

# Voices to the Capitol



## Meditation

August 2014

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more.  
(Revelation 7:16)  
Jesus said: Let the children come to me...  
(Luke 18:16)

### We Long for Community

O God, the source of our common life,  
When we are dry and scattered,  
When we are divided and alone,  
We long for connection, we long for  
community.  
Breath of God, breathe on us.

With those we live beside,  
Who are often strange to us,  
Whom we may be afraid to approach,  
Yet who have riches of friendship to share,  
We long for connection, we long for  
community.  
Breath of God, breathe on us.

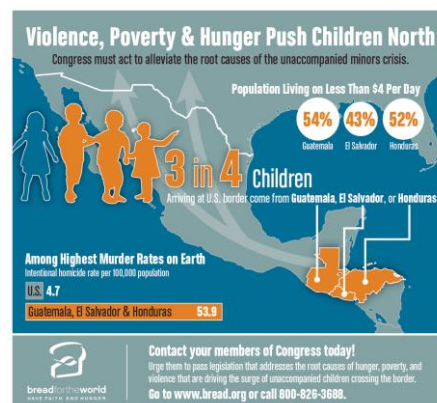
With those we have only heard of,  
Who see with different eyes,  
Whose struggles we try to imagine,  
Whose fierce joy we wish we could grasp,  
We long for connection, we long for  
community.  
Breath of God, breathe on us.

With those we shall never know,  
But whose lives are linked with ours,  
Whose shared ground we stand on,  
And whose common air we breathe,  
We long for connection, we long for  
community.  
Breath of God, breathe on us.

Janet Morley, from *Bread of Tomorrow*  
From *Bread for the Preacher*, June 2010

Children are fleeing poverty, hunger, and violence by the thousands and coming to the United States. A high percentage of them are from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Guatemala has the highest child malnutrition rate in the Western Hemisphere.

Rev. Carlos L. Malavé reminds us: "We are called to be Christ to all, but in a very intentional and biased way, we must be Christ to destitute, hungry, and oppressed people."



He continues: "Our actions, care, and concern for poor people reveal the presence or absence of the living Christ in us. The Church in the United States must seize this incredible opportunity. We are followers of the one who said, "Let the children come to me..." (Luke 18:16). How do we dare to send them away? The Church is responsible before God's eyes to

live—or even to die—in the pursuit and defense of human life and dignity. Christ is in the journey with our children. Christ is a witness of our actions. Christ is also calling us."

*Rev. Carlos L. Malavé is the executive director of Christian Churches Together, an ecumenical organization that brings together a wide variety of denominations and organizations to build relationships with each other.*

<http://blog.bread.org/2014/08/they-are-children.html>

## Legislative Action

**Contact your senators and representatives by letter, e-mail or phone urging them to**

1. Pass legislation that addresses the root causes of hunger, poverty, and violence that are driving the surge of unaccompanied children across the border. Go to [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) or call 1-800-821-3688.
2. Update the government's food-aid programs dating back to the 1950s to enable it to respond more flexibly and faster in a 21st century, globalized world. Changes to the food-aid programs would allow food aid to benefit 17 million more people each year — at no additional cost to U.S. taxpayers. Go to <http://www.bread.org/ol/2014/>  
*Invite your church to participate in the 2014 Offering of Letters.*
3. Change the government's policies regarding Israel and Palestine to accomplish a lasting end to the hostilities. (According to the Israeli Human Rights Organization B'Tselem the Israeli occupation of Gaza has caused huge suffering long before the current violence. In January 2014, 80 % of Gazan families would have literally starved without food aid from international agencies because of the Israeli blockade.) Read a letter to President Obama by faith leaders at <http://umc-gbcs.org/faith-in-action/faith-leaders-tell-obama-enough>.



### **Prepare to participate in the [World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel](#)**

The theme of the week in 2014, to be observed during 21-27 September, is:

**"Let my people go!"**

<http://umc-gbcs.org/faith-in-action/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-israel3>

**Thank you to all of you peace advocates for all you do for peace with justice! Andrea**

*Voices to the Capital* is a resource with an alternating primary focus on peace/non-violence in one issue and on hunger/food justice in the next. It includes an invitation to use the gift of our voices to speak out on these issues by contacting our representatives and senators in Washington.

*Voices to the Capital* is an electronic newsletter published by Peace with Justice Ministries, Great Plains Conference of The United Methodist Church.

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**To look up addresses of stateside offices, go to:**  
<http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>