

Emory University  
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GLOBAL DEMAND FOR FREEDOM FROM WANT

This subject, "Global Demand for Freedom from Want," demands a more adequate treatment than I am able to give. It covers a larger area than a first glance at the subject suggests.

When we talk about freedom from want, we usually mean freedom from poverty and hunger, but it must also mean freedom from ignorance and disease which almost always accompany poverty and hunger. It is common knowledge that approximately half of the peoples of the earth are dying of slow starvation, people who will never know what it

is to eat three adequate, well-balanced meals a day. Half of the peoples of the earth have diseased bodies. Half of the peoples of the earth are illiterate. We really mean people are demanding freedom to learn, to be well and freedom to have bread enough and to spare.

It is one thing to read about these conditions. It is quite another to see them in the raw, with the naked eye. On two occasions I have seen the starving hordes of Asia and the Middle East. I have seen the diseased emaciated bodies of Asia. I have seen them sleeping on the streets of India, not by choice but because there was no other place for them to sleep. I have seen poorly built schools and no schools at all.

Beggard, disease and poverty are so much in evidence that many who live there are apparently not so touched or moved as one seeing these conditions for the first time.

Though not so much a lack of food, but a lack of proper nutrition, one finds similar conditions in Africa. As in some parts of Asia the average life span is around thirty-four and thirty-five years. Infant mortality is high and all kinds of diseases are prevalent. Educational opportunities are lacking throughout Africa, the Middle East and large segments of Asia.

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Global Demand for freedom from Want

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When we talk about freedom from Want, we usually mean freedom from poverty, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> hunger, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> disease. But it must also mean freedom from ignorance + disease which almost always accompany poverty + hunger. It is common knowledge that approximately half of the peoples of the earth are dying of slow starvation, people who never know what it is to eat three <sup>adequate</sup> well-balanced meals a day. Half of the peoples of the earth have diseased bodies. Half of the peoples of the earth are illiterate. <sup>mean</sup> The really <sup>demanding</sup> people are <sup>freedom</sup> demanding freedom to learn, to be well + to have bread enough and to spare.

It is one thing to read about these conditions. It is quite another to <sup>see them</sup> ~~see~~ <sup>in fact</sup> in the raw, with the naked eye. On two occasions I have seen the starving hordes of Asia and the Middle East. I have <sup>seen</sup> the diseased emaciated bodies of <sup>Asia</sup> I have seen them sleeping on the streets of India not by choice but because there was no other place for them to sleep. I have seen poorly built schools and a ~~lack of~~ <sup>at all</sup> schools. Begging <sup>disease</sup> and poverty are so much in evidence that ~~they~~ <sup>many</sup> who live there are apparently not so touched or moved as one seeing these conditions for the first time.

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wide spread is the <sup>menace</sup> ~~menace~~ <sup>3</sup> of tuberculosis. In Lima the article re-  
veals that in one section the disease was "spreading under condi-  
tions where as many as twenty persons lived under one roof-  
and children ate from the same stew-pot as advanced tubercu-  
losis carriers!! Millions of persons in Latin America's  
population of 200,000,000 are forced to live in ~~poverty and disease~~ poverty and disease  
in ~~the~~ rural areas and in the slums of the large  
cities. Unemployed men unable to find work desert  
their wives and children.

It is exceedingly difficult to meet this <sup>global</sup> demand of freedom  
from want as long as the <sup>masses</sup> ~~best majority~~ of the people  
of Africa, Asia + Latin America have little opportunity to  
be trained even in primary + secondary schools - to  
say nothing of college, university and professional schools.  
~~We are the richest country in the world. ~~Our~~~~  
When we add to this dismal picture the perils of

of over population as doctor ~~S~~ Sagby has already told you, the chances of freeing the world from want are ~~not~~ indeed dark. It is in this kind of world where 60 million people are added each year. The population problem <sup>cannot</sup> be isolated from the problem of poverty, disease, + ignorance. And where the population problem is most acute the income of millions of men is less than one hundred dollars a year.

This global demand of freedom from want touches us too. The U.S. is the richest country in the world. Our standard of living is the highest in all history. And yet there are millions in America who need ~~to~~ to find freedom from want. No one knows what the unemployment figures are in the U.S. ~~It is~~ It has been estimated as ranging <sup>between</sup> five to six millions. There are millions of families in the United States that have ~~an~~ annual incomes of less than \$200 a year. And we do not have to go to ~~the~~ Asia, Africa + Latin America to find slums. Right here in Atlanta we can find conditions

~~Costs~~ where six people live in one room. It would take billions of dollars to free America of Slaves. The demand for freedom from want is indeed global.

