



CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024



Empowering Change

ADVOCACY AT THE HEART OF COVENANT WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Proverbs 31:8 calls us into advocacy, a potent force for positive change. Covenant World Relief and Development seeks to end immediate suffering and address root causes of suffering through dismantling barriers and amplifying marginalized voices. Our advocacy is rooted in biblical conviction. We actively engage with social, economic, and political structures, recognizing that true transformation requires proactive involvement.

Inspired by the biblical directive to “seek justice, defend the oppressed” (Isaiah 1:17), we encourage you to join us in this mission to raise our voices with those who may otherwise go unheard, advocating for a world where dignity, justice, and compassion prevail. This newsletter highlights ways to serve as a catalyst for lasting change by engaging policymakers and leveraging our networks to influence policies. Join us in being the change we wish to see in the world.

Adam Edgerly, Director
COVENANT WORLD RELIEF
AND DEVELOPMENT



Advocating to End World Hunger

More than 821 million people suffer from food insecurity, and over 40 million are in danger of starvation, according to the UN World Food Program USA. **Violent conflict, extreme climate shocks, gender inequality, and food waste are the major drivers of the world hunger crisis.** Covenant World Relief and Development partners with grassroots organizations to address hunger. We also engage in advocacy to end world hunger through our partnership with Bread for the World.

Bread for the World is a nonpartisan Christian organization that works with leaders of Congress to combat hunger internationally and domestically. The president of Bread for the World, Eugene Cho, is an ordained Covenant minister and church planter with a heart for the poor. He will speak at the Covenant Midwinter Conference in January 2024. Adam Edgerly recently joined Eugene at a Bread for the World board meeting in Washington DC and participated in advocacy meetings with congressional staffers.

Bread is currently pushing for strategic provisions within the US Farm Bill, which is up for its five-year renewal this year. The Farm Bill is the largest US policy initiative addressing hunger. Determining which provisions are included in this bill will dramatically impact the future of global and domestic access to nutritious food. **Your voice can help** to influence policies and save lives. To participate in advocacy to end world hunger, go to bread.org/act and act now.



FREE Initiative Raises Voice for Change

For more than a decade, Covenant World Relief and Development has directly partnered in anti-sex trafficking efforts, specifically in India. With the 2021 launch of FREE, the Covenant's collaborative anti-sex trafficking initiative, the scope of partnerships has increased to include 10 projects in the US and around the world.

In October Ramelia Williams, director of ministry initiatives for Love Mercy Do Justice, and Prajakta David, director of global advancement and mobilization, traveled to Washington DC to represent the FREE initiative on Capitol Hill. They engaged in meetings where they urged legislators and their staff to act against this crime. In these meetings, they advocated for policy changes such as the Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies (EARN IT) Act, legislation that would strengthen cyber tip line reporting, give survivors legal recourse against online platforms that broadcast their abuse, update terminology used in US Code to reflect

Ramelia Williams and Prajakta David (second and third from right, respectively) traveled to Capitol Hill to engage in advocacy against sex trafficking.



the true nature of this exploitive and abusive crime, and establish a national commission of stakeholders to identify strategies to combat Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC).

That time of advocacy in Washington DC was only the beginning. [We invite you to engage your elected officials to help protect kids online at ijm.org/earn-it-2023](https://www.ijm.org/earn-it-2023).

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GLOBALLY AN ESTIMATED
4.7 MILLION
PERSONS ARE CAUGHT IN SEX TRAFFICKING TODAY
.....

250,000–350,000
AMERICAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK
FOR SEX TRAFFICKING EACH YEAR

13 yrs old
THE AVERAGE AGE OF A
SEX TRAFFICKED VICTIM

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WORLDWIDE, SEX TRAFFICKING GENERATES
\$99 BILLION
IN PROFITS,
WHICH IS MORE THAN THE PROFITS OF
MICROSOFT, NIKE, GOOGLE, AND STARBUCKS COMBINED

