

U.S. Citizen Movement

Churches Asked To Support World's Hungry

By Connie Myer
Special To The Post

Before they sit down to their Thanksgiving dinners this year, United Methodists and other church people across the United States will be asked to do something concrete to help the world's hungry.

Bread for the World, a U.S. citizens' movement concerned about hunger and poverty, is inviting support for a nationwide "offering of letters" in the churches to ask members of Congress to pass a "right to food" resolution. To be intro-

duced this month in both houses of Congress, the resolution declares it should be a cornerstone of United States' policy that "every person in this country and throughout the world has the right to a nutritionally adequate diet."

This right should be a fundamental point in forming legislative and administrative decisions in areas such as trade, assistance, monetary reform, military spending and all matters relating to hunger, the resolution states.

The resolution urges enrolling all those in the United States who are in need on food assistance programs, improving the programs to assure an adequate diet and "to attain full employment and a floor of economic decency for everyone."

In addition, it asks this country to increase its assistance for self-help development among the world's poorest people, especially in countries most seriously affected by hunger. Chief sponsors of the resolution are Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon and Rep. Donald Fraser of Minnesota.

Churches are being asked to have their members put in the collection baskets, one of the last three Sundays in November, letters asking their local U.S. Senators and Representatives to pass the "right to food" resolution.

Staff of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries urge United Methodists to support the Bread for the World offering of letters by writing personal messages to their Congressmen, and

also suggest that much more can and should be done in the entire area of world and national hunger.

"We, as Christians, have a responsibility to constantly monitor our legislation relating to trade, aid and other areas that affect hunger," said Ms. Doreen F. Tilghman, a staff member of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. "It's difficult to find effective ways to know what legislation is being presented to Congress, both in domestic and foreign areas. We must discover the means to become more politically astute."

Bread for the World's newsletter, which provides timely updates on pending U.S. legislation, such as the foreign assistance authorization bill explained in the September issue, is one method, she explained. "Perhaps churches in a community can get together to monitor legislation, communicate the needs and begin action." Ms. Tilghman is a member of Bread for the World's board of directors.

"The Board of Global Ministries is receiving significant response from the churches in regard to hunger, but I fear that in another year or so, people may feel that enough has been done," she added. "Hunger, though, is a long-term problem that is going to call for drastic changes in legislation and our life styles. Since we've joined hands in fighting hunger, we're going to have to stay with it."

Supporting her is the Rev. Franklin P. Smith, hunger

co-ordinator for UMCOR. "I feel a deep appreciation for the church members who've sent and are continuing to send monetary gifts for hunger," he said. "These are crucial for both immediate relief and for long-term efforts to eradicate hunger. But, in addition, we must also convey our feelings to those in government. That's why the offering of letters is so important at Thanksgiving time."

One of several issues which might be highlighted in the letters, he declared, "would be to urge the executive and legislative branches to commit the United States to spending an increased ratio of our gross national product (GNP) for overseas development assistance."

The United Nations General Assembly has recommended that the industrialized nations reach a minimum of 7-10 of one per cent of their GNPs in development aid by 1975, he noted, but the United States, the richest of all, provided only about 2-10 of one per cent last year. "We ranked 4th in aid percentage among 17 leading developed nations," he said. "Meanwhile, six per cent of our GNP goes to the Department of Defense."

Mr. Smith said he was pleased by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's recent speech at the UN General Assembly Special Development session because "it indicated increased U.S. responsiveness to the needs of developing countries. We hope church people will support and urge implementation of some

UNCC Plans

Seminar On

How To Write

A seminar on how to write in a formal or beautiful manner is planned at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on Tuesdays, Oct. 7 through Nov. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 31 of the Atkins Library.

The instructor will be William B. Mitchell, a calligrapher with more than 45 years of experience in the graphic arts industry as artist, salesman and executive.

The seminar is sponsored by the Office of Extension and Continuing Education of UNCC.

Mr. Mitchell has prepared beautifully lettered expressions of appreciation and commendation for such prominent figures as President Gerald Ford, Evangelist Billy Graham, and Alabama Gov. George Wallace.



Photo by Jim Black

Dr. John Melbourne hopes the Neighborhood Medical Clinic will be the first of many such programs initiated throughout the state. That's why the success of this clinic is so important.

Neighborhood Medical Clinic Needs Support

By Jim Black
Post Feature Writer

It's hard to imagine that in an age where people spend thousands of dollars on artificial hearts, kidneys, etc., that there are others who can barely afford to have the common flu diagnosed with their limited incomes they have fallen prey to rising costs of even the bare essentials.

