



campus Connection

Bread for the World's Campus Newsletter

Dear Campus Activists,

Happy Belated New Year! I hope your spring semester has started out on a good note. On my first day back in the office in 2006, our president of Bread for the World (BFW), David Beckmann, was making the rounds in the office wishing people a happy new year, and when he saw me he said, "It's the year of the emerging leaders!" ☺ This made my day and maybe my year! Just like I and others on staff at BFW, he values and is excited about the energy, creativity and passion young people across the U.S. and around the world are bringing to the movement to end hunger. This past fall was filled with awesome events on campuses, and I've already been hearing about some great spring plans as well. I have featured a few exciting campus events in this newsletter, but I'd encourage you to read BFW's campus blog, www.breadblog.org, for other great campus events! A couple other things to note, if you haven't been to BFW's Web site lately, check it out – it's got a new look with a great campus section. Finally, I wanted to make sure you heard about our new Offering of Letters emphasis for 2006 and its connection to the ONE Campaign, so keep reading to learn more. I can't wait to work with you again this spring!

Blessings,

Erin



"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

Albus Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*



ONE SPIRIT

Thousands of BFW members and other people of faith and conscience are raising their voices on behalf of poor and hungry people around the world. Together we have helped win significant increases in international development assistance. Through efforts like the ONE Campaign, more than 2 million people are part of an international movement to make poverty history.

The Spirit moves.

People act.

Change is made

ONE WILL

The United States has committed to doing its part to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include halving extreme hunger and poverty, improving health, education, and the livelihoods of many around the world by 2015. Our nation has also promised to significantly increase development assistance at the G-8 summit.

Now we need more than promises. We need political leadership, policy changes and significant new resources. The political initiative of our nation's leaders will reflect the people's desire, but only if we speak up.

ZERO POVERTY

Joining together, we can urge our leaders to fulfill promises made to the world and to no longer stand by while 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 a day.

Through the work of the Spirit

The will of the people

We can end poverty!

THE ONE CAMPAIGN AND THE OFFERING OF LETTERS



As a ONE Campaign partner, Bread for the World works to empower churches, campuses and local groups to take action on behalf of the 1.1 billion people living in extreme poverty worldwide. BFW's 2006 Offering of Letters, *One Spirit. One Will. Zero Poverty.*, will advance the ONE Campaign by providing a concrete way for citizens to push for United States policies that help meet the basic needs of our global neighbors. The ONE Campaign as well as the similar Micah Challenge and Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty will continue to build the broader movement of concerned citizens. This year's Offering of Letters will provide people with a practical way to take action. It is the next step – urging our nation's leaders to live up to their commitments, to do what is necessary to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Organize an Offering of Letters on your campus today! Go to BFW's Web site, www.bread.org, to order your Offering of Letters kit or send me an email for more information, campus@bread.org.

ACTION:

Urge your members of Congress to significantly increase poverty-focused development assistance in Fiscal Year 2007 and work towards devoting an additional 1 percent of the federal budget to poverty-focused development assistance by 2010.

Solar Panel Cookers for Refugees: Saving the Environment and Improving Health

Refugees in Kenya receive rations of food, but often many families are left hungry because they are forced to trade food in exchange for wood. Thanks to poverty focused development assistance provided by USAID through Solar Cookers International (SCI), pollution and hunger have been reversed. In 1995, SCI began distributing low-cost, sun-fueled

ovens in the refugee camps, eliminating the people's dependence on the forests of northwest Kenya. Since the program was initiated, over 22,000 families – more than 100,000 people – have benefited from the solar cookers. This initiative provides a vivid example of how international partnerships can reach into a refugee camp to create self-sufficiency, preserve the environment and help vulnerable people. (Source: InterAction.)

CAMPUS BREAD: BEST THING SINCE SLICED BLOG www.breadblog.org

If you haven't checked out our blog yet, it's a must see! We've got quite a few great authors that write on various topics such as:

- Advocacy
- BFW.edu – What's Happening on Campus
- Cultural Engagement
- ONE
- Hunger in the News
- Slice of Mozambican Life
- Soul Food
- Whole Grains: Hunger Awareness

WORLD AIDS DAY

In order to raise awareness at **Baylor University** (Waco, TX), on December 1, World AIDS Day, the Student Global AIDS Campaign group got 2,600 students, faculty, staff, friends, etc. to wear an orange shirt that said "HIV + Educate Yourself!" This conscious-raising and advocacy campaign was important in educating peers about AIDS. The 2,600 people wearing the shirts served as a visual representation of Zimbabwe and several African nations where 20% of the population lives with HIV/AIDS. "Getting 20% of our student body to wear the shirts was an amazing feat, and made an impact." said BFW activist Laura Newitt.

