



Table

WORLD
HUNGER
2020



 **World
Renew**
LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

*Adult
Devotional*

Over 1 billion people

AROUND THE WORLD DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
TO EAT TODAY. THEY DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL
HAVE ANYTHING TO EAT TOMORROW.



Welcome.



THEIR TABLES ARE *empty.*

AS PEOPLE OF GOD, WE KNOW
THE STORY HAS TO *change.*

We know that God intends His love and blessing for every table. But climate crisis, disaster, violence, economic injustice, and poor health prevent some tables from filling with the bounty that many of us enjoy.

When we accept the invitation to God's table, He calls us to make a place for others.

We're thankful you're joining us for two weeks of conversation with God about physical and spiritual hunger. We'll talk about how we can join Him in bringing His food to every table. Each weekday devotion can be read in less than 5 minutes and each weekend offers ways to go deeper, so we invite you to take a look now and plan ahead.

We have crafted this book with adults and older children in mind. World Renew has also created a children's devotional for this season that mirrors the content of this booklet in an age-appropriate way. We hope that you will invite the children in your life to join you in broaching the topic of hunger and hearing the promises of God.

When Christ called himself "the bread of life," He spoke to much more than our physical hunger. And **when you join World Renew in helping fill every table with food, you fill families with more than food.** God's table offers welcome, love, dignity, healing, safety, and hope — because God's table is a table of plenty.

The table of God. For every table.



DAY
-1-

ALL are WELCOME

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER,
THEREFORE, JUST AS CHRIST
WELCOMED YOU, FOR THE
GLORY OF GOD.

— Romans 15:7



D

DO YOU KNOW the hymn *Table of Plenty*? Based on the words of Isaiah 55, the song sings of God's welcome. "Come to the feast of heaven and earth!," it calls, "Come to the table of plenty! God will provide for all that we need here at the table of plenty."

But when we who have enough food think of the 1 billion people who do not, we can wonder: how can we help them find their place at the table of plenty? How can we welcome people like Sandress and Loyce Nyirenda in Eastern Zambia, where almost 60% of the population lives in extreme poverty and over 2 million people live on the brink of actual starvation?

We can welcome countless people to God's table because **God's provision is encompassing and extravagant and His welcome flows through us.** We can welcome families like the Nyirendas to the table of plenty by giving their lives our attention, our prayers, and our regular gifts.

Sandress and Loyce Nyirenda have raised 7 children in a home of big laughs, kind hearts, and deep love that was also, until three years ago, a home of hunger.

When World Renew and our Zambian partners started working with the Nyirenda's village, they welcomed the family's challenges and the Nyirendas welcomed support. They welcomed nutrition and sustainable farming training, access to a village savings and loan program, and a small group where they could discuss Biblical approaches to gender justice.

The Nyirendas' children now eat three meals a day and Sandress and Loyce's marriage is a fruitful partnership, in which they have built up a small savings for things like solar panels, so their children can continue their studies after dark.

With the help of people like you, the Nyirendas have been welcomed into the fullness of life, given a place at God's table. Who do you long to welcome to the table of God?

prayer

WELCOMING GOD. HELP US TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE ENCOMPASSING, EXTRAVAGANT PLENTY OF YOUR TABLE IN OUR LIVES. AS WE SINK INTO GRATEFUL AWARENESS OF OUR PLACE AT YOUR TABLE, WE WILL SEEK TO LET YOUR WELCOME FLOW THROUGH US TO ALL YOUR CHILDREN. FOR YOUR GLORY. *Amen*



DAY
-2-

ALL are LOVED

SEE WHAT GREAT LOVE THE
FATHER HAS LAVISHED ON US.
THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED
CHILDREN OF GOD! AND THAT
IS WHAT WE ARE!

— 1 John 3:1

HOW MANY OF US, in the wake of a death, prepare and offer food to the grieving? Why do we celebrate a marriage not just with a ceremony but with a meal? Why, when we rejoice, do we raise a glass? The elemental nature of food and drink represents deep, fundamental things like comfort, hope, joy.

When we speak of the table of God, we know that we're talking about more than food.



