***Books about Hunger, Poverty, Ecology & More***

**Young Adult and Adult Level:**

# **Slow Kingdom Coming: Practices for Doing Justice, Loving Mercy and Walking Humbly in the World**

By Kent Annan

No one said pursuing justice would be easy. The road can be so challenging and the destination so distant that you may be discouraged by a lack of progress, compassion or commitment in your quest for justice. How do you stay committed to the journey when God's kingdom can seem so slow in coming? Kent Annan understands the struggle of working for justice over the long haul. He confesses, "Over the past twenty years, I've succumbed to various failed shortcuts instead of living the freedom of faithful practices." In this book, he shares practices he has learned that will encourage and help you to keep making a difference in the face of the world's challenging issues. All Christians are called to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly in the world. Slow Kingdom Coming will guide and strengthen you on this journey to persevere until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

**Food Movements Unite! Strategies to Transform Our Food System**

Edited by Eric Holt-Giménez, with [Study Guide by Presbyterian Hunger Program](https://foodfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/FMU_companion-bible-study-guide.pdf)

 **Food Movements Unite!**is a collection of essays by food movement leaders from around the world that all seek to answer the perennial political question: What is to be done?
The answers—from the multiple perspectives of community food security activists, peasants and family farm leaders, labor activists, and leading food systems analysts—will lay out convergent strategies for the fair, sustainable, and democratic transformation of our food systems. Authors will address the corporate food regime head on, arguing persuasively not only for specific changes to the way our food is produced, processed, distributed and consumed, but specifying how these changes may come about, politically.

# **Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, and How to Reverse It**

By Robert Lupton

Veteran urban activist Robert Lupton reveals the shockingly toxic effects that modern charity has upon the very people meant to benefit from it. Toxic Charity provides proven new models for charitable groups who want to help—not sabotage—those whom they desire to serve. Lupton, the founder of FCS Urban Ministries (Focused Community Strategies) in Atlanta, the voice of the Urban Perspectivesnewsletter, and the author of Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life, has been at the forefront of urban ministry activism for forty years. Now, in the vein of Jeffrey Sachs’s The End of Poverty, Richard Stearns’s The Hole in Our Gospel, and Gregory Boyle’s Tattoos on the Heart, his groundbreakingToxic Charityshows us how to start serving needy and impoverished members of our communities in a way that will lead to lasting, real-world change.

# **Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible**

By Ellen Davis

This book examines the theology and ethics of land use, especially the practices of modern industrialized agriculture, in light of critical biblical exegesis. Nine interrelated essays explore the biblical writers' pervasive concern for the care of arable land against the background of the geography, social structures, and religious thought of ancient Israel. This approach consistently brings out neglected aspects of texts, both poetry and prose, that are central to Jewish and Christian traditions. Rather than seeking solutions from the past, Davis creates a conversation between ancient texts and contemporary agrarian writers; thus she provides a fresh perspective from which to view the destructive practices and assumptions that now dominate the global food economy. The biblical exegesis is wide-ranging and sophisticated; the language is literate and accessible to a broad audience.

**Year of Plenty**

By Rev. Craig Goodwin

In 2008, Pastor Craig Goodwin and his young family embarked on a year-long experiment to consume only what was local, used, homegrown, or homemade. In Year of Plenty, Goodwin shares the winsome story of how an average suburban family stumbled onto the cultural cutting edge of locavores, backyard chickens, farmers markets, simple living, and going green. More than that, it is the timely tale of Christians exploring the intersections of faith, environment, and everyday life.

This humorous yet profound book comes at just the right time for North American Christians, who are eager to engage the growing interest in the environmental movement and the quandaries of modern consumer culture. It speaks also to the growing legions of the "spiritual but not religious" who long for ways to connect heaven and earth in their daily lives.

**Exodus from Hunger: We called to change the politics of hunger**

By David Beckman, with [Study Guide](http://files.bread.org/beckmann/study-guide.pdf)

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.

**When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself**

By Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Poverty is much more than simply a lack of material resources, and it takes much more than donations and handouts to solve it. *When Helping Hurts*shows how some alleviation efforts, failing to consider the complexities of poverty, have actually (and unintentionally) done more harm than good.
 But it looks ahead. It encourages us to see the dignity in everyone, to empower the materially poor, and to know that we are all uniquely needy—and that God in the gospel is reconciling all things to himself.

 Focusing on both North American and Majority World contexts, *When Helping Hurts* provides proven strategies for effective poverty alleviation, catalyzing the idea that sustainable change comes not from the outside in, but from the inside out.