ICE CREAM SUNDAES AND MDGs

During an organizational fair at **Georgetown University** (Washington, DC) students in social justice groups organized a cool awareness

raising/marketing technique. They set up an ice cream sundae stand at the fair. Students stopping by could make an ice cream sundae, but to get a condiment, they first learned about a Millennium Development Goal (MDG). So to get ice cream students learned about Goal #1, Reduce by half the number of people that live on less than \$1 a day, and to get hot fudge on their ice cream, students had to learn about Goal #5, etc. With each goal, students also learned about various Georgetown student organizations they could get involved with pertaining to the goal. Isn't that fun?!!

MINI-LIVE AID

Davidson College (Davidson, NC) organized a great event to help raise awareness about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ONE, and the federal budget. They organized a mini-Live Aid concert inspired in part by the Live 8 concerts held this past summer. The event was held during a regularly scheduled "Live Thursdays," a weekly nighttime venue for student performance. The evening featured five student performers and included a student emcee.



Band performing at Davidson's Mini-Live Aid
Courtesy of Elizabeth Henry

As students were first gathering, they played a slideshow with pictures, statistics, and quotes about the need for community and concern for others. In between sets of various bands, information about the MDGs, the ONE Campaign and the federal budget was presented. They kept the presentations short (less than five minutes) and engaging. For the federal budget they used Ben Cohen's model

(www.truemajority.org), so of course, Oreos were served as a snack!



Planning team for Mini-Live Aid
Courtesy of Elizabeth Henry

In the back of the room, three laptops were set up so that students could sign the ONE Declaration online. The students that participated were interested in learning more, so as a follow up activity, the organizers of the event sent out an email with more information about organizations that were working on the MDGs. They're also continuing the work started in the fall by organizing a teach-in about the MDGs later this spring. The same week of the teach-in, they'll be organizing an Offering of Letters on One Spirit. One Will. Zero Poverty.

POWER OF ONE: FAITH AND GLOBAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Seattle, WA – On Nov. 19, 2005, over 500 people from the Northwest gathered together for "The Power of ONE: Faith and Global Justice Conference." The conference highlighted the goals to make poverty history, the ONE Campaign, and the efforts of many working towards justice.



Seattle University's Campion Tower conference room is filled to capacity with more than 500 people.

Courtesy of Kyoung Craddock

Rick Steves, a well-known PBS show host and travel writer, and The Rev. Mpho Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, were featured as keynote speakers. The Rev. Mpho Tutu encouraged

the audience to be advocates, “Our representatives want to be seen as representing us. If it’s not important enough to tell them what’s important, then it’s not important to us. Pick up your pens and get writing!” Rick Steves opened hearts and minds with humorous travel stories that allowed him to speak truth about global injustice and our role as Americans in our ever expanding world.

Participants attended one of six workshops, facilitated by Bread for the World, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Covenant World Relief, the Millennium Campaign, and Water First! The event was supported by an unprecedented coalition of local and national anti-poverty and development groups.

The energy among participants was evident. One participant commented, “I’m encouraged to see so many people gathered to make a difference. Together, we are building the political will to overcome hunger and poverty!” The movement continues to build throughout the Northwest as seen by the example of a local priest who spoke about the ONE Campaign the following two weeks in his parish.

The Power of ONE conference was funded by organizational sponsorship and a generous grant from the UN Foundation



College and seminary students were among the event’s many participants, demonstrating how the justice movement spans the generations.

Courtesy of Intercommunity Peace and Justice

WHERE IN THE USA IS DAVID BECKMANN?



As I alluded to in my opening letter, BFW’s president, David Beckmann, is invested in and excited about emerging leaders. During this school year 2005-2006, David has accepted quite a number of speaking invitations to college campuses. Here’s a snapshot:

- Oct. 2005 Berea College (Berea KY)
Keynote address at their *Engaging Our World: A Southeastern Global Leadership Conference*
- Jan. 2006 Samford University
(Birmingham, AL)
Keynote address at their *Faith in Action: A National Student Conference*
- Feb. 2006 Calvin College
(Grand Rapids, MI)
Plenary speaker at their *Faith and International Development Conference*
- March 2006 Notre Dame (South Bend, IN)
Guest speaker in the speaker series, *Democracy Matters: An Interdisciplinary Examination of the Mid-Term Elections*
- April 2006 Davidson College
(Davidson, NC)
Guest speaker as part of the Dean Rusk International Studies Program

Check out Bread for the World’s newly revamped Web site, www.bread.org! Make sure to go to the “Get Involved On Campus” section.