Isaiah 55 refers to “what is not bread” and, in John 6:27, Jesus advises us to “not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life.” And yet, those promises are entwined in actual food and drink because we are, as God made us, humans in need of both.

Jesus offered his disciples bread and wine at their last supper together as symbols of the extravagant, soul-saving gift he became for us all. What a wise and purposeful thing to do. We need bread and water to stay alive; we need Jesus for eternal life.

For Row Shan, food means love. A mother of two in Bangladesh, Shan longed to attend school as a child but instead became one of the 72% of girls in Bangladesh who do not complete school. Now Shan is the adoring mother of two young girls, for whom she wants a seat at the table.


With World Renew training in sustainable farming, Shan and her husband have seen their crops reliably grow more bountiful. Now, the family’s food and income are more secure and Shan can afford to send her daughters to school. Food security has allowed Shan to love her children in a way that carries deep meaning for her: education.

For Shan, a place at the table means that her daughters will have the opportunity and hope that she didn’t have. **For all of us, a place at God’s table means not just our daily bread but the love of God that endures forever.**

Do you feel your place at God’s table today? What are some of the gifts He has lavished upon you? How do you experience being His child?

prayer

LOVING GOD, WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN AND RELY ON YOU FOR OUR DAILY BREAD,
BOTH THE KIND WE EAT AND THE FOOD THAT BRINGS THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.
WHAT LAVISH GIFTS! THANK YOU. *Amen.*

A woman wearing a black hijab and a black long-sleeved shirt stands in the center, holding the hands of two children. To her left is a young boy wearing a white t-shirt with a colorful superhero graphic and blue jeans. To her right is a young girl wearing a white t-shirt and blue denim overalls. They are standing in front of a blue door with a light switch and a small window. The background wall is light blue and shows signs of wear. On the far left, there is a green patterned curtain.

DAY
-3-

ALL have DIGNITY

WHEN A FOREIGNER RESIDES AMONG YOU
IN YOUR LAND, DO NOT MISTREAT THEM.
THE FOREIGNER RESIDING AMONG YOU
MUST BE TREATED AS YOUR NATIVE-
BORN. LOVE THEM AS YOURSELF, FOR YOU
WERE FOREIGNERS IN EGYPT. I AM THE
LORD YOUR GOD.

— *Leviticus 19:33*

FAMILY TABLES CAN be precious places. They can host lively conversations and beloved guests, treasured family game nights or cherished early-morning quiet times.

But not everyone's table holds happiness. Some tables reveal scenes of loneliness, heartache, or deprivation — hungers of every kind. Some people don't even have a table of their own.



Randa does not have a physical table. Like 5.6 million other Syrians, Randa lives as a refugee. She is grateful to Lebanon, which has taken in her family and more Syrians than any other country, but her life is hard. Randa's children are not permitted to attend public school. She cleans houses and washes clothes for little money. Violence in her own country has driven her out.

There are some who have told Randa she has no place at a table, that she is without worth or dignity. And yet, she is a precious child of God **because God's love and mercy are what give us our dignity, not our circumstances.**

Ephesians 2:19 tells us that Randa and every one of us are "no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." God tells us to show Randa to her seat at His table.

Shortly after Randa arrived in Lebanon, her neighbors told her about a local church supported by World Renew. With backing from World Renew and its donors, the church has provided Randa and other refugees with blankets, mattresses, fuel for gas stoves, and food. "Whenever we need something, they are here to help," she says.

A staggering 1 in 5 people living in Lebanon are refugees from Syria. World Renew can engage in dignity-restoring relief work among them because of your generosity, and because we are all, as Ephesians 2 goes on to say, "God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

How might you be able to lovingly pull up a chair for another at God's table? What might it cost you to make room for others there?

prayer

O LORD OUR GOD, LET US ALWAYS FIND OUR DIGNITY AND WORTH IN YOU. WITH THE MATERIAL GIFTS YOU HAVE PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US, LET US BE AGENTS OF YOUR DIGNIFYING LOVE TO ALL YOUR CHILDREN. Amen.

