



Covenant Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins, Pastor
2620 Weaver Street
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 682-1484
Fax (919) 688-9202



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am the pastor of a 200-member congregation in the southeastern United States. I have been privileged to walk in CROP Hunger Walks in Greensboro and Durham, North Carolina, Richmond Virginia and in Atlanta, Georgia. I started out walking while still a college student because I thought it was a cool thing to do. I had no idea how it would change my life.

Through participation in these Walks I learned about the horrific suffering of people worldwide due to lack of food and fresh drinking water. I have learned that I am connected with those who walk globally just to survive the harshness of life without the blessings I take for granted. I have learned just how privileged I am to be able to eat whatever and whenever I desire. I am challenged today by my six-year-old daughter, Kaela, who struggles every morning, trying to decide what to eat for breakfast saying, "I don't know what I want." Trying to convince a six-year-old who already knows everything that she should not take the blessing of food for granted is no small chore.

I am empowered when I walk because I get to meet people who are positive, upbeat and who share my dedication and commitment to changing the world one step at a time. I have one memory of the Walk in Greensboro that has stayed with me. I was walking in a group of people who I did not know before that day. With us was a petite six-year-old girl. Halfway through the ten-mile walk she began to tire out. With her mother's permission I put her on my shoulders and carried her the rest of the way. We laughed and had the best time together as new friends. At the Walk's end we said our goodbyes and her mother thanked me. I soon forgot the encounter. Some years later, I was at a denominational gathering and a woman I did not recognize walked over to me and said, "You don't remember me, but you carried my daughter in a CROP Hunger Walk over ten years ago. We still remember that Walk and have mentioned it to ourselves laughing at the fun we had."

I still remember that Walk as well, and this year, I will walk in our spring CROP Hunger Walk. I will walk with youth and adults from the congregation I pastor. I will walk with strangers. I will walk with my family, my wife, six-year-old daughter and five-year old son. I walk because I hope to experience the change that Jesus brought forth as he walked from Galilee to Jerusalem transforming the lives of those he encountered. I walk to help others. I walk to change the lives of my children, and to change my life.

Let's walk together in our communities' CROP Hunger Walks knowing that we do not walk alone. For just as Jesus walked with the poor, the lonely, the sinful and the hurting, Jesus walks with us. Let's make this the year when we challenge those around us who are looking for a way to be of service to participate in their local Walk. And let them know that they make a difference in the lives of others who are connected to them by our common heritage as the children of God.

God's blessings of peace and love be yours, The Reverend Jimmie R. Hawkins