

# The Bishop's E-lumination



A Message from Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata

February 16, 2006

## End Hunger in All of Our Communities!



Bishop Bob Hoshibata would like to communicate directly with Conference leaders. To do that he has established this email newsletter.

He encourages your feedback, comments, thoughts and ideas. Email him at [Bishop@umoi.org](mailto:Bishop@umoi.org).

If you wish to receive E-lumination and other Conference electronic publications, just send your name and email address to [Linda@umoi.org](mailto:Linda@umoi.org). Put "subscription" in the subject line.

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Dear Members and Friends of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference,

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the name of Christ, the bread of Heaven!

A scripture passage that I learned as a youth in Sunday school continues to inspire me:

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2: 15-17)*

In the midst of unprecedented wealth and prosperity, the nagging presence of hunger in our communities is an ethical and moral shame. Statistics demonstrate that despite the abundance of produce and edible goods, we live alongside many who do not have adequate nutrition. Children, women, and men are affected. To us, as followers of Jesus Christ, the presence of hunger should be deplorable. When we fail to address it, our faith is dead.

If the statistics tell of the many that are without adequate nutrition, they also reveal that in actuality, it is well within our means to eliminate hunger. There is ample food being produced in our nation and we have the means of delivering that food to all. What is lacking is the social and political will to do so.

Please join with me as we launch a major effort to transform our world! I invite you to participate with heart, mind, soul, strength, and resources in the **Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger** in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference!

Many churches are already engaged in significant ministries to reach out to the hungry in our communities. I commend them for their generous witness to their faith and for their compassionate caring for the hungry. But this bold initiative seeks the involvement of each one of our United Methodist congregations and ministry settings. I am asking all of us to join together to bring an end to the persistence of this disgraceful scourge on humanity. I am calling on each United Methodist in Southern Idaho and Oregon to step forward to increase our efforts to eliminate hunger in our annual conference.

By our words and deeds, we can offer ourselves to the work of this Initiative. I encourage us to initiate or to continue programs that offer food and comfort to those who are hungry. I challenge us to address the injustices that contribute to the persistence of hunger even amidst our abundance. And I invite us to pray and study the Word of God which compels us to engage in ministries of compassion and justice.

Lives will be transformed through this initiative, if you and I care enough to reach out to those in need and to confront the powers that contribute to the proliferation of hunger. I dare to believe that as we work together, we will eliminate hunger in our communities. I ask you to commit yourself to the efforts of the **Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger** in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

When invited into this bold life-transforming ministry, please respond with a resounding, "AMEN!"

In Christ's shalom,  
Robert T. Hoshibata

*Our loving God: We give you thanksgiving for the gift of creation and for many abundant blessings that are ours. As we offer ourselves and our ministries to care for the hungry among us, bless our work and our love. As we reach out in caring love and as we work to change the powers and principalities of this world for the elimination of hunger bless us. Through our efforts, may we usher in the peaceable kingdom made known in Jesus Christ. AMEN!*