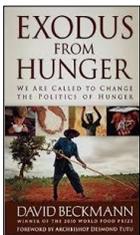


# 200,000 REASONS

to fight childhood hunger

## RECOMMENDED READING LIST

### **Beckmann, David. *Exodus from Hunger: We are Called to Change the Politics of Hunger*. Westminster Press, Oct. 2010**



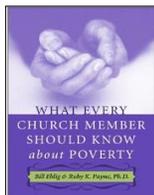
*From the Publisher:* It is within America's technical and financial power to help end world hunger in our lifetime, if we set our hearts and minds to the task.

Contrary to what many people believe, the world has made measurable advancements against hunger and poverty over the last several decades. But too often the binding constraint on further progress is a simple lack of political will. As a result, one of the most powerful ways to affect change is often the most neglected— political activism.

In this powerful and hopeful book, David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World and a leading anti-hunger activist, looks at the causes of hunger, presents case studies of countries that have made great strides against it, and puts a human face on the problem by sharing stories of people who are, quite simply, hungry every day. The problems can seem overwhelming but Beckmann lays out a clear and workable plan for effectively using political channels to make great progress. He not only challenges us to get involved, he shows us how. It is no less than our call to do so.

*Cokesbury: Paperback \$10.80*

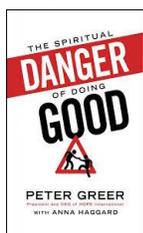
### **Ehlig, Bill; Payne, Ruby K. *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty*. aha! Process, Inc., 2005**



*From the Publisher:* Ideal for book study or Sunday school, this book provides solutions for creating a real welcoming environment by understanding economic class. Includes new chapter of assessing resources.

*Amazon: Kindle eBook \$14.99*

### **Greer, Peter. *The Spiritual Danger of Doing Good*. Bethany House Publishing, Aug. 2013**



*From the Publisher:* Most Christians today are interested in more than just preaching the gospel with words; they also want to serve others. But what happens when Christian service and social justice lead to burnout, pride, or worse? Peter Greer gives a firsthand account of how this can happen, leaning on his experiences as CEO of HOPE International, a large Christian nonprofit that serves those in need by helping them help themselves. Greer uses stories from his own life and others in ministry to help readers

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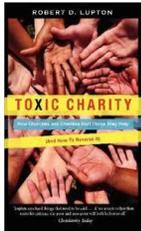
## 200KReasons Recommended Reading List

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protect themselves from disillusionment and other dangers. He uses the Pharisees as a symbol of how something that starts off with the noblest of intentions can go off the tracks, and how to get it back on again. This book serves as a compassionate warning to everyone who works in ministry or charitable nonprofits, from CEOs to weekend volunteers.

*Cokesbury: Hardcover \$13.42, Paperback \$10.79, eBook \$14.39*

### **Lupton, Robert D. *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (and How to Reverse It)*. Harper Collins, Oct. 2012**



*From the Publisher:* Public service is a way of life for Americans; giving is a part of our national character. But compassionate instincts and generous spirits aren't enough, says veteran urban activist Robert D. Lupton. In this groundbreaking guide, he reveals the disturbing truth about charity: all too much of it has become toxic, devastating to the very people it's meant to help.

In his four decades of urban ministry, Lupton has experienced firsthand how our good intentions can have unintended, dire consequences. Our free food and clothing distribution encourages ever-growing handout lines, diminishing the dignity of the poor while increasing their dependency. We converge on inner-city neighborhoods to plant flowers and pick up trash, battering the pride of residents who have the capacity (and responsibility) to beautify their own environment. We fly off on mission trips to poverty-stricken villages, hearts full of pity and suitcases bulging with giveaways--trips that one Nicaraguan leader describes as effective only in "turning my people into beggars."

In "Toxic Charity," Lupton urges individuals, churches, and organizations to step away from these spontaneous, often destructive acts of compassion toward thoughtful paths to community development. He delivers proven strategies for moving from toxic charity to transformative charity. Proposing a powerful "Oath for Compassionate Service" and spotlighting real-life examples of people serving not just with their hearts but with proven strategies and tested tactics, Lupton offers all the tools and inspiration we need to develop healthy, community-driven programs that produce deep, measurable, and lasting change. Everyone who volunteers or donates to charity needs to wrestle with this book.

