteers taught the importance of maternal and child health, discussing topics like breastfeeding and nutrition. One key feature of the program was to teach mothers how to grow sustainable kitchen gardens, so that they and their children could have easy access to nutritious food throughout the year.

The results were beyond what Lufina imagined: "This is the dry season, but unlike before, I can now easily access fresh vegetables in my backyard." Before, very few households grew sustainable kitchen gardens or raised chickens, but today, over 70 percent of families can get fresh vegetables, and even chicken eggs, in their own backyards.

The bountiful gardens growing in Lufina's community are so much more than a source of physical food. They are a tangible sign that God keeps his promises to make things even better than before—and restore health, wellbeing, and hope to those he loves.

GOOD BLESSINGS

THE NYIRENDAS' STORY

MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE,

we see God bestowing his blessings on others. God blessed Abraham by making a covenant with him promising that from his family line, God would build a great nation. God blessed David by saving him from the hands of Saul and giving him the throne of Israel. God blessed Jesus at his baptism by openly signifying his status as God's true Son. Through his blessings, God promised them love, protection, and a deep purpose to fulfill his salvation plan.

In the context of our own daily lives, especially when things are going well or we have an abundance of good things—like a home, a good job, and food on the table—we often say that we are “blessed.” But being blessed means much more than material things.

Blessings in the Bible reveal something even more significant: an intimate relationship between the God who blesses and the people being blessed.

God's blessings also reveal that as we are blessed, we are meant to pass those blessings along to others. Like Abraham, we are “blessed to be a blessing” as seen in Genesis 12:2-3. God gives us a deep, fulfilling purpose in life—to share the love, knowledge, and resources he gives with those around us.

In Zambia, the Nyirenda family serves as an example of those who shared the blessings they were given to help others in need. When a catastrophic drought swept through western Zambia in 2019, Sandress and Loyce Nyirenda, living on the other side of the country, were able to continue to farm their land. They were able to access soybean seeds at a reasonable price through World Renew's partners, the Presbyterian Church of Zambia and Good Nature Agro. When harvested, these seeds gave the Nyirendas enough income for the whole year.

The Nyirendas then donated a portion of their seeds back to the Presbyterian Church. The church then sold those seeds back to Good Nature Agro to cover the cost of assisting other farming families. Good Nature Agro then used the seeds to grow more crops, employ more workers, and help more farmers—including the farmers in western Zambia who bore the brunt of the devastating drought.

By sharing their blessings, the Nyirendas started a chain reaction of growing opportunity, food, and further blessing. Their beautiful act of generosity cultivated hope for God's drought-burdened children across Zambia. So God's blessing grows, spreading to all his children. May we, like the Nyirendas, find purpose in being generous and strive to share our blessings with others.

practicing **GOOD**

Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.

REFLECT// What are some ways you can share the blessings God has given you with others?

ACT// When God gives us his blessings, both material and spiritual, he is delighted when we show gratitude for what he has given us. Take a notecard or post-it note and write down some blessings God has given you that you are thankful for. Next, write down ways you can share those blessings with others and plan a time to do just that. You can do this as a personal time of reflection alone; or, along with family and friends of all ages, you can create a large, colorful “post-it” wall of blessings together.



