

Is There Anything Here To Eat?
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Today is world Communion Sunday and theoretically Christians around the world are gathering around tables to celebrate the meal that binds us all together, making us the Body of Christ in the world. However, there are many in the world, many in our community who will not have enough to eat. Just a few facts:

Worldwide a child dies every 10 seconds of a hunger related illness.

-60% of the world's hungry are women

-About 896 million people in developing countries live on \$1.90 a day or less.

-22,000 children die each day due to conditions of poverty.

-Although the number of undernourished people has dropped by over 20% since 1992 (216 million fewer than in 1990-92) today there are 795 million people – or one in nine people in the world – who do not have enough to eat.

Nationally:

1 1 in 6 people in America face hunger.

2 The USDA defines "food insecurity" as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for all household members. In 2011, households with children reported a significantly higher food insecurity rate than households without children: 20.6% vs. 12.2%.

3 Food insecurity exists in every county in America. In 2013, 17.5 million households were food insecure. More and more people are relying on food banks and pantries. Collect food outside your local supermarket for a local food bank. Sign up for Supermarket Stakeout GL.

4 49 million Americans struggle to put food on the table.

5 In the US, hunger isn't caused by a lack of food, but rather the continued prevalence of poverty.

6 More than 1 in 5 children is at risk of hunger. Among African-Americans and Latinos, it's 1 in 3.

7 Over 20 million children receive free or reduced-price lunch each school day. Less than half of them get breakfast, and only 10% have access to summer meal sites.

8 For every 100 school lunch programs, there are only 87 breakfast sites and just 36 summer food programs.

9 1 in 7 people are enrolled in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Nearly half of them are children.

10 40% of food is thrown out in the US every year, or about \$165 billion worth. All of this uneaten food could feed 25 million Americans.

11 These 8 states have statistically higher food insecurity rates than the US national average (14.6%): Arkansas (21.2%), Mississippi (21.1%), Texas (18.0%), Tennessee (17.4%), North Carolina (17.3%), Missouri (16.9%), Georgia (16.6%), Ohio (16.0%).

Enough food is produced worldwide to feed all the people in the world (Leathers, p. 133). However, despite this alarming truth, nearly 1 billion people are suffering from chronic hunger today. There are a wide range of factors that contribute to this problem, but perhaps one of the most significant is poor food distribution. We simply have not developed a successful plan to move food from the areas of origin to those in need.

Is there anything here to eat? People need the Bread of Life. People around us need to hear the Gospel message of life and hope. It is up to you and me to take that message to them.