

minute for mission

Materials: CWS handwashing fan

Presenter: Good morning! Today, I'm here to talk about the CROP Hunger Walk, which is coming up on _____ (*date*). Our church is forming a team this year to walk in solidarity with our neighbors around the world and in our own community who are facing poverty and hunger.

This year, we have a special focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, which is known in global development work as WASH. WASH is a critical part of ending hunger and poverty. If you aren't able or don't know how to clean yourself properly, you may get sick and have to miss work. These are conditions that only make things worse if you're barely getting by.

This can seem like a daunting challenge to tackle. And often, it is. But not always.

Church World Service, the main organization that we're supporting when we walk in the CROP Hunger Walk, is hard at work in Vietnam getting the word out in remote, rural communities about hygiene. They do it using these simple hand fans that focus on proper handwashing.

(Hold up or pass around hand fans, gesturing as needed as you talk through what's on the fan.)

The front of these fans has a hand on it under the message that properly washing hands with soap and water can help you and your family prevent diseases. Each finger lists a disease that can be prevented by proper handwashing, including diarrhea, pneumonia and bird flu. The palm lists the times when you want to make sure you've washed your hands, like before eating and after using the bathroom. The back of the fan has the six steps to proper handwashing, which you can see in the pictures.

These fans are distributed to children through schools and community events. In hot weather, having a hand fan is a huge relief. Students keep the fans and take them home. Suddenly, it isn't just one child who has this valuable new information. It's a whole family.

With the support of CROP Hunger Walks including ours, CWS has distributed 13,000 fans since the start of 2015. If each of those fans went to a family of four, that's more than 50,000 people who now have this valuable information.

Let's help CWS distribute the next 13,000 fans. Please walk with us or sponsor one of our walkers! Check out the bulletin for details on how to get involved as a walker or sponsor. Thank you!

