**5 Minutes for Mission**

(Use alternating readers - as many as 5 readers if you wish)

1. **How many of you wear eyeglasses or contact lenses? Raise your hands.**

More than 2 million children worldwide each year suffer severe visual problems due to lack of vitamin A. Among other things, CROP Hunger Walk funds help provide beehives to impoverished families in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In Gambia, besides selling the honey, the wax from the hives is rolled into balls and given to the children as “chewing gum.” The wax is rich in Vitamin A. Since 1981 the Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk has raised an amount of money equivalent to the purchase of 142,899 beehives. Our walking fights hunger and malnutrition in wonderful ways! (Now that’s something **to “buzz” about**!)

1. **And speaking of “buzzing,” have any of you ever been bitten by a mosquito?**

It’s an itchy inconvenience for us; but in the developing world a mosquito bite can be deadly. More than 30,000 children die each day from malaria and other preventable diseases. In the last five years alone the Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk has raised more than 672,500 dollars. That amount is enough to purchase insect repellent-treated mosquito nets to protect more than 336,250 people in malaria infested areas. CROP Walking not only feeds people **-** **it saves lives**.

**3.) Raise your hand if you have plans for lunch today?**

Did you know that last year alone, the Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk raised an amount of money sufficient to provide lunch for 1,836,780 school-age children living in refugee camps on the Burmese-Thai border. Church World Service has been providing lunch there for Karin *(pronounced* ***car- EEN****)* refugee children for decades at a mere 8 Thai Bhat (5¢ US) a lunch. This is a school lunch program that is a **bargain!** And **our walking** in the CROP Hunger Walk has made it possible.

**4.) How many mothers do we have here?**

Did you know that in Afghanistan, with its poor medical care for women, 1 in 11 mothers dies in childbirth? **One in eleven!!** One of our “Safe Birthing Kits” costs $35. The money raised in our CROP Hunger Walk here in the Greater Holland area, since we began walking 31 years ago, could save the lives of more than 102,070 young mothers. Women and children are the ones who suffer the most in our world. **We can do something about that!**

**5.) Walk monies also address hunger and poverty right here in the greater Holland/Zeeland community.**

**For the cost of a latte’ ($5) Holland’s Buen Pastor’s ministry can provide a day’s formula for an infant in their migrant daycare program. Or, Saugatuck’s Christian Neighbors can provide 100 people with a piece of chicken. His Harvest Stand, Salvation Army, Evergreen Commons, Community Action House, and Holland Rescue Mission all receive a portion of our gifts to help alleviate hunger.**  **Just think what your gift of a latte or two or three is able to do. You have a latte to give! Help feed the hungry here at home too!**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**The CROP Hunger Walk does all these things and more. So never doubt that your walking makes a critical difference in the lives of people who live on the very edge of existence! I am the Team Captain this year for our CROP Hunger Walk Team. Please see me afterwards and sign up to be part of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s team. And come out and Walk on (April 28 and 29).**

**(name of your group, congregation or school)**