

# Global Hunger Relief 2023 Prayer Guide

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Join Us in Praying for the Worst  
Hunger Crisis in 40 Years.



# Jesus answered... ‘Man must not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’

**MATTHEW 4:4**

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The world is facing the worst hunger crisis we’ve seen in 40 years.

After the last few years of worldwide pandemics, refugee crises and war, the number of people experiencing food insecurity increased to 2.3 billion, which means 2.3 billion fathers and mothers, scientists and farmers, elementary school children and camp counselors don’t know where their next meal will come from.

Your gifts to the Global Hunger Relief fund help Send Relief overcome this overwhelming statistic and guarantee families in need nutritious meals that will keep their children full and their bodies strong.

To learn more about how the Global Hunger Relief fund works and access more stories of how your incredible support meets needs and changes lives, visit **[GlobalHungerRelief.org](https://GlobalHungerRelief.org)** today.



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# East Africa

## Trusting the Bread of Life in Times of Drought



In one developing nation in sub-Saharan Africa, 18 months without rain has caused a severe drought to impact not one, not two, but three crop seasons in a row—with no end in sight.

Cattle herders and farmers whose sole income relied on the success of their crop rotations returned home to hungry children and empty fields, with entire herds of cows dying in the pasture due to a lack of food and water.

One day, a local Baptist church made up of agricultural families in the area contacted their sister congregation in the city to ask for any kind of emergency aid they could spare. Local partners in attendance immediately called Send Relief and asked for urgent food assistance using the Global Hunger Relief fund.



While awaiting the food packages, the church's pastor, Barasa\*, compiled a list of family names who did not attend church but whom he knew desperately needed help. When the parcels arrived, Barasa made it his mission to see that their neighbors received as much support as his congregants.



He spoke at the food distribution to encourage his community, saying, “We can trust God to care for us, and we can know His love—even when we suffer. If He doesn’t send rain, He’s powerful enough to send food through others. And if the food doesn’t come through others, He’s powerful enough to meet our needs another way. Today, we see God’s love and care in these food packets from our brothers and sisters in the city and across the ocean, so share what God has done with your neighbors.”

Because of your generosity in giving to the Global Hunger Relief fund, nearly 100 people heard about Christ’s life, death and resurrection that day. Your gifts can make a difference for eternity!

Pray for the remainder of these agricultural communities to be able to hear the gospel in their native tribal tongue and for the Lord to send rain to East Africa—this is only one of many villages suffering from terrible drought across the region.

*\*Name changed for security.*

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# War in Ukraine

## Families Fleeing Conflict Find Hope at Church



The war in Ukraine has been raging for more than a year.

While the United Nations human rights office estimates the deaths of 8,000 civilians and more than 13,000 injuries, the actual number is likely much higher—especially if they include combatant fatalities. Thus far, this has impacted 18 million people, and 14 million Ukrainians now find themselves displaced from their homes. Nearly 500 children have died and at least 1,000 have severe wounds.

Amid the chaos, the evacuation of several territories occurred with such short notice, and many families became overnight refugees, escaping with the only food and belongings they could rush to fit in their backpacks. The winter conditions in Ukraine did not make this journey easier.

Thanks to your incredible support, Southern Baptists acted soon after the invasion, using the Global Hunger Relief fund



to distribute hot meals while sharing gospel conversations with those who fled the war. One of these refugees, Elena, shared her story of survival:

“At the beginning of the war, a shell hit my house, flew through the opposite wall and exploded. At the time, my husband and I were in the kitchen and miraculously survived. That’s where we live now—the kitchen—and we still don’t know how to keep the house heated. There is no gas, and firewood is impossible to find right now. But the Baptists have been helping us every day since the occupation, so now I attend services at the local church.”

This church —Church of the Grace of God—has become the center of hope for hundreds of traumatized, distressed refugees who have experienced bombings up to seven times a day.

Local partners volunteering along the food lines shared, “Many people live in extreme crisis here. The most affected were those struggling to survive before the war started—those with different abilities, families in difficult life circumstances and the elderly. We respond to these needs here in the shelled villages with weekly food packages, offering words of comfort that the Lord gives us as we do.”

The local pastor of Grace of God, Victor,\* told us, “Every day is a day of service, and it reminds us of the value of a person’s life and their immortal soul.” Today, about 150 people receive the food they need to survive daily—nearly half a million from this project alone helped so far.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the survivors of the war in Ukraine! Pray for those unable to flee their homeland to find a reliable, consistent food source and for their protection as Russian forces continue to bomb civilian neighborhoods.

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# New York City

## Unlikely Friendships in the South Bronx



Two rival gang members were prepared to fight when Send Relief missionary Andrew Mann pulled them aside at the Send Relief Ministry Center in New York. They began making progress toward reconciliation. As they got up to leave, one of the men noticed a meal served called “TNT,” so he hung back for a moment.

With the help of the Global Hunger Relief fund, the ministry center provides this meal every Thursday night, affectionately referred to by the partakers as “TNT.” Many people in the area are food insecure, and this meal is nothing short of a survival tool for most participants. Perhaps even more important than the nutrition itself is the laughter, friendship and community it offers to many who otherwise may not see a friendly face or engage in an amicable conversation for days.

To Andrew's surprise, as he perused the tables of hurting people scarfing down food, his eyes rested on the same two men who earlier were at each others throats—sitting next to each other for the meal!

After breaking bread and talking, they both decided to stay for that evening's Bible study, which happened to deal with Jesus' unlikely friendship with the Samaritans.

The message must have landed because one of the men brought some friends to join in on the meal the following week. His wall of self-protective hostility was slowly coming down.

Jesus seemed to see meals as a way to cement unlikely friendships. In Luke 14:13-14, He told us to purposefully have meals with those we wouldn't invite to eat with us.

The Global Hunger Relief fund not only helps provide food for people who have very little but also helps build bridges between the barriers that divide us—even among the gangs of the Bronx.

Pray for more unlikely friendships to form as a result of these meal distributions and pray for ministry center staff to be filled with grace and wisdom as they share the Bread of Life with those experiencing homelessness in New York City.

Your gifts to the Global Hunger Relief fund  
are saving lives and leaving a lasting legacy!

You can help even more struggling families  
this Global Hunger Sunday, August 27.

**Give online today at**  
**GlobalHungerRelief.org.**