*Cokesbury: Paperback \$10.79*

### **Pilarski, Ahida Calderson; Ngan, Lai Ling Elizabeth; McGinn, Sheila E. *By Bread Alone: The Bible Through the Eyes of the Hungry*. Fortress Press, Aug. 2014**



*From the Publisher:* Important ecclesiastical documents have stressed the urgency of world hunger and put in the foreground its natural and historical causes, from famine to global austerity measures and warfare. Here biblical scholars take readings of the Old and New Testaments, exploring the dynamics of hunger and its causation in ancient Israel and the Greco-Roman world and revealing the centrality of hunger concerns to the Bible.

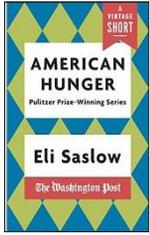
*Cokesbury: Paperback \$20.30, eBook \$20.87*

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### **Saslow, Eli. *American Hunger: The Pulitzer Prize-Winning Washington Post Series (A Vintage Short)*. Random House LLC, Sep. 2014**



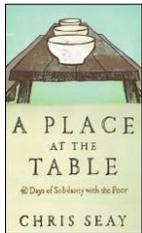
*From the Publisher:* In this Pulitzer Prize-winning collection\*, Washington Post reporter Eli Saslow traveled across the country over the course of a year—from Florida and Texas to Rhode Island and Tennessee—to examine the personal and political implications and repercussions of America's growing food stamp program.

Saslow shows us the extraordinary impact the arrival of food stamps has each month on a small town's struggling economy, the difficult choices our representatives face in implementing this \$78-billion program affecting millions of Americans, and the challenges American families, senior citizens, and children encounter every day in ensuring they have enough, and sometimes even anything to eat. These unsettling and eye-opening stories make for required reading, providing nuance and understanding to the complex matters of American poverty.

\*Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting. An eBook short.

Amazon: eBook \$1.99

### **Seay, Chris. *A Place at the Table: 40 Days of Solidarity with the Poor*. Baker Book House, Jan. 2012**

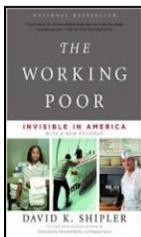


*From the Publisher:* In a culture built on consumption--especially of food--it is easy to forget the poor that Jesus cared so much about. Chris Seay invites readers on a journey of self-examination, discipline, and renewed focus on Jesus that will change their lives forever.

He challenges readers to eat like the poor for forty days in solidarity with a much-neglected group of people, and to donate the money they save on groceries to a charity or project that serves the poor in concrete ways. But he doesn't expect them to go it alone. "A Place at the Table" includes a short chapter for each of those forty days with Scripture, reflections, prayers, encouragement, and tips for engaging the whole family in the process. The six-session DVD, shot in such locations as the Holy Land, Haiti, and Ecuador, will help small groups and entire churches go on a passionate journey of radical faith, personal action, solidarity with the poor, and extravagant grace.

Cokesbury: Paperback \$10.07, DVD \$15.99

### **Shipler, David K. *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*. Vintage Books, 2005**



*From the Publisher:* Nobody who works hard should be poor in America, writes Pulitzer Prize winner David Shipler. Clear-headed, rigorous, and compassionate, he journeys deeply into the lives of individual store clerks and factory workers, farm laborers and sweat-shop seamstresses, illegal immigrants in menial jobs and Americans saddled with immense student loans and paltry wages. They are known as the working poor. They perform labor essential to America's comfort. They are white and black, Latino and Asian--men and women in small towns and city slums trapped near the poverty line, where the margins are so tight that even minor setbacks can cause devastating chain reactions.

Shipler shows how liberals and conservatives are both partly right; that practically every life story contains failure by both the society and the individual. Braced by hard fact and personal testimony, he unravels the forces that confine people in the quagmire of low wages. And unlike most works on poverty, this book also offers compelling portraits of employers struggling against razor-thin profits and competition from abroad. With pointed recommendations for change that challenge Republicans

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and Democrats alike, *The Working Poor* stands to make a difference.

