

honor. The collection features five items that help the world's small-holder farm families achieve healthy and productive lives:

- \$15 purchases a jerry can (water jug) to carry and store water in Myanmar.
- \$25 buys two dozen cashew saplings to replenish orchards in Honduras.
- \$40 provides one bag of high-quality seed to rice farmers in North Korea.
- \$100 supports a microcredit loan for a small business in the Dominican Republic.
- \$500 helps construct a deep and safe village well in water-stressed Niger.

“The designated gifts will be combined with other contributions (of any size) to reach as many small farm families as possible”, reported GFCF manager, Howard Royer. REGNUH note cards may be obtained to let people know you have given an alternative gift in their name for the holidays or another special occasion. You may contact the Global Food Crisis Fund, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120; or hroyer@brethren.org or call 800-323-8039, ext. 264.

The Global Food Crisis Fund will also receive the special offering that we collect on the second Sunday of January.

BRETHREN BITS AND PIECES

Raise the Turkey, Hide the Pastor

Members of Lower Deer Creek Church of the Brethren in Camden, Indiana, have been having fun with a food collection project called "Raise the Turkey, Hide the Pastor." The church is collecting food for the Carroll County Food Pantry, and stacking it in front of the pulpit with the goal of eventually hiding Pastor Guy Studebaker. (Pastor Paula says, "I'm game!")

Record numbers of Americans are going hungry, according to new data released by the US Department of Agriculture. More than one in seven (14.6 percent of American households) suffered from food insecurity in 2008. This 3.5 percent increase from 2007 is the largest one-year increase since the USDA first began publishing data. However, Bread for the World president David Beckmann commented that the new data "is not surprising," because of skyrocketing unemployment. Millions of Americans who have lost their jobs. ***"What should really shock us is that almost one in four children in our country lives on the brink of hunger,"*** Beckmann said.

According to the USDA report, in 2008, 16.7 million children were "food insecure". That is 4.2 million more than the year before. Beckmann said. "To end hunger, our leaders need to strengthen nutrition programs and provide steady jobs that allow parents to escape the cycle of poverty and feed their families for years to come."