From whom does the demand come? The demand obviously comes from the millions who are dying of starvation + disease and from the millions who are illiterate and exploited. They are the unarticulate masses who have no way of making demands no way of telling the world of their plight. <sup>But</sup> they tell us by way of the millions who beg on the streets of ~~the~~ money of the great cities of the world, <sup>the thousands</sup> who sleep <sup>on</sup> ~~under~~ the cover on the streets with only the sky as shelter and the millions who look to America ~~for help~~ <sup>rather than</sup> their governments for either gifts or huge loans.

The demand for freedom from want is global from a sheer humanitarian point of view. If the sufferings of others were unknown to us there would be no demand. But no longer can one section of the globe be unaware of the conditions that



exists in other sections. The aeroplanes, radio ~~and~~ TV ~~with the aid of~~ have made the whole wide world a Community. The sufferings of people five thousand miles away can be revealed to us almost as easily as that of those who live in the same city. Just recently I ate breakfast in Athens, Greece and dinner in New York City. A disaster in Bombay will be known in New York almost in the instant!

Despite the inhumanity of man to man we are forced by the logic of things to recognize the kinship of all men kind. So, the fact that we are <sup>all</sup> human places upon the most fortunate of ~~us~~ <sup>us</sup> the responsibility of healing, trying to heal sick bodies, restore lost souls, and to remove ~~the~~ hunger <sup>from</sup> the starving.

~~But over and above our oneness in humanity, our common Christian faith commits us to a responsibility that transcends all other. Our common humanity is not sufficient for the Christian to respond to this global demand <sup>for</sup> freedom from want. We~~

~~A. M. Goudale from God.~~ 7

The destiny of every man is tied up with the destiny of all men. We are the richest Country in the World. Our standard of living is the highest in human history. Despite the glaring defects in ~~our~~ <sup>the</sup> way our democracy functions, we have more freedom and more economic security than any people on the face of the globe - far better off than our friends in Western Europe. And yet our freedom and our security are in constant danger of being swept away. As long as millions of people are hungry, diseased, illiterate, <sup>and</sup> ~~enslaved~~ we are not secure, we are not wholly free. Hungry men are determined to eliminate poverty <sup>and</sup> disease. ~~and~~ The Nations of Africa and Asia are determined to manage their own affairs. They need help. As I sat in my Africa House in Addis Ababa, attending a Conference of African States on the

the development of Education in Africa, I came away con-  
 vinced of two things: Africa is in great need: economically,  
 educationally, culturally and physically. It will take billions  
 upon billions of dollars for several decades to come to put  
 Africa on her feet. ~~It is now~~ <sup>the so-called peace</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>bound</sup> ~~exploding~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~robbed~~ <sup>for</sup>  
 centuries <sup>the so-called peace bound</sup> are now paying the price for <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>men</sup> ~~men~~  
 + nations <sup>in attendance at the Africa Conference</sup> do reap what they sow. Each of the forty nations  
 made it clear that <sup>their</sup> ~~they~~ need and <sup>are not</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>must</sup> have help to build  
 the educational systems that they ~~must~~ <sup>must</sup> have if  
 the African nations are to take their places ~~among~~ <sup>among</sup>  
 responsibly among the nations of earth. The African <sup>nations</sup> ~~must~~  
 help but they want this help ~~with~~ <sup>without</sup> strings. I also  
 I also came away convinced that Africa has no  
 hostility toward the West. At the same <sup>time</sup> Africa, nor Asia, has the  
 the fear of Communism that we in America have. Having  
 known hardship all of their lives and ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> having never  
 experience democracy, they have no ~~basis~~ <sup>basis</sup> of choosing  
 between ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Democratic system + that of Communism. I hope learning

toward the west in that many African nations have ties in  
 France + England, the African nations, as ~~though~~ those in Asia  
 will accept assistance from the East or the West. If we  
 show unfriendliness or lack of understanding of their <sup>situation</sup>  
 and Russia shows understanding and offers aid they will  
 accept aid from Russia. Two examples make this point clear.  
 Egypt turned to Russia when we denied her aid ~~for~~ to  
 build the Aswan Dam: Guinea turned to Russia when  
 she could get no consideration ~~for~~ from certain Western  
 Nations <sup>when she was in dire need</sup> & her demands for freedom from want is so  
 great in Asia, Africa and Latin America ~~that~~ that  
 those Nations ~~in great need~~ may ~~soon~~ accept help from  
<sup>countries</sup> ~~that~~ that may enslave them <sup>later</sup> ~~once~~ the ~~aid~~ aid  
~~helped~~ ~~are~~ is given. Every where there is struggle.  
 Struggle to overcome poverty, to abolish disease and struggle  
 to ~~lose~~ ~~illiterate~~ eliminate illiteracy.

