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SPECIAL REPORT:
Are We Answering Christ's
Call To Help The Poor?



The needs of the Caribbean's poor were discussed in a recent meeting between Pope John Paul II and Food For The Poor's founder, Ferdinand Mahfood. Since its inception in 1982, Food For The Poor has supplied more than \$130 million worth of food and other relief supplies to clergy in the Caribbean.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

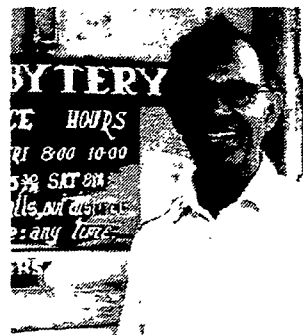
1. Include the needy of the Caribbean in your daily prayers. The poor of these countries often ask if they can pray for the people who are helping them through "Food For The Poor." Food For The Poor encourages this kind of spiritual sharing.
2. Use your talents and financial blessings to help the poor of the Caribbean through Food For The Poor or another qualified relief ministry. More information about Food For The Poor can be obtained by writing to: Food For The Poor, Dept. 8188, 550 S.W. 12th Ave., Deerfield Beach, FL 33442.

**On The Front Lines
In The War On Poverty**

An exceptional group of modern day saints have committed their lives to helping the poor of Jamaica, Haiti and the Caribbean. These dedicated priests, nuns and pastors want to do more for the poor, but they face roadblocks caused by dwindling supplies, obsolete equipment and terrible working conditions. Food For The Poor empowers these "Good Samaritans" and other concerned clergy of the Caribbean by providing them with a source for supplies, new equipment and the materials they need to better serve the poor. A few of the hundreds of ministries being helped by Food For The Poor include:

Father Gregory Ramkissoo — "Mustard Seed"

Father Gregory Ramkissoo is the director of Jamaica's "Mustard Seed" program. Established as a home for abandoned, severely handicapped children, Mustard Seed has grown to include a variety of other services, including self-help projects and a home building program to provide basic shelter for the poorest of the poor. By providing Father Ramkissoo with food, building materials and other resources, Food For The Poor has helped this dedicated priest realize his dream of helping Jamaica's "lost and forgotten poor." Still, the waiting list of children eligible to enter Mustard Seed's program is longer than the center's current staff and facilities can handle. It is Food For The Poor's goal to expand the Mustard Seed home so that no child must ever be turned away.



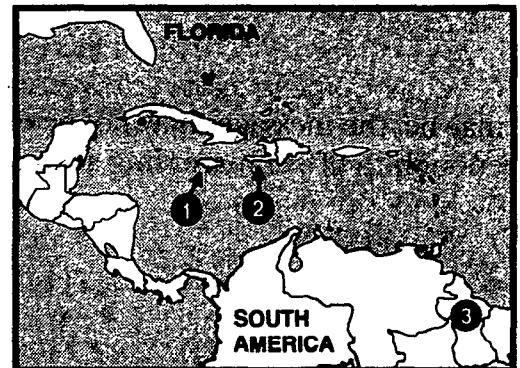
Father Compton Meerabux, J.S. — Jungle Missionary

Father Compton Meerabux works in the jungles of Guyana where harsh terrain and wild animals make life dangerous and unpredictable. In spite of these difficulties, Father Meerabux has developed an important ministry among the country's poor. The 55-year-old Jesuit missionary is the pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Church, but his efforts extend far beyond traditional parish responsibilities. Traveling along the back roads and jungle trails, he works to supply Guyana's indigent poor with food, clothing and educational materials. The situation for the poor is similar to Haiti — living conditions are terrible and unemployment is high. Father Meerabux believes Jesus Christ has called him to go where others fear to tread, and with help from Food For The Poor, he plans to continue his work for many years to come.



Sister Mary Benedict Chung — "Law Street Center"

Sister Mary Benedict Chung has established a dynamic ministry in the heart of one of Kingston, Jamaica's roughest communities. Motivated by her love of the poor and her commitment to Christ, she established the Law Street Training Center as a self-help program for underprivileged children and young adults. More than 1,400 poor children are enrolled in Sister Chung's elementary school and her job training program includes catering classes, sewing courses and a fully operational bakery. In addition to teaching students, the bakery supplies bread for sale in the community. Poor men deliver the bread with bicycle carts. In this way, they earn a wage to support their families. Since it opened, the Law Street Center has relied on assistance from Food For The Poor which has provided it with food, equipment and supplies.



The Caribbean countries of Jamaica (1), Haiti (2) and Guyana (3) are very close to America's shores. Those who visit these Caribbean countries are often shocked by the extreme poverty which is allowed to exist so close to the wealthiest nation in the world. Fortunately, some American churches and First World Christians are becoming "Good Samaritans" by responding to these neighbors in need. These loving people have learned that words of compassion do little to help the suffering poor. It takes compassionate action and personal involvement to create real, positive change in the slums.

**Food For The Poor:
A Good Steward
In Serving The Poor**

For more than eleven years, Food For The Poor has served the poor of the Caribbean through an established network of churches and Christ-centered social ministries.

By distributing goods through churches, the organization is able to reach the poor in a way that is both cost effective and empowers the local clergy.

The success of Food For The Poor can also be attributed to the agency's business expertise and buying power on the world market.

A donation to Food For The Poor can actually do much more for a Caribbean church program than a direct cash gift to the social program would accomplish, and the reason is simple economics. Food For The Poor's buying power allows it to purchase more for less, and it has access to a greater range of products.

The organization also has a duty-free status on goods — a benefit very few churches can obtain. Duty fees can more than double the costs of many items a church imports.

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