# **Sweet Charity?: Emergency Food and the End of Entitlement**

By Janet Poppendieck

In this era of eroding commitment to government sponsored welfare programs, voluntarism and private charity have become the popular, optimistic solutions to poverty and hunger. The resurgence of charity has to be a good thing, doesn't it? No, says sociologist **Janet Poppendieck**, not when stopgap charitable efforts replace consistent public policy, and poverty continues to grow. In **Sweet Charity**?, Poppendieck travels the country to work in soup kitchens and "gleaning" centers, reporting from the frontlines of America's hunger relief programs to assess the effectiveness of these homegrown efforts. We hear from the "clients" who receive meals too small to feed their families; from the enthusiastic volunteers; and from the directors, who wonder if their "successful" programs are in some way perpetuating the problem they are struggling to solve. Hailed as the most significant book on hunger to appear in decades, **Sweet Charity**? shows how the drive to end poverty has taken a wrong turn with thousands of well-meaning volunteers on board.

**Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America**by Barbara Ehrenreich
Author Barbara Ehrenreich goes "undercover" by taking jobs normally held by the "working poor" to determine how hard is it really to get by in America. Her discovery will astound you.

**The Working Poor: Invisible in America**by David K. Shepler
Author David Shepler provides readers with a glimpse of the life of the "working poor" in America. Shepler not only dissects the issue affecting these individuals, but offers suggestions for change.

**The New Poverty: Homeless Families in America**by Ralph da Costa Nunez
The description of a family-based system of comprehensive residential, education, and employment centers as a response to poverty.
 **Material World: A Global Family Portrait**
by Peter Menzel and Charles C. Mann
An adult book, but the photographs will interest everyone. The photographs show families from around the world surrounded by their household items. The contrasts can be startling.

## The No-nonsense Guide to Food by Wayne RobertsPocket-sized and ‘highly readable’ according to our readers, this book gives a good, broad introduction to the issue of food security. Throughout the book, Roberts draws on examples from Cuba and Malawi to show how motivated governments can help alleviate world hunger. While perhaps too basic for the well-read development worker, this novel provides a starting point for someone looking to understand the key challenges in feeding the world.

**Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in Americaby Jonathan Kozol**

Jonathan Kozol is one of America’s most forceful and eloquent observers of the intersection of race, poverty, and education. His books, from the National Book Award–winning *Death at an Early Age* to his most recent, the critically acclaimed *Shame of the Nation*, are touchstones of the national conscience. First published in 1988 and based on the months the author spent among America’s homeless, *Rachel and Her Children* is an unforgettable record of the desperate voices of men, women, and especially children caught up in a nightmarish situation that tears at the hearts of readers. With record numbers of homeless children and adults flooding the nation’s shelters, *Rachel and Her Children* offers a look at homelessness that resonates even louder today.

**Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Slumby Katherine Boo**

In this brilliant, breathtaking book by Pulitzer Prize winner Katherine Boo, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. As India starts to prosper, the residents of Annawadi are electric with hope. Abdul, an enterprising teenager, sees “a fortune beyond counting” in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Meanwhile Asha, a woman of formidable ambition, has identified a shadier route to the middle class. With a little luck, her beautiful daughter, Annawadi’s “most-everything girl,” might become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest children, like the young thief Kalu, feel themselves inching closer to their dreams. But then Abdul is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power, and economic envy turn brutal. With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects people to one another in an era of tumultuous change, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers,*based on years of uncompromising reporting,carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century’s hidden worlds—and into the hearts of families impossible to forget.

### **The American Way of Eating: Undercover at Walmart, Applebee’s, Farm Fields and the Dinner Table** by Tracie McMillan

When award-winning (and working-class) journalist Tracie McMillan saw foodies swooning over $9 organic tomatoes, she couldn’t help but wonder: What about the rest of us? Why do working Americans eat the way we do? And what can we do to change it? To find out, McMillan went undercover in three jobs that feed America, living and eating off her wages in each. Reporting from California fields, a Walmart produce aisle outside of Detroit, and the kitchen of a New York City Applebee’s, McMillan examines the reality of our country’s food industry in this “clear and essential” (The Boston Globe) work of reportage. Chronicling her own experience and that of the Mexican garlic crews, Midwestern produce managers, and Caribbean line cooks with whom she works, McMillan goes beyond the food on her plate to explore the national priorities that put it there.

Fearlessly reported and beautifully written, The American Way of Eating goes beyond statistics and culture wars to deliver a book that is fiercely honest, strikingly intelligent, and compulsively readable. In making the simple case that – city or country, rich or poor – everyone wants good food, McMillan guarantees that talking about dinner will never be the same again.