Whether free or slave, economically secure or insecure the whole world is involved in this struggle of freedom from want. The words of John Donne are as true to-day as they were when he wrote them: "No man is an island apart to himself" etc.

The struggle for survival involves us in the struggle to help other nations to achieve freedom from want. This may be a selfish motive but it is ~~no~~ <sup>nevertheless</sup> less need. The fact that we are all human and ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> parts of humanity ~~and~~ lay ~~upon~~ upon us the responsibility to work to the end that man everywhere may be free of want.

~~And~~. But for you and me there is a higher command: our Christian faith commits us to a responsibility that transcends all others. Our common humanity is hardly sufficient for the Christian <sup>to feel obliged</sup> to respond to this global demand for freedom from want. We preach and believe a unique Gospel. We have a mandate from God. We are committed to a faith that holds

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That God is the father of the human race. We teach that He is the father of all or <sup>He</sup> the father of none. This fatherhood includes men of every nationality, every race, every tribe, every class & every culture. We believe and teach that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female. We say that of ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> blood God created all nations of ~~men~~ <sup>men</sup> for to dwell on all the face of the earth. We say that God is no respecter of person and that Christ died for all men.

We are concerned about those who are not free from want because we not only have a unique doctrine of God but we have a unique doctrine of man. Man has status and is somebody not because he has a human father & mother, not because he was born in a particular country, not because he belongs to a certain race or class; he is somebody and is something special because he came from God. When

God reached man in the creative process he did for man what he did not do for any other creature that he had made: He breathed into man nostrils ~~is~~ his <sup>own</sup> breath & man became a living <sup>soul</sup>. We preach a Gospel that says that man is not an accident upon the earth. He is not the result of blind <sup>chance</sup> ~~mechanized~~ evolutionary forces but rather man is God's child.

It is for this reason that each person has value, is <sup>scored</sup> unto God. So much so that when we hurt man, we hurt God, when we lie on man we lie on God. When we make it difficult and hard for man to live, we make it difficult for and hard for God to live. In as much as ye did <sup>it</sup> unto the least of these my little ones, ye did it unto me. Each person is so precious that the strands of hair on each one's head are numbered: It is better that a mill stone be thrown about our necks and thrown into the sea <sup>than</sup> ~~not~~ to harm one of God's little ones. These are the reasons that for the Christian

the demand for freedom from want is global. This Gospel which we claim to believe in is universal and cuts across nationality race + class. Our concern therefore differs from that of a Hindu, a ~~naturalist~~ naturalist, an atheist or a Communist. We ~~are~~ look for freedom from want for every person because we believe that it is God's will. It is not the fear of Communism that motivates the Christian but the spirit of God. Even if Communism or ~~fascist~~ fascism had never been born the Christian would want to all men to have freedom from want.

And yet the Christian lives in a strange world. What can he do in a world of power politics and in a world where ~~so~~ nations spend more money in preparation for war than they do for ~~so~~ nearly all other items combined.



Without batting an eye, we spend fifty billions for defense. We are calling for fifty billions in ten years to develop more scientists. What can we as Christians and Churchmen do to meet this global demand of freedom from want? Frankly, I am not wise enough to answer this question. It is 'so easy to say that Christ is the answer. But ~~not~~ the rulers of the nations do not believe <sup>that</sup> Christ is the answer. We ourselves hardly believe that Christ is the answer.

Let me approach it negatively. While half the people of the earth are starving slowly dying of hunger + disease, crying out for some body to free them from <sup>the</sup> grips of disease and hunger, we spend billions in preparation for war and billions on non-essentials. I do not mean to say that automobiles are non-essential but we do own about 85% of the ~~now~~ cars in the world. In 1959 Americans spent \$5,025,000,000 on new and used cars. Another \$1,000,000,000 ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> spent on gasoline and oil. This is understandable. And you may object to say what seems to be <sup>my</sup> criticism of the <sup>amount of</sup> money we spend on cars. Let us turn to things <sup>that are</sup> not as useful as cars. While we talk of

the 'global demand for freedom from want', we <sup>Americans</sup> spent in 1957,  
 \$9,600,000,000 for alcoholic beverages. We spent in that year  
 \$7,034,000,000 for tobacco products. <sup>I am certain that</sup> Perfumes and  
 jewelry would consume many billions ~~more~~ more.

