

# REACHING OUT...

## TURN THIS WORLD RIGHT SIDE UP!

In the time it takes to read this article, 25 children will have died from starvation, malnutrition or preventable disease. Even when hunger doesn't kill, it often causes blindness, deformities, and brain damage. Find the program which has the actions and methods you prefer and then... support it! A newly dug well, political, legislative advocacy, seeds and a shovel, whatever is the way you want to fight hunger...please, find it -- do it.

We have the means, the resources, and the capacity to turn this world Not upside-down but Right Side up. Give gifts in the names of people you love and send them cards showing them they are not part of the problem but through their gift, part of the solution. Give fair-traded coffee, tea, and cocoa as Christmas gifts and invite people to enjoy the sweet taste of poverty being beaten. Continue your magnificent support of the pantries for the 400,000 people in eastern Massachusetts who are hungry and plan to do some of your shopping at our annual Alternative Christmas Fair on December 7.

In your name, the Outreach Committee has made 2003 contributions to the following groups:

- Aids Interfaith Ministry
- Bread for the World
- Cambridge Welcoming Ministries
- Children's Defense Fund
- Christian Peacemaker Team
- Infact
- Methodist Federation for Social Action
- Respecting Differences
- World Vision.

Thank you for making this possible.

Bob and Linda Miner

## NICARAGUA NOTES BY LINDA RINGS

As the seasons of thankfulness and giving are rapidly descending upon us, I am reminded of some letters from Nicaragua that Marnie received. They fit well with this time of year as they are letters of thankfulness for the opportunity you give them through your contributions to the work we do in La Borgoña. The letters speak of the chance to get an education that would not be available without the generosity of this congregation. We are creating a new society that will have far reaching implications for years to come. We cannot begin to see what the effects of all our endeavors will have, but you need to know that your giving is deeply appreciated. If you read Spanish, we would be happy to share the letters with you directly. However, they are being

translated and I hope to publish the text of some in the next newsletter.

Every penny you give for Nicaragua goes to Nicaragua. People go to high school, to college, learn to sew, learn to work on the computer, get to see the doctor and get medicine - all because of this congregation!! If you haven't been able to donate in the past, or are new to our church, I encourage you to join in this wonderful work. In this season, and indeed, in every season, it is truly more blessed to give than to receive.

## NEW GENEVA ACCORD FOR ISRAEL/PALESTINE PEACE

Last month, leading Israelis, led by Yossi Beilin (former Minister of Justice) and Amram Mitzna (the Labor Party candidate for Prime Minister), signed an accord with Yasser Abed Rabbo, a former minister of the Palestinian Authority acting with the full approval of the Palestinian Authority. This agreement specifies a territorial solution that brings Israel back to the pre-1967 borders, with minor border modifications, and specifies what those modifications are. It provides funds to compensate Palestinian refugees who will be resettled in the new Palestinian state. It moves the settlers back into Israel. It provides for security for both sides and a new plan for full cooperation on security, water, and many other areas. No longer will anyone have grounds to say, "Agreement is impossible—the two sides are too far apart" or "The Palestinians are unwilling to compromise." You can read the full terms of the Geneva Accord at [www.tikkun.org](http://www.tikkun.org). It is amazingly precise in spelling out every detail of the peace accord.

There's only one problem. Ariel Sharon doesn't support it, and George Bush and Congress let Sharon do whatever he wants, occasionally making a whimper of disagreement while sending him financial support and political backing at the U.N.

From Rabbi Michael Lerner,  
The Tikkun Community

For the Outreach Committee by Bill Santelmann

## *Amnesty International Letter Writing Campaign*

Our annual Advent letter writing campaign for Amnesty International will be held during our Fellowship Time on Sunday, December 14 (10:30 - 11:00 am). Amnesty International representative Bill Harris will assist us in writing about concerns in Vietnam, Syria, Russia and Guatemala.