*Cokesbury: Paperback \$11.52*

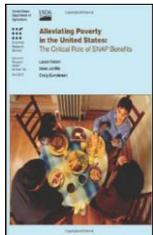
### **Thomas, Courtney I P. *Voices of Hunger: Food Insecurity in the United States.* Common Ground, 2014**



*From the Publisher:* The proliferation of food deserts, especially across America's rural landscapes and its urban centers, has eroded many families' access to food. Market pressures privilege large food distributors and wealthy communities, while economic instability compounds the food security crisis assailing the world's wealthiest economy. Many Americans are hungry, finding it increasingly more difficult to reliably feed their families, while public programs designed to fight food insecurity face budget cuts. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, food insecurity plagued a new demographic: the educated, the formerly middle class, the never-before-hungry.

*Amazon: Paperback \$28.72*

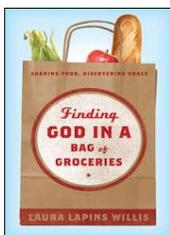
### **Tiehen, Laura; Jolliffe, Dean; Gundersen, Craig. *Alleviating Poverty in the United States: The Crucial Role of SNAP Benefits.* United States Department of Agriculture, June 2012**



*From the Publisher:* The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is one of the largest safety net programs in the United States, serving 44.7 million individuals in an average month in 2011. By using Current Population Survey data and adding program benefits to income, it was found that there was an average decline of 4.4 percent in the prevalence of poverty due to SNAP benefits, while the average decline in the depth and severity of poverty was 10.3 and 13.2 percent, respectively.

*Amazon: Paperback \$14.95*

### **Willis, Laura Lapins. *Finding God in a Bag of Groceries.* Abingdon Press, June 2013**



*From the Publisher:* If your pantry was empty, your children hungry, your electricity cut off for nonpayment, and you saw no prospect of support, what would you do? For a decade in a rural Tennessee community, you went to a shabby building behind a church and found Laura Willis.

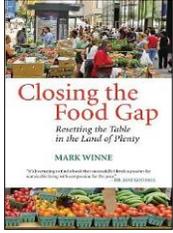
Running a program to help the needy, Laura discovered a world of people she never knew: the lonely and unemployed, chronically poor families, and middle-class folks surprised to be struggling in a great recession. And to each, she offered a bag of

groceries, a compassionate ear, and a heart of love.

Taking a tiny food pantry and watching it grow to feed hundreds, Laura learned about her own hunger for God and began to discern her own spiritual directions, learning how her calling card—a bag of groceries—could be a gift to others and to herself of abundance and grace. **(2015 UMW Reading Program)**

*Cokesbury: Paperback or eBook \$10.71*

**Winne, Mark. *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*.  
Beacon Press, January 2009**



*From the Publisher:* In "Closing the Food Gap," food activist and journalist Mark Winne poses questions too often overlooked in our current conversations around food: What about those people who are not financially able to make conscientious choices about where and how to get food? And in a time of rising rates of both diabetes and obesity, what can we do to make healthier foods available for everyone? To address these questions, Winne tells the story of how America's food gap has widened since the 1960s, when domestic poverty was "rediscovered," and how communities have responded with a slew of strategies and methods to narrow the gap, including

community gardens, food banks, and farmers' markets. The story, however, is not only about hunger in the land of plenty and the organized efforts to reduce it; it is also about doing that work against a backdrop of ever-growing American food affluence. The demand for fresh food is rising in one population as fast as rates of obesity and diabetes are rising in another.

Over the last three decades, Winne has found a way to connect impoverished communities experiencing health problems with the benefits of farmers' markets; in "Closing the Food Gap," he explains how he came to his conclusions. With tragically comic stories from his many years running a model food organization, alongside fascinating profiles of activists and organizations in communities across the country, Winne addresses head-on the struggles to improve food access for all of us, regardless of income level. Using anecdotal evidence and a smart look at both local and national policies, Winne offers a realistic vision for getting locally produced, healthy food onto everyone's table.

*Cokesbury: Paperback or eBook \$12.64*

For more information, email [200KReasons@arumc.org](mailto:200KReasons@arumc.org)  
or visit our website [www.200KReasons.arumc.org](http://www.200KReasons.arumc.org).