~~But~~ On the other hand, we spent in 1957 only  
 \$4,257,000,000 for religion and welfare activities.

One reliable source says <sup>that</sup> the United States is spending  
 on military things 5.3 million dollars every ~~do~~ hour, day  
 and night. Over against what we spend for alcohol  
 and tobacco, we spend eleven cents per capita a year for  
 the United Nations.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am quite aware of  
 the herculean efforts <sup>that</sup> our government is making to ~~relieve~~ <sup>relieve</sup>  
 the sufferings of mankind. I am aware of the millions upon  
 millions ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> government is spending annually in ~~the~~ the undeveloped

Countries of Africa, Asia and South America thru I C A, Unesco, the United Nations and other agencies. ~~All this is commendable~~ And yet our ~~major emphasis~~ add to what government is doing the work of private agencies, foundations + churches. We are doing a tremendous job to ~~help rid the world~~ help make the world free so that no one will need to starve + no one will need to die before time - And yet when I note what we spend on items ~~for~~ which I have just named, I am convinced that mankind is not majoring in a program <sup>designed</sup> to rid ~~the~~ mankind of fear and want.

It may sound pessimistic. But I am convinced that the global danger of the hungry, disease + illiterates for freedom from want will never be <sup>realized</sup> as long as we <sup>live</sup> in constant fear of a war of annihilation and ~~concentrate~~ <sup>concentrate</sup> on ~~ways + means~~ developing weapons of ~~destruction~~ total destruction.

If the nations of the <sup>earth</sup> were honest enough so <sup>that</sup> they could ~~trust each other~~, we could disarm, unite and launch a program ~~to~~ aimed at saving the world from war, disease and hunger.

If such could be done, in <sup>a period of</sup> ~~ten~~ years we could meet the global  
 demand ~~of~~ for freedom from want. As it is <sup>now</sup> we are ~~assessing~~ <sup>working</sup>  
 against time, not knowing whether mankind ~~survives or not~~. It is futile and naive to say that  
 God is in his Heaven + all is right with the world. God is a God  
 of justice as well as <sup>a God of love</sup> ~~and~~ and when individuals + nations violate  
 God's ~~low~~ moral law they ~~will~~ pay the price.

In the meanwhile, we work and pray in the hope that discrimina-  
 tion is possible <sup>and even possible.</sup> A Christian people must never accept the view that  
 man must forever build <sup>manufacture</sup> nuclear weapons and kill <sup>each other off.</sup>  
 here no <sup>for the sake of our time.</sup> ~~penance.~~ I can not rise <sup>above</sup> other men. But whether thru the  
 United Nations, <sup>the National Council or churches,</sup> ~~the~~ National denominational  
 bodies or thru universal evangelism, we must urge the nations to  
 resolve their difference in peace and reduce weapons of war to the  
 minimum.  
~~This~~ This is no time for the Churches to curtail their work in  
 foreign fields. Even where missionaries in the traditional sense ~~are~~ <sup>are no</sup>  
 longer welcomed the needs are so great that Christian workers who go

in the spirit of Christ to minister to the social, economic, and educational needs of the people will find a warm reception among the peoples of underdeveloped countries. Not less money is needed by the churches but more now than at any previous time.

I for one welcome the work of the Peace Corps for it supplements the work of the churches and ~~for~~ supplies more money and workers to meet the global demand ~~for~~ freedom from want. In comparison with what we spend for tobacco, alcoholic beverages, gambling and cosmetics, ~~even~~ even when we combine what the churches are spending, private agencies, the government and the Peace Corps, we are spending a relatively small ~~sum~~ sum. ~~This is what we could do~~ According to ~~what~~ Promoting Enduring Peace, Inc. this is what we can do with \$125,000,000 annually:

Pay 5000 teachers \$5000 a year each to teach in Asia + Africa; send 2,000 doctors to Asia + Africa + pay each \$10,000 a year; send 5000 American students abroad at \$2,000 each; bring \$15,000 students from abroad to the United States at \$2,000 each; provide 10,000 family grants to professors, teachers, ministers, doctors + dentists to go abroad and stay for a year - total \$125,000,000

The needs are in deed ~~great~~<sup>urgent</sup>, the harvest is great, ~~but~~<sup>and</sup> the laborers are few. And yet, we can do so much ~~to~~ with so little, to meet in part the global demand for freedom from want. The challenge comes to all-effectively to the Christian.