So you would think that when a program was started to relieve at least the financial burden of those medically oppressed persons, there would be a stampede of major proportions...wrong....

Such a program does exist, under the name of the Neighborhood Medical Clinic, Inc. It is located in Alexander Street Center and was organized to provide a wide range of health services to families residing in an area of Charlotte where money is scarce and people are plentiful.

That area is bounded by Belmont Ave. on the North, Louise Ave. and the Northwest Expressway on the East, Trade St. on the South and College St. on the West. This includes Piedmont Courts and Earle Village residents.

Approximately six years ago the Mother's Club of Piedmont Courts listed as its top priority better medical care in the neighborhood. A neighborhood clinic was promised by Model Cities but the problems with federal rules and guidelines prevented the clinic from ever becoming a reality.

But things began to happen anyway, thanks to the ever active Myers Park Presbyterian Church and its sister church, Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church. Its participation in hot lunch, tutorial, day care, summer camp and other programs made it familiar with and sympathetic with vital needs of the community. Interviews with the neighborhood residents confirmed their desire for better access to medical care. To go to the hospital clinic meant a taxi ride for many, or for others a trip to the square by bus with a transfer to the hospital. This was an all day

trip with a long wait at the first-come-first served clinic. A number of alternatives for better access to health care were explored by church committee but it was obvious that the neighborhood wanted...A Neighborhood Clinic."

In its search for information on Neighborhood Clinic the church-committee found that nearly all of them had federal funding of some kind, and that meant federal guidelines and not local needs would be the catalyst for much of the decision making.

The first step in establishing the Neighborhood Clinic was to solicit the support of several other churches. Myers Park Methodist, Myers Park Baptist, Christ Episcopal, Covenant Presbyterian and Seigle Avenue Presbyterian all joined Myers Park Presbyterian and agreed to support the Clinic with money and talent. On July 17 of this year the clinic had its first patient. Their appointment book stays filled but there is the problem of people calling to schedule a certain time for themselves, and then not showing up.

The Clinic, which is staffed by two fulltime physicians, Dr. John Melbourne and Dr. Martin Koehn, is not the average run of the Mill Clinic. On the outside it looks rather unimpressive, but once you walk through the doors, you are immediately bombarded with bright lively colors. The decor is modern and comfortable. Everything is spic and span and the receptionist even smiles.

The Clinic operates on a fee for service basis with charges individualized according to a sliding scale on income and size of family. There is no investigating to see if you're telling the truth. They take your word...information on some of the low fees that are paid to the clinic convinces that more residents living within the area ought to at least stop by the place and compare it to wherever they now receive medical aid.

The benefits and savings brought about by this clinic will probably serve as a good measure, and influence the adoption of other neighborhood clinics.

Svenson, Cook Join Sangers

Two doctors specializing in the field of Cardiovascular and Thoracic medicine recently arrived in Charlotte and joined the Sanger Clinic on Randolph Road.

Dr. Robert H. Svenson, a Cardiologist, received his degrees from Lawrence University in 1963 and the University of Chicago School of Medicine in 1969, where he graduated with honors. After completing his residency at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics in 1972, he was a post doctoral fellow in the division of Cardiology, Duke Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, until coming to Charlotte.

Dr. Svenson has collaborated in the writing of over 25 original publications and abstracts, many of which have appeared in various national and international medical Journals.

He is married to the former Marilyn Nelson and they have two children, Cathy and Doug.

Dr. Joseph William Cook, a native of Concord, North Carolina, is a graduate of Duke University (1964) and Duke University Medical School (1968).

After completing his internship at Duke Hospital he went on to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center where he was chief resident, Thoracic Surgery and chief resident, General Surgery.

He was also a research fellow in the Departments of Medicine and Pharmacology, Duke University. Since 1968 he has collaborated in the writing of numerous papers and publications which have been published.

Married to the former Cathy Harris of Newport, Arkansas they have three children Bill, Marc and Mary Ann. They are attending Myers Park Methodist.

CPCC To Sponsor

Classes In

Weight Control

Registration is presently being conducted for Central Piedmont Community College fall classes in Weight Control, Sewing, Adult Basic Education and High School completion which begins October 6 at three neighborhood community centers.

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CHILDREN BY CHOICE advertisement for Birth Control & Abortion Service, Counseling & High Quality Medical Services, and Call Planned Parenthood. Includes a photo of three children.