

