

Bread or Stones Campaign

Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf... (Matthew 7: 9)

Dear Members and Friends of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference,

We share a common concern for our children, as the Gospel demands. Every child in Louisiana is a child of God and deserves our unwavering commitment to improving their life. By serving our children we are serving God most tenderly.

The Bread or Stones Campaign is a way for us, together in churches throughout Louisiana, to act on our moral obligation to improve our children's health, reduce their poverty, help them to stay in school and support their families.

Become a Bread or Stones Campaign Covenant Congregation and encourage every one of your church members to join.

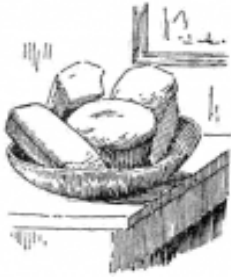
Jesus asks: *Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf?*

How will you answer?

Sincerely,

Fr. C. Dana Krutz
Executive Director

Robert D. Gorman
Chair, Bread or Stones Campaign



Bread or Stones Campaign

Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf... (Matthew 7: 9)

Bread or Stones Covenant Churches serve the children of our state through service, education, citizenship and community. Select any ministries your congregation is currently involved in or would be interested in becoming involved in in the future.

1 Service

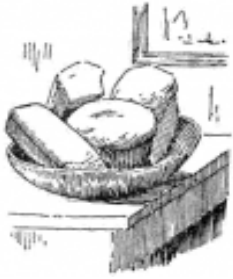
- Pay for pre-natal vitamins for those who can't afford them
- Work with the Health Department to organize immunization days at church
- Sponsor a Safe Families for Children program
- Sponsor parenting education classes
- Offer Church after school and summer tutoring programs
- Organize business and professional mentors/tutors for high school students
- Sponsor a Back to School Supplies drive
- Start a Family Literacy Program with books for children
- Sign up Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) at church
- Start a Class A licensed day care
- Sponsor budget/money management classes for parents and teens
- Develop responsible father programs
- Create support services for 18 year olds "aging out" of the foster care system
- Make church available for AA/NA meetings
- Create community gardens
- Volunteer as a congregation with a denominational social service agency like Catholic Charities, UMCOR, Lutheran Social Services, Baptist Community Ministries, Episcopal Social Services, etc.

Other:

Idea for possible ministry:

2 Education

- Distribute pre-natal and child health information on:
 - Smoking Cessation
 - Dangers of drug and alcohol use
 - Importance of pre-natal vitamins and health care information
 - Importance of immunizations
- Pass out applications for enrolling in or applying for:
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**
 - LaMOMs** no cost health insurance provided by Louisiana's Medicaid program for pregnant women
 - Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (**LaCHIP**) no-cost health insurance provided by Louisiana's Medicaid program to uninsured children up to age 19



Bread or Stones Campaign

Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf... (Matthew 7: 9)

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**, formerly Food Stamps) provides monthly benefits to help low-income families buy food
- Sponsor teen pregnancy prevention programs
- Educate church members about child poverty in Louisiana
- Distribute information and referral directories and resource lists in church

Other:

Idea for possible ministry:

3 Citizenship

Support increased state funding for

- Child Protection Services
- Nurse/Family Partnership Program (NFP)
- Substance abuse prevention and recovery
- Child care tuition assistance (CCAP)
- Louisiana Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Advocate with your school board for parenting education in schools
- Support payday lending reform legislation
- Support legislation to create a Louisiana minimum wage
- Support a progressive Louisiana tax structure (e.g. the Stelly Plan)
- Join the Bread or Stones Legislative Advocacy Network

Other:

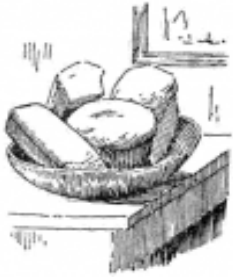
Idea for possible ministry:

4 Community

- Organize a Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Network in your civil parish
- Develop a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program
- Join or form a local coalition of a group or groups with similar aims and goals
- Hold a Children's Sabbath

Other:

Idea for possible ministry:



Bread or Stones Campaign

Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf... (Matthew 7: 9)

Our church, _____, is a Bread or Stones Campaign Covenant Congregation. We commit to answering God's call to care for His children through these ministries. In addition to our ministries we, along with churches across the state of Louisiana, commit to Bread or Stones Sundays (3rd Sunday of October and 1st Sunday of May) where we will offer prayer intentions, sermons, community service or a special offering for the well being of the children of our state.

(Signature of pastor or church representative)

(Date)

(Contact information for contact person - email & phone number)