DAY
-4-

ALL can HEAL

LORD MY GOD, I CALLED
TO YOU FOR HELP, AND
YOU HEALED ME.


— Psalm 30:2

H

HUNGER COMES to us all. Some of us may never want for actual food, but all of us will, at one time or another, be in need, at a loss, hopeless, *hungry*.

One day Renee had a table. The next day she did not.

When Hurricane Matthew descended on the east coast of the United States, the flooding devastated the town of Princeville, North Carolina.



On Renee’s property, the water arrived “like a tidal wave” and she and her 16-year old daughter Nakia watched in terror as it rose to touch the branches of a nearby tree, floating a refrigerator into their yard like a mere feather.

Renee and Nakia needed to be rescued, and help came — but not for their house. Suddenly, mother and daughter found themselves **without a home. Without a table.**

Living as one of us, Jesus knew the despair and agony of no home or table. In Matthew 8:20, he says poignantly, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

But Jesus never lost his place at his Father’s table. We know that Jesus was in fact raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God. Because, even in suffering, our place at the table of God is assured. In the chapter previous to today’s verse, the psalmist extols the mighty healing power of the Lord when he writes *“The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.”* Mightier than the flood.

Renee knows this. As she and Nakia waited for rescue, she prayed, trusting God would provide. World Renew Disaster Response Services arrived with the flood in Princeville and stayed long after. Now, four years later, Renee and her daughter live in a home with new floors, new walls, a new roof — a place where they can gather around the table. When we restore homes after disasters, we are restoring our brothers and sisters to their rightful place at God’s table of plenty.

Have you ever struggled to find your place at God’s table? Have you experienced restoration? Can you see how God has equipped you to help restore others?



prayer

HEALING GOD. EVEN IN SUFFERING, OUR PLACE AT YOUR TABLE IS ASSURED. LET US TRUST THAT AND SHARE THAT GOOD NEWS WITH ALL YOUR CHILDREN. Amen.



DAY
-5-


ALL CONTRIBUTE

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEEDS
OF THE SAINTS: EXTEND
HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS.

— *Romans 12:13*

YESTERDAY WE talked about how all of us will be visited by hunger of some kind or another. Our assured place at God's table does not exempt us from suffering. But conversely neither does suffering diminish our dignity in Christ or our place in the fellowship of saints. **Each of us has gifts to bring to God's table.**

1 Corinthians 12 has a lot to say about that. "Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker," it says, "are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor." God makes, distributes, and is at work in every kind of gift.



This was hard for Will Ayala to believe. One of the 66% of Hondurans who lives in poverty, Will eats what he can grow and growing has been hard for him — not just because of the extreme and relentless climate challenges of the past decade, but because back problems made him unable to work for two years. Unable to provide for himself or his dear wife, Jenny. Unable to contribute to his extended family's table. Will did not feel indispensable. He did not consider himself, as described in 1 Corinthians 12.

World Renew believes that God's table is for everyone.

We are members of One Body. We see how essential every member of God's household is — to God, to their communities, to us. So we knew that what Will needed wasn't a handout. He needed a way to provide food for his family sustainably that acknowledged both his disability and his dignity.

Elevated planter beds have not only allowed Will to farm in a way that addresses his physical needs, they have also addressed the pernicious challenges of alternating flood and drought that make farming hard for Will and his neighbors. Aquaponics troughs that symbiotically raise tilapia and greens have dramatically increased the micronutrients in Will and Jenny's diet, and the money Will makes selling excess harvest helps him pay for medicine.

When we are suffering, we can remember that God suffers with us. The body of Christ suffers with us. **When we honor everyone's place at God's table, we can all rejoice. When we contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers, we are the body of Christ.**

Do you know what gifts you bring to God's table? What can you contribute to affirm the gifts of others?



prayer

OH GOD OF MYSTERY, WE STAND IN AWE THAT WE ARE PART OF YOUR BODY! WHEN WE SUFFER, YOU GRIEVE WITH US. WHEN WE SHOW OTHERS TO THEIR SEAT AT YOUR TABLE, WE ARE YOUR HANDS AND FEET. HOLY MYSTERY! Amen.



at your TABLE *this* weekend

Here are some ways — **SOLITARY AND SOCIAL. QUIET AND CULINARY** — that you can think about your table as well as tables around the world and the families that gather around them.

