

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

—an interpretive service by the Baptist Peace Fellowship youth

Editor's note: The following is taken from the final worship service at the 2000 summer conference of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It was planned, written, and led by the youth. Special thanks go to youth leader Stephanie Wyatt for gathering these writings and sending them to Baptist Peacemaker.

Call to Worship

by Jon Buttry

Reader 1: O God, we come together from different places—from the ends of the earth and from across the street.

Reader 2: We gather here for one common dream which we all share in the depths of our hearts and minds: peace.

Reader 3: When we unite, we set aside our differences and respect each other simply because we are all people, we are all individuals, and we are all in this together.

Reader 4: Upon gathering, the seeds of our ideas are fertilized with other's contributions. With our determination to carry out God's will, these ideas evolve and shape the world of tomorrow.

Theme Interpretation

by Trisha Byers

First Offstage Voice: Give us this Day Our Daily Bread.

Second Offstage Voice: You are an ambassador on the veranda of the U.S. embassy in some foreign country. A waiter is about to request your order. You look out on the street filled with tattered children scheming for money, food. The waiter's child is one of them.

Response

I look at these children begging and I feel so helpless, being the Ambassador of a very wealthy and powerful country and not being able to go out of this building and help these kids.

How can a country like ours be completely covered in wealth and still want more power and money, while in other

countries people's daily life is begging?

We have so much food and money, if we would stop being so greedy and think about other countries—especially Third World countries—we could stop hunger in so many places.

The only way our country will ever give help to another country is if they give us good trade for it, and if a country doesn't have good trade the U.S. just shoos them away like flies.

I think we should all stop thinking about ourselves and how much we suffer, and consider that what we do have is so much more than other countries, and take time to sacrifice some of it to those countries.



Give Us Our Daily Bread

a short drama

by Anna Betton and Sarah Burkett

Ask a player to dress like a homeless woman and stand to one side of the stage, while the two speakers, Anna and Sarah, stand on the other side. Anna and Sarah are dressed like ordinary teenagers.

Scene I

Anna: Hey Sarah, look at that old rag over there. She thinks she actually has food in those bags of hers, HA, that's funny!

Sarah: Anna, you are confusing me. I thought God taught us to take in everyone as if they were part of us. To reach out our hearts, and to help those in need.

Anna: God? Who cares about him? I mean, do you have any proof that he is really there?

Sarah: God is in my heart, and yours, and God tells us that

we should lift our hearts to that woman as well as anyone who needs a friend.

Anna: Sarah! I think I am beginning to understand. So where should I go from here?

Sarah: Well Anna, I think we should start right over there with that woman. We should work to fill her bags with the fruits of the spirit and bring her into God's life, and fill her with God's love!

Anna: Great! LET'S GO TO HER!

Anna and Sarah go to the homeless woman and offer food to her.

Scene II

Anna: I am so glad that you made me realize how important God's love is. I have felt more secure knowing that God is there for me. Thanks Sarah!

Sarah: No problem, I just wish that EVERY ONE could realize the work of our creator's love.

Anna: Well it is a shame that EVERYONE does not believe, but we should do everything we can to spread God's quilt of love.

Both (Sarah & Anna): AMEN

What's Up With the Line at Mickey D's?

a drama by the BPFNA youth

Scene: Two young, beautiful teenage women walking along the sidewalk, pausing alongside a McDonald's Restaurant

First Teen: I'm hungry!

Second Teen: I don't want any greasy fries. Besides, look at that line.

First Teen: What's happening to the world today?

Second Teen: Fast food has led to the decline of family meals and promoted cultural assimilation. Now everybody eats the same things, day after day.

First Teen: Wow! I hadn't really thought of it quite like this before, but you're right. Families don't even take the time to pray! They are too consumed with themselves and their time to worry about things like that.

Second Teen: Yeah, they are so rushed they don't take time to interact with each other, let alone God.

First Teen: Let's go; I'm not so hungry anymore.

Communion Introduction

by Jon Buttry and David Broadway

Imagine two scenes: one is heaven, one is hell. In both scenes you can see a great banquet table covered with all the food one could possibly want. (You can elaborate if you want: fried chicken, crab cakes, hamburgers—fill in your favorite foods.)

In both scenes there are people on each side of the table facing one another. In both scenes the people have extremely long arms. In fact their arms are so long they cannot reach their mouths with the food placed before them.

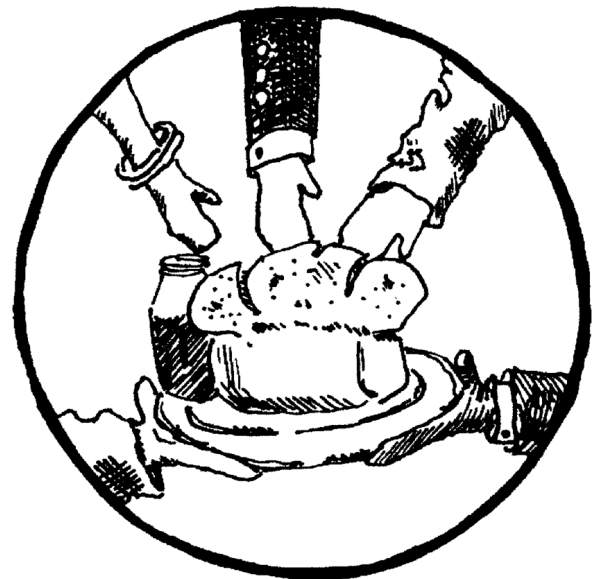
In hell, the people are angrily trying to reach their mouths with the food. They are each jockeying for the best position to try to get the food into their own mouths, disregarding their sisters and brothers. Thus, they are starving in the midst of a great feast.

In heaven, the people are joyous. The long arms are not a problem because they are feeding one another. They are celebrating the feast fully because they are sharing.

Today we would like to simulate this scene of heaven by serving each other communion. If you will please prepare to stand in lines facing one another, we will participate in the Lord's supper by serving it to our neighbors.

May it truly be on earth as it is in heaven.

Let the Feast begin.



This service is from the award-winning department called "Peace Soup" in *Baptist Peacemaker*. "Peace Soup" is affectionately named after a youth newspaper created during the 1999 "peace camp."

Art is by Erin Kennedy Mayer and is from Seeds of Hope Publishers.

(from *Baptist Peacemaker*, Volume 20 Number 3, Fall 2000)