“THE GENEROUS WILL THEMSELVES BE BLESSED, FOR THEY SHARE THEIR FOOD WITH THE POOR.” – PROVERBS 22:9

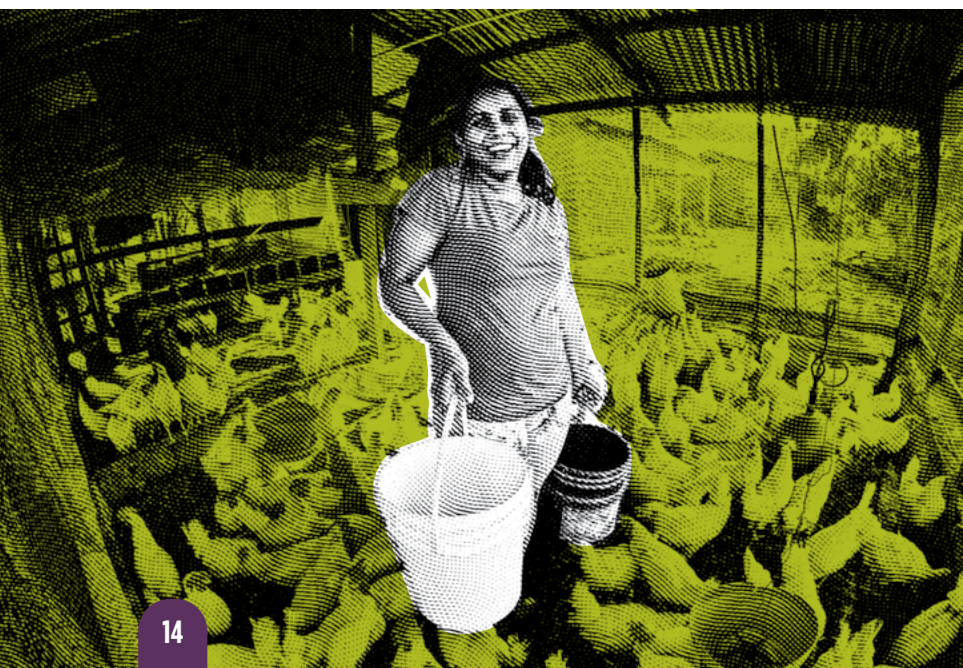
GOOD PROVISION

JESSICA'S STORY

IN HEBREW, JEHOVAH JIREH, MEANS "GOD WILL PROVIDE." It's a promise we can count on. It is a promise that believers have counted on throughout generations from the Old Testament until now.

The apostle Paul had learned to rely on God's provision in his own life, and in Philippians 4:19, he encouraged the Philippians to take comfort in that same provision: "And my God will supply all of my needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

The church in Philippi was a small, struggling community with few resources, but they gave generous financial support to Paul to help bring the Good News of Jesus to other communities yearning for hope. The Philippians gave sacrificially out of a love for Christ and a willingness to invest in other communities like theirs. Paul was surprised and deeply touched by their gift as no other church had given financially to his work. Just as they unexpectedly provided for him and his ministry, Paul reminds them that they should take comfort because God will supply all their needs too.



**"AND MY GOD WILL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS
ACCORDING TO HIS GLORIOUS RICHES IN
CHRIST JESUS." - PHILIPPIANS 4:19**

In Honduras, Jessica Calix, a young mother, is benefiting from the investment of generous people like you in her small community of Guacoco. God saw Jessica's needs and provided support in an unexpected way. Through World Renew, and its local partner, Diaconia, Jessica and other community members learned about the production of chickens, hens, and eggs to improve their food security and create better economic opportunities.

Today, the eggs and meat from the chickens not only provide important nutrition for her daughter Laura's growth, but they also provide extra income for Jessica. "We built the chicken coops," says Jessica, "and we've produced a lot of chickens, to eat and sell, and now we've got 170 hens, mainly for egg production. This is an important project for our families, it's providing us all with food and a small income. There's not a lot of employment here, so it's very useful."

For Jessica, this program has been life-changing—building her confidence as a businesswoman and providing comfort as a mother, knowing her daughter is well-fed and growing up healthy.

We don't always know how exactly God will provide for a need, but we do know God sees our needs, just like he saw Paul's needs long ago and Jessica's today. We pray for God's wisdom so that we can see the needs of people living with hunger and share his hope with others.

practicing GOOD

Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.

REFLECT// While you may not be in dire need of anything right now, write out a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the needs God has provided for you in the past. If you are in need of something, pray to your heavenly Father to fulfill that need and trust that he'll provide.

ACT// Many of us live with more than we need. Consider taking some time to clean out a closet, drawer or a space in your home and think about what you could recycle or donate to someone else in need.



TODAY, WORLD HUNGER IS ONCE AGAIN ON THE RISE.

With ongoing conflict in Ukraine, food prices around the world surged in 2022. This is happening just as global food systems are slowly recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic—and as a catastrophic drought has hit the Horn of Africa. Around the world, families are in need of hope.

If you are looking to help address families' long-term needs on a regular basis, World Renew is encouraging people like you to consider becoming a monthly partner through our Free A Family® program.

As a member of the Free A Family program, you bring hope to families through food, income generation, education, and health and nutrition.

HUNGER FOR GOOD

Your gift of \$27 a month equips a family to join World Renew's programming and begin their journey out of poverty.

Respond to God's call for justice and help families change their story of hunger forever.

Sign up to help a family to change the story of poverty.

AS A THANK YOU, you will receive our quarterly issue of our Family-to-Family magazine, keeping you connected with some of the inspiring families whom you will come alongside everyday.

worldrenew.net/FREE-A-FAMILY



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