Go ONLINE

Yes, that's right! Visit our website worldrenew.ca/worldhunger (CAN) or worldrenew.net/worldhunger (US) and learn more about the tables of families around the globe that World Renew has come alongside. Also consider visiting the website of our valued partner, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, for an excellent 2-minute video explaining our shared goal of food security for all. Just Google "Foodgrains Bank food security."

Be THOUGHTFUL

Take some time — alone or with those who share your table — to think about the daily "All..." messages of this devotional: are welcome, are loved, have dignity, can heal, contribute, feel safe, are cared for, find hope, grow strong, and have food. Do you feel any of these gifts in a particularly strong way? Do any of them provoke longing in you? Take some time to sit with God and reflect on your answers.

Get COOKING

Over our two weeks together, you'll meet families from 8 different countries. In six of them, some form of cornmeal is enjoyed as a staple dish. In Zambia, they eat nshima; in Mozambique, it's called ncima. Kenyans enjoy a corn flour porridge called ugali and Hondurans eat corn tortillas or tamales. Nigeria's national dish of foo-foo can be made with maize and the Southern United States is famous for its grits. Consider eating a meal centered on cornmeal this weekend as a way of reflecting on the tables of our brothers and sisters around the world. For a meditation on the reality of your brothers and sisters' lives, you and your household might consider doing this for a week.



UGALI and SUKUMA WIKI

Ugali, nsima, sadza, mealie pap. Whatever you call it, cornmeal is a staple across Africa. This recipe couldn't be simpler and provides a stomach-filling base for sukuma wiki, which is Swahili for "stretch the week." You can make these tasty greens for every taste bud: add chopped chicken or beef or leave it vegan; amp up the spice or keep it simple.

Ugali (OR CORN FUFU)

- 4 cups or more water
- 2 cups fine cornmeal
- ½ - 1 teaspoon salt

Bring the water and salt to a boil in a heavy saucepan. Slowly stir in the cornmeal to avoid lumps.

Reduce heat to medium-low and continue stirring regularly, smashing any lumps with a spoon, until the mush pulls away from the sides of the pot and becomes very thick, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and allow it to cool somewhat.

Place the ugali into a large serving bowl. Wet your hands with water, form into a ball, and serve.

Sukuma wiki

- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1-2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 large white onion, chopped
- 3 medium tomatoes diced or 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp. smoked paprika
- ½ tsp. coriander
- ½ tsp. curry powder
- ½ tsp. turmeric
- 1-2 cups chopped or ground beef or chicken (or vegan meat substitute)
- ½ tsp. cayenne pepper or to taste
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice or to taste
- 1 bunch collard greens (or kale)

In a medium-large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add garlic and onions and saute 2-3 minutes, stirring until mixture begins to soften.

Add tomatoes, paprika, coriander, curry, and turmeric and cook for about 2 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add meat if using and cook until browned, 6-8 minutes.

Throw in chopped greens and cayenne pepper and continue cooking until flavors have blended and greens are wilted to preference.

Taste and adjust seasonings, adding salt and pepper to preference. Serve with ugali.

DAY
-6-

ALL feel SAFE

THE LOWLY HE SETS
ON HIGH. AND THOSE
WHO MOURN ARE
LIFTED TO SAFETY

— Job 5:11

NVOU GYANG'S life in Nigeria has in no way been safe.

Six years ago, Nvou's husband was killed by armed attackers, one more loss in an unrelenting course of violence between farmers and herders in northeast Nigeria over scarce and dwindling resources. Nvou now raises their four sons on her own, wrestling to provide for their basic needs in a country where almost half of the population lives in extreme poverty; where climate change threatens already insufficient food supply; and health, sanitation, education, and shelter are painfully inadequate.

When Jesus spoke about those who are poor, those who hunger, those who weep, he was speaking about Nvou.