### **Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide** by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

From two of our most fiercely moral voices, a passionate call to arms against our era’s most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

With Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope. Deeply felt, pragmatic, and inspirational, Half the Sky is essential reading for every global citizen.

**Environment and Climate Change**

# **Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis**

By Patricia Tull

In this thoughtful study, respected Old Testament scholar Patricia K. Tull explores the Scriptures for guidance on today's ecological crisis. Tull looks to the Bible for what it can tell us about our relationships, not just to the earth itself, but also to plant and animal life, to each other, to descendants who will inherit the planet from us, and to our Creator. She offers candid discussions on many current ecological problems that humans contribute to, such as the overuse of energy resources like gas and electricity, consumerism, food production systems--including land use and factory farming--and toxic waste. Each chapter concludes with discussion questions and a practical exercise, making it ideal for both group and individual study. This important book provides a biblical basis for thinking about our world differently and prompts us to consider changing our own actions. Visit inhabitingeden.org for links to additional resources and information.

## [****This Changes Everything: Capitalism v the Climate****](http://www.naomiklein.org/main) **by Naomi Klein**The latest book from Naomi Klein, author and activist, is set to be released in September this year. Before engaging with environmental issues, Klein was part of the movement against neoliberal globalisation. Her new book picks up a central critique of many climate groups, explaining why capitalism is deeply related to the climate crisis. As a member of the board of [350.org](http://350.org/), she shares not only comment but practical insights into the strategies and plans of the movement.

## ****The End of Nature** by Bill McKibben**A golden oldie, The End of Nature by US-scholar and long-term climate activist Bill McKibben, is said to be the first non-scientific book on global warming. It treats climate change as one part of a global ecological crisis, which can only be solved by a radical change of the perception, and treatment, of nature. The book is important because it demaded extensive change at an early stage (1989) and it directs this demand not only towards politicians, but to society as a whole.

 **Books about Community Service:**

[**The Kid's Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference**](http://www.amazon.com/Kids-Guide-Service-Projects-Difference/dp/1575423383)by Barbara A. Lewis and Pamela Espeland
This book provides children a variety of topics and projects to help make a difference in their community.

[**160 Ways to Help the World: Community Service Projects for Young People**](http://www.amazon.com/160-Ways-Help-World-Community/dp/0816035032)by Linda Leeb Duper
Using the motto, "Think globally, act locally," this book provides young adults with a variety of projects and volunteer opportunities.

[**Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul: Stories to Celebrate the Spirit of Courage, Caring, and Community**](http://www.amazon.com/Chicken-Soup-Volunteers-Soul-Celebrate/dp/0757300146)by Jack Canfield et al
Inspiring stories of everyday people who want to make a difference in the lives of others.

**Books about Advocacy:**

[**The Kid's Guide to Social Action: How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose—and Turn Creative Thinking into Positive Action**](http://www.amazon.com/Kids-Guide-Social-Action-Choose/dp/1575420384)

by Barbara A. Lewis, Pamela Espeland, and Caryn Perner
This book provides youth (age 10 and up) with inspiring stories of youth who made a difference in their community by taking action and the tools to take action, including step-by-step instructions for writing letters, making speeches, conducting interviews, and much more!

[**Generation Fix: Young Ideas for a Better World**](http://www.amazon.com/Generation-Fix-Young-Ideas-Better/dp/1582700672)by Elizabeth Rusch and Pamela Hobbs
An anthology of true stories about youth taking action to making their community a better place.

[**Community Building: What Makes It Work: A Review of Factors Influencing Successful Community Builders**](http://www.amazon.com/Community-Building-Factors-Influencing-Successful/dp/0940069121)by Paul Mattessich, and Barbara Monsey
Twenty-eight suggestions on how to build your own community initiatives successfully. Includes examples, research and a detailed bibliography.

**Middle School Level:**

[**The Double Life of Zoe Flynn**](https://www.amazon.com/Double-Life-Zoe-Flynn/dp/1416967540)by Janet Lee Carey
She used to live in California, in a big old house — the best house in the world really — at 18 Hawk Road. It rambled and creaked and was full of good hiding places. She used to have a best friend named Kellen who lived right down the road, and a dog named Merlin who loved to play with her. But now she lives in a little town in Oregon, and everything has changed.

[**Esperanza Rising**](http://www.amazon.com/Esperanza-Rising-Pam-Munoz-Ryan/dp/043912042X)

by Pam Munoz Ryan
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California during the Great Depression.

