



# Hunger

*Quick Facts from Zealous Love: A Practical Guide to Social Justice*

*“When someone steals a man’s clothes, we call him a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry man.”*

*--Basil the Great*

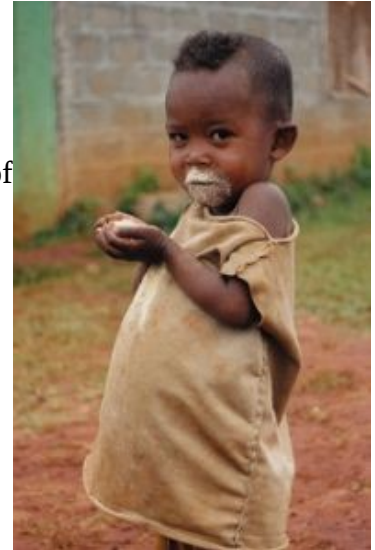
## Overview:

Most of us in the developed world have so much that we can throw away excess food without even a second thought. Or, we don’t eat to survive, we eat because we like good food. Some of us even eat way too much. That’s a big reason why tens of millions in developed countries like ours die from heart attacks, cancer, and diabetes every year. We spend billions overeating—and billions more on self-help books to help us work off the extra poundage or on medical treatments in the event that our habits catch up with us.

Perhaps a pertinent question for us to ask ourselves is this: if God cared enough to work miracles both in the Old and the New Testaments so that people could eat, how should we care for those who are hungry in our world right now?

## Quick Facts:

- Every six seconds a child dies in the developing world because of hunger-related issues—over fourteen thousand per day.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 923 million people around our world are hungry.<sup>2</sup>
- More than two billion people (nearly one-third of the world’s population), are undernourished.<sup>3</sup>
- Nearly one-third of all children in developing countries are underweight or stunted because of a lack of food.<sup>4</sup>



*For more information, or to join in the conversation, please visit:*

**[www.ZealousLove.org](http://www.ZealousLove.org)**

1 This number is deduced from UNICEF sources which estimate that 53% of the annual 10 million child deaths in our world are caused by hunger. UNICEF, *Progress for Children: A Report Card on Maternal Mortality*, no. 7, September, 2008, p. 1, [http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Progress\\_for\\_Children-No.\\_7\\_Lo-Res\\_082008.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Progress_for_Children-No._7_Lo-Res_082008.pdf). AND UNICEF Biovision Forum 2007 FactSheet Available from: [http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_3712.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3712.html)

2 Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Briefing Paper: Hunger on the Rise*, September 17, 2008, [www.fao.org/newsroom/common/ecg/1000923/en/hungerfigs.pdf](http://www.fao.org/newsroom/common/ecg/1000923/en/hungerfigs.pdf).

3 World Food Programme leaflet, *Hunger and Health*, World Hunger Series 2007, p. 1, [http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/WHS\\_leaflet\\_English\\_2007.pdf](http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/WHS_leaflet_English_2007.pdf).

4 United Nations Development Programme, *Fighting Climate Change: Human solidarity in a divided world*, Human Development Report 2007/2008, p. 25, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/>.