He also has **words for us**. “When you give a banquet,” he says in Luke chapter 14, “invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.” Jesus calls us to make a place for Nvou at His banquet table.

Does this feel like an admonition? *It’s an invitation.*

“Although they cannot repay you,” Jesus continues, “you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” He elaborates in Matthew 5 when he says “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

This is Jesus’s life-altering answer to hunger of every kind, the miracle of God’s table. When we make room for others, we ourselves are fed. When we set the lowly on high and lift those who mourn to safety — when we support people like Nvou — our own hunger is satisfied.

In Nigeria, World Renew has provided Nvou with access to a village savings and loan and a trauma healing program. She’s connected with other widows and mothers and has managed to grow her banana-selling business enough to pay for her sons’ school fees.

World Renew shares God’s deep passion for justice and mercy because we know that we enjoy our seat at the table only when all are seated there together. God is *inviting* you to share that passion and enjoy your seat at His table.

Where do you feel God’s invitation to bring others to His table? How might you lift others to safety?

prayer

O GOD OF SAFETY. YOU INVITE US TO THINK NOT OF OUR OWN SAFETY. BUT THE SAFETY OF OTHERS. GIVE US COURAGE TO PUT THE NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE FIRST. Amen.

A woman wearing a red headwrap and a floral dress is cooking in a traditional setting. She is pouring flour from a bag into a pan on a stove. The background shows a thatched roof and a wall made of mud or plaster. On the left side, there is a vertical strip of blue fabric with a white geometric pattern.

DAY
7

ALL are CARED FOR

CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY
ON HIM, BECAUSE HE
CARES FOR YOU.

— 1 Peter 5:7

K

ADZO SAFARI'S

life looks a lot like the lives of many women around the world. A single mother of three, she lives with her children, her mother, and her grandson, all of whom rely on her for care.

Kadzo's table in rural Kenya is a big one, and she puts food on it every day, working her own land, tending to her animals, and selling her produce and homemade chapati at the local market. She has invested herself in her family's security with determination and confidence.



But life for Kadzo did not always look this way, and she didn't build this life alone.

When Kadzo's husband abandoned her family, she was bereft, unable to feed and shelter her children, and afraid she might have to give them up. Following Paul's admonition in Galatians 6:2 to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ," World Renew and our Kenyan partners reminded Kadzo that **she has a seat at His table**. We also joined her in carrying her burdens so Kadzo could claim her seat.

After World Renew training in climate resilient farming techniques, Kadzo — like so many single mothers — threw herself into an entirely new way of life. She became a farmer, growing maize, legumes, tomatoes, okra, and kale, a bounty for her family's table. She joined a World Renew-supported village savings and loan association and, for the first time, had access to credit and interest that have allowed her to maintain a home and pay her children's school fees.

But the true plenty of God's table shows when Kadzo reflects on what other gifts food security has brought to her: "Before, I was in isolation," she remembers. "Afterwards, my eyes were opened and I started propelling myself forward. I feel proud of my accomplishments and hope to achieve more."

When Kadzo committed to caring for her family, we committed to caring for her, in the name of Him who cares for us. The table of God invites us to care for one another in community, across the boundaries of nations, races, geography.

How do you imagine God's community? How do you experience it? How can you extend that community to others?



prayer

O CARING GOD, YOUR TABLE BELONGS TO EVERYONE. YOU DO NOT ASK US TO MERELY TELL OTHERS ABOUT THEIR PLACE AT IT: YOU INVITE US TO STAND WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AS THEY CLAIM THEIR SEATS. MAY WE BE FAITHFUL TO THIS INVITATION. Amen.



DAY
-8-

ALL find HOPE

BUT GOD WILL NEVER
FORGET THE NEEDY: THE
HOPE OF THE AFFLICTED
WILL NEVER PERISH.


— Psalm 9:18



70% OF MOZAMBIQUE lives
in poverty. One third of the population
is malnourished. Life expectancy in
Mozambique is 55 years.

**How can we find God's hope in such
staggering hardship?**

Stella lives in Mozambique and she has hope. "Hope," she says, "is the amount of food we can get at the end of the harvest."



As Christians with enough to eat, we may feel uncomfortable with the idea of food representing hope. After all, didn't Jesus say "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing."?

But together we have also pondered Christ's wise and purposeful use of bread and wine as a symbol of his profound and life-changing gifts to us. Jesus understands we need food to live. He also says we *need more than just food*. **For Stella, who only eats what she can grow, food makes her hopeful. And the psalmist reminds us that God wants the needy to have hope.**

When World Renew introduced Stella to a healthier, more productive variety of cassava that could stand up to the relentless challenges of climate change in Mozambique, she could feed herself and her daughter and her precious grandchild. She grew enough to even sell some and, after saving in a World Renew-sponsored village savings and loan, was able to buy a bicycle for making her trips to the market.

Today, Stella's definition of hope has expanded. "Hope means having enough food for the community," she says. And she is sharing that hope, teaching other women in her village the lessons she's learned, a mission that gives her great joy.

In John 4:34, Jesus says "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." Doing God's will fed Jesus. It feeds Stella. It can feed us.

What does hope look like for you? And how can you share hope with God's world?



prayer

GOD OF HOPE. WHAT A LIFE-ALTERING INVITATION YOU OFFER US. IN THE FACE OF HUNGRY MILLIONS. WE CAN FEEL HOPEFUL. DOING OUR PART TO FEED OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS MATTERS. *Amen.*

A woman with dark hair, wearing a pink sleeveless shirt, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is standing outdoors, likely in a market or a food preparation area, with a brick wall and some wooden structures in the background. She is using a knife to cut a fish on a wooden cutting board. Several other fish are visible on the board. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

DAY
-9-

ALL grow STRONG

MAY YOU BE MADE STRONG WITH
ALL THE STRENGTH THAT COMES
FROM HIS GLORIOUS POWER,
AND MAY YOU BE PREPARED
TO ENDURE EVERYTHING WITH
PATIENCE, WHILE JOYFULLY.

— *Colossians 1:11*

N 1998, Hurricane Mitch flooded Honduras. Afflicted by \$2 billion in damages and loss, the country's president estimated that the storm set Honduras back economically by 50 years. Indeed, over 20 years later, 66% of the country still lives in poverty, **their tables yearning for plenty.**

What joy then that water would become a strategic means for seeking food security for the Honduran people. World Renew had already been working with Maira Guelpo and her village a few years before the hurricane's devastation. Maira, pregnant with her daughter Marie Carmen, was a member of our maternal and child health program. Now Marie is 24 and mother to Manuel, Alejandra, and Susan, and they all live with Abuela Maira and her mother, Reina.

That's a lot of people around one table, and a lot of young ones to help grow strong. Maira needed a reliable and sustainable source of nutritious food. That's where the water comes in.

World Renew has introduced Maira to aquaponics, a system by which fish and plants are grown in a symbiotic, soilless water system. Maira has become a local expert, preparing feasts that include tilapia, shrimp, and greens from her aquaponics troughs. Her mother, daughter, and grandchildren now regularly sit at a table of plenty.

Maira has endured much, with patience and with joy. Providing plenty for her family isn't her only reward. She continues to support the ongoing local maternal and child health project and is showing other families how to start their own aquaponics systems, reaping the rewards of confidence and satisfaction that come from helping others also have a seat at the table.

We can have that satisfaction too. God's invitation to help the poor comes with the promise of His glorious power. When we seek our strength in him, we can endure with patience and joy.

What strength have you discovered in times of suffering?



prayer

O GOD OF SAFETY. YOU INVITE US TO THINK NOT OF OUR OWN SAFETY. BUT THE SAFETY OF OTHERS. GIVE US COURAGE TO PUT THE NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE FIRST. Amen.



DAY
-10-

All have FOOD

...FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU
GAVE ME FOOD. I WAS THIRSTY
AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING
TO DRINK...

—Matthew 25:34–36

TOGETHER WE'VE wondered at the plenty of God's table, affirmed our place at it, and pondered our role in ensuring that others have their place at His table too.