[**Darnell Rock Reporting**](http://www.amazon.com/Darnell-Rock-Reporting-Walter-Myers/dp/0440411572)

by Walter Dean Myers
Things change when Darnell joins the school paper and writes an editorial suggesting the school use its empty parking lot as a garden for the local homeless.

[**Leaves in October**](http://www.amazon.com/Leaves-October-Karen-Ackerman/dp/0440408687)

by Karen Ackerman
Nine year old Livvy tries to understand the turn of recent events that have occurred: her father loses his job, her mother leaves the family, and they are forced to live in a shelter.

[**Ivy: A Tale of a Homeless Girl in San Francisco**](http://www.amazon.com/Ivy-Tale-Homeless-Girl-Francisco/dp/0887392873)

by Summer Brenner
Ivy finds herself homeless on the streets of San Francisco when she and her father are evicted from his loft. They soon are living out doors because there are no adequate shelters for single fathers.

**A Kids’ Guide to Hunger & Homelessness: How to Take Action!**by Cathryn Berger Kaye M.A.

Kids explore what others in the world (including young people) have done and are doing to address the issues, find out what their community needs, and develop a service project. The workbook includes facts, quotations, real-life examples, write-on pages, resources, a note to adults—and a lot of inspiration to get out there and make a difference in the world. Includes exclusive interviews with author and activist Francis Moor Lappé, and Lindsey Lee Johnson, author of Soul Moon Soup, the story of a girl living on the streets with her mother.

**Elementary Level:**

[**Maddi's Fridge**](https://www.amazon.com/Maddis-Fridge-Lois-Brandt/dp/1936261294)by Lois Brandt
With humor and warmth, this children's picture book raises awareness about poverty and hunger. Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and play in the same park.

[**Sam and the Lucky Money**](https://www.amazon.com/Sam-Lucky-Money-Karen-Chinn/dp/1880000539)by Karen Chinn
It's Chinese New Year in Chinatown, and young Sam has four dollars of New Year money burning a hole in his pocket. As he and his mother are milling through the crowded streets — alive with firecrackers, lion dances, and shoppers — Sam accidentally steps on the foot of a homeless man who is buried in a pile of red paper. Flustered, Sam hurries back to his mother, and is soon distracted by the *char siu bao* and other sweets he might buy with his gift money. When he sees fish-tail cookies that remind him of toes, he remembers the old man again, and Sam starts to think of his "lucky money" in a new light.

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[**Stone Soup**](http://www.amazon.com/Stone-Soup-Jon-J-Muth/dp/043933909X/ref%3Dsr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1347481787&sr=1-3&keywords=stone+soup)by Jon Muth
Three strangers, hungry and tired, pass through a village. Embittered and suspicious, the people hide their food and close their windows tight. That is, until the clever strangers suggest making a soup from stones. Intrigued by the idea, everyone brings what they have until– together, they have made a feast fit for a king! In this **inspiring story about the strength people possess when they work together**, Muth takes a simple, beloved tale and adds his own fresh twist.

**Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen**

by Dyanne Disalvo-Ryan
A little boy becomes interested in the people who live on the streets of New York City as he takes a stroll through them. Fortunately for him, his Uncle Willie volunteers at a local soup kitchen where he can get to know more about the homeless. Uncle Willie helps his nephew learn about the issues of hunger and homelessness as they work together at the soup kitchen.

[**Those Shoes**](https://www.amazon.com/Those-Shoes-Maribeth-Boelts/dp/0763642843)

by Maribeth Boelts
All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. Though Jeremy's grandma says they don't have room for "want," just "need," when his old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. But sore feet aren't much fun, and Jeremy soon sees that the things he has — warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend — are worth more than the things he wants.

[**Someplace to Go**](http://www.amazon.com/Someplace-Go-Maria-Testa/dp/0807575240/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1253569309&sr=1-1)

by Maria Testa
Davey describes how he spends his time after school trying to keep safe and warm until he can meet his mom and brother at the local shelter.

[**A Chance to Grow**](http://www.amazon.com/Chance-Grow-E-Sandy-Powell/dp/0876145802/ref%3Dsr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1253569700&sr=1-3)by E. Sandy Powell
Joe, his sister, and his mother are evicted from their apartment and are forced to live in shelters and on the streets.

 **If the World Were A Village**
by David J. Smith
By exploring the lives of the 100 villagers, children will discover that life in other nations is often very different from their own. If the World Were a Village is part of CitizenKid: A collection of books that inform children about the world and inspire them to be better global citizens.