

## FACTS ABOUT HUNGER & POVERTY

*The United Methodist Committee on Relief's World Hunger and Poverty program supports life- and hope-giving enterprises. Below are a few facts about hunger and poverty from UMCOR's free bulletin insert, "10 Faces About Hunger and Poverty," available for download at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).*

More than 800 million people go hungry every day in a world that has unparalleled wealth and food production capacity.

Seven million agricultural workers in Africa have died of HIV/AIDS since 1985. Sixteen million more deaths are likely in the next two decades, seriously affecting agriculture and education.

The wealthiest fifth of the world's people consumes 86 percent of all goods and services, while the poorest fifth consumes 1 percent.

Nearly four million youth in the US between the ages of 14 and 24 are high school dropouts.

Two-thirds of illiterate people are women, and the rate of unemployment among women is two-thirds that of men.

Almost 80 percent of poor children in the US live in working households.

Nearly 2.5 billion of the world's 6.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. One billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Contaminated water kills 2.2 million people per year.

More than 33 million people, including 13 million children, live in households in the United States that experience hunger or are at risk of hunger.



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# Prayers for Ending Poverty



'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'  
—Luke 10:27

## February 2009

# Prayers for Ending Poverty • February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 God, help us grow closer to our goal of eradicating hunger, homelessness and poverty. Mark 6:42	2 God, teach me to follow Jesus' example of generosity and sacrifice. Colossians 3:17	3 God, give us strength and creativity as we find new ways to address the root causes of poverty. Philippians 4:13	4 God, thank you for those persons who dedicate their lives to helping the homeless, poor, and oppressed. Job 31:32	5 God, help me feel compassion for those who struggle with addictions, mental illness, and homelessness. 1 John 3:17	6 God, give me an opportunity to defend the cause of the poor and suffering. Hebrews 10:24	7 God, show us ways to break the cycle of poverty. Psalm 72:12-13
8 God, grant opportunity to those seeking work. Hebrews 6:10	9 God, give me the courage to get involved in the legislative process on issues that impact children living in poverty. Joshua 1:9	10 God, bless the volunteers at shelters and soup kitchens. Jeremiah 22:16	11 God, we pray that transitional housing will help families achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Psalm 23:6	12 God, encourage those who mentor homeless and low-income children. Matthew 18:5	13 God, forgive me for failing to show sympathy to those who are different from me. Matthew 6:14	14 God, guide us toward longterm solutions for alleviating homelessness. Psalm 68:10
15 God, hear the prayers of parents who want a better life for their children. 1 Corinthians 13:4	16 God, thank you for those who have donated coats, shoes and sleeping bags to others. 2 Corinthians 8:7	17 God, grant peace to anyone who is struggling to pay their bills this month. Isaiah 35:10	18 God, support our ministries that provide education, training and literacy. John 4:13	19 God, I pray for all the people who I feel powerless to help. 1 John 4:16	20 God, inspire churches to start new ministries in areas where there are no programs to help the poor. 1 John 4:19	21 God, grant us hope, even in the midst of our suffering and the sufferings of others. Lamentations 3:25
22 God, let my church be open and available to the poor and suffering. Romans 12:13	23 God, grant me the wisdom to know how best to respond to those who ask for help. Proverbs 3:5	24 God, remind me that those persons who beg, loiter, and are homeless are also your children. Proverbs 22:2	25 God, show me what is truly valuable to you. Matthew 10:31	26 God, enable us to respond to the needs in our own communities and in other parts of the world. Colossians 3:23-24	27 God, may each of us feel your presence in our lives regardless of our circumstances. 2 Corinthians 12:10	28 God, help my church remember that ministry to the poor is part of our Wesleyan heritage and remains our call today. 1 Timothy 4:12
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