On Day 1, we met Loyce and Sandresse Nyirenda from Zambia, who have found a fuller life at the table. On the other side of the very same country, Imsee's table is empty and she wonders if her infant daughter Mundeï Nykei will even live to see plenty.

A punishing cycle of droughts in Western Zambia have left over 2 million people already living in poverty at the edge of starvation. Maize stores are empty, livestock are dying, and many families eat one meal a day, or even grass and roots to survive.

As children of God and inheritors of His kingdom, we have been invited to join Him in proclaiming good news to the poor. We are not the source, but the conduits through which God's bountiful love and provision flow, and His strength is glorious.

God has already set his table of plenty. We claim our place at it when we care for others, when we offer food, drink, clothing, and welcome.

Through World Renew, you help families put food on their tables. In Zambia, that looks like aggressively pursuing emergency food aid for people like Ismee in the short term and investing in the promotion of sustainable agriculture techniques and supplies in the long term. One of Ismee's fellow mothers said to us "Without you, there would be so many more graveyards." Your generosity does not just fill bellies; it protects lives.

We want food on every table. Food for today, food for tomorrow. Food for the body, food for the spirit. And we believe that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, because his power works within us.

How will you join in providing food for every table?



prayer

GOD OF EVERY TABLE. GOD OF IMMEASURABLY MORE.
YOU HAVE PROVIDED FOR OUR TABLES. YOU CAN
PROVIDE FOR EVERY TABLE. YOUR POWER IS AT WORK
WITHIN US: WE NEED ONLY ACT. *Amen*



at your
TABLE
this weekend

Think AGAIN

Like you did last weekend, take some time — alone or with those who share your table — **to think about the daily “All...” messages of this devotional** (All are welcome, are loved, have dignity, can heal, contribute, feel safe, are cared for, find hope, grow strong, and have food). This time, ask yourself: **Do I feel particularly called to offer one of these gifts to someone else?** Which one? To whom? Take some time to sit with God and reflect on your answers.

Learn MORE

If you're curious about other tables around the world, take a look at photographer Peter Menzel's book *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* (or go to menzelphoto.com/galleries/hungry-planet for a gallery of the book's copyrighted images) for an eye-opening visual look at the disparity among the world's tables. For infographic fans, National Geographic's website offers an interactive look at world consumption at nationalgeographic.com/what-the-world-eats.





Get OUT

If you have an international food market nearby, **take a field trip** and walk the aisles. Maybe strike up a conversation with someone and ask them about their favorite dish and how to make it. For the super-social, **invite some friends and make it a dinner party**. As you think of the guest list, be mindful of the people Jesus invites us to bring to our tables: the marginalized, the poor, the forgotten. Want to eat the way the Nyriendas, the Gyangs, and the Safaris eat? Lay a beautiful blanket out on the floor and eat there!

Make a PLAN

Think about your own table. Ask yourself and the people who share your table how you might share your food with others. Is there room at your table for more? Who in your life could use a seat at your table? What does that mean to you?

Have a conversation about how you can join God in putting food on every table by having people over, cooking food for others, or contributing to local and international efforts to feed the hungry. Consider the invitation on the back of this devotional to give \$1 a day to families like Nyriendas and the Gyangs and all the others you met this week.

Food FOR EVERY Table

WORLD
HUNGER
2020



ONE IN EIGHT PEOPLE ON OUR PLANET DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT TODAY.

They may not have anything to eat tomorrow. Their tables are empty.

Health and human potential starve because people don't have regular access to enough healthy food. As fellow beloveds of Jesus, **we know the story has to change.**

Complicated factors contribute to food insecurity and scarcity for families around the world, all made worse by the outbreak of COVID-19 over the last year. **World Renew understands those factors and knows how to address them.** We are committed to helping those we serve have food for today and for tomorrow.

We help families learn to grow their food sustainably, save their resources to face future crises, and provide emergency response when violence or disaster rob them of food and table altogether. **Your gifts make this work possible.**

You can provide more food — for today and for the future — by joining our *Free a family* program. Your monthly donation for just \$27 a month — less than \$1 a day — will accelerate recovery from the effects of COVID-19 and shares the love of Jesus with *every table.*



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