

B1 ...Fast Today Change Tomorrow!



B1 is a fasting campaign that engages youth in issues facing impoverished communities. B1 stands for “One being, being one”. Similar to the South African concept of Ubuntu, B1 seeks to connect youth to issues facing our sisters and brothers both in our immediate communities and around the world.

A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed.

~Archbishop Desmond Tutu 1999

Isaiah 58: 6-8 will provide the youth with a Biblical focal point for their fasting.

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; You will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. (Isaiah 58:6-9a, Today’s New International Version)

These verses call for our fast to be more than the giving up of our bread for twenty-four hours, but for our lives to be a fast from injustice, oppression and privilege. B1 is an introduction to a different way of life. A life where one being re-members her/his connection to all beings through their treatment of life and the resources available to them.

Through B1, youth will learn about poverty and a sampling of the ways the United Methodist Church has and continues to respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers in both love and justice. In this way, B1 is more than a fast, it’s training for our current and future church leaders in holistically caring for and understanding the concerns of members of our local, national and global church community. Through their actions each youth will learn that their choices can (and do) affect our world.

Each youth group will choose a project, enabling the youth group to choose their fast based on their passion for the work of the project or region of the world it reaches. 100% of the money raised through B1 will reach its intended project through The Advance.

2009 B1 Jurisdictional Pilot Advance Projects:

Sustainable Agriculture & Development – Global - Advance #982188

The sustainable agriculture program provides training to poor small-scale farmers through Farmer Field Schools, training the trainers, and farmer-to-farmer exchange programs that teach techniques and the importance of farming that is environmentally and economically sustainable. Workshops in snail farming, mushroom farming, and bee keeping offer the farmers a variety of agricultural opportunities.

Give Ye Them To Eat – Mexico - Advance #07629A

Founded in 1977 as a social outreach project of the Methodist Church in Mexico, Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE) serves marginalized families in the rural sector of South Central Mexico. Through trainings in the areas of health, farming, and teaching, GYTTE provides communities with the skills needed for positive community development. Each year, ten families are trained in livestock care and production; at the end of the training the families receive an animal from the GYTTE herd.

CEREIMI – Chile - Advance #09751A

Since 1990, CEREIMI has opened its doors to children from the area with economic and emotional needs. For the 50 children who attend, CEREIMI provides a nutritious meal, medical attention and help with schoolwork. In a town of high social vulnerability, including exposure to high rates of drug and alcohol abuse, CEREIMI is like a tree, offering shelter, protection, and a place to be reminded of who they are, and where they know they belong.

Society of St. Andrew Potato Project – United States of America - Advance #801600

Since 1979, the Society of St. Andrew's Potato Project has worked with major potato growers and potato chip companies to save rejected loads of potatoes to feed the hungry across the United States for the cost of packaging and freight (approximately two pennies per serving). Fresh produce is also gleaned from fields by volunteers. Annually, approximately 15 million pounds of produce are provided through the Potato Project.

Combating Hunger and Malnutrition – Ghana - Advance #120004

In 2008 the Combating Hunger and Malnutrition project received a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to start a moringa plant farm in the Ashanti region of Ghana. Moringa leaves are an excellent source of vitamins, minerals, and protein. Ashanti women work on the farm to strengthen their community through incorporating moringa leaves into the children's school lunches. In addition to their nutritional benefits, the moringa leaves are also used to purify water and treat cuts.

Haitian Creole Pig Project – Haiti - Advance #418002

The Haitian Creole Pig Project is improving health and economics through the reintroduction of the Creole pig. The Creole pig is known as the "peasant's savings account." In 1988 the forced extermination of the pigs left many farmers emotionally and economically devastated. Each year, the Haitian Creole Pig Project provides 177 pigs to farmers, and 40 percent of those pigs are given to women's groups. Through a six-day training session, participants will gain skills in veterinary care for pigs and piglets, and in rearing and fattening the pigs.

Background Information about B1

2008 B1 Annual Conference Pilot:

- Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC)
- Resources created by GNJAC communications staff
- 15 youth groups raised over \$11,000
- Annual Ocean City youth event: Wake Up! B1, One Being (August 2008)
 - Bishop Devadhar challenged the GNJAC youth to raise \$250,000 through B1 this quadrennium!

2009 B1 Jurisdictional Pilots:

- Conferences and Annual Conferences participating in the 2009 jurisdictional pilot
 - Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
 - Virginia Annual Conference
 - Oklahoma Annual Conference
 - Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference
 - Minnesota Annual Conference (?)
 - Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

2010 National Launch

- B1 promotional video available for 2009 Annual Conferences

B1 Resources

- Resources available through Cokesbury – Cokesbury resources can be ordered before they are available. The resources will be listed on the Cokesbury website by Feb.
 - Poster (set of 3) – free available Feb. 1st
 - Student Handbook and Collection Envelope–free available Feb. 1st
 - T-shirts (sizes S-XL, fair-trade, \$7 each) –available Feb. 5th
- Resources available for download from the Advance website (the Advance website will be up and available Feb. 5th)
www.fasttodaychangetomorrow.org (this website will re-direct you to the B1 pages on the Advance website)
 - Curriculum – available Feb. 10th
 - Young Adult Reflections – available Feb. 10th
 - Advance Projects Informational Sheets – available Feb. 10th
 - B1 event planning packet-available Feb. 10th
 - receipts
 - consent form and letter to parents
 - alternatives to food fasting
 - information about food fasting
 - sample schedule
 - B1 pledge activity
 - sign-in sheet
 - Sample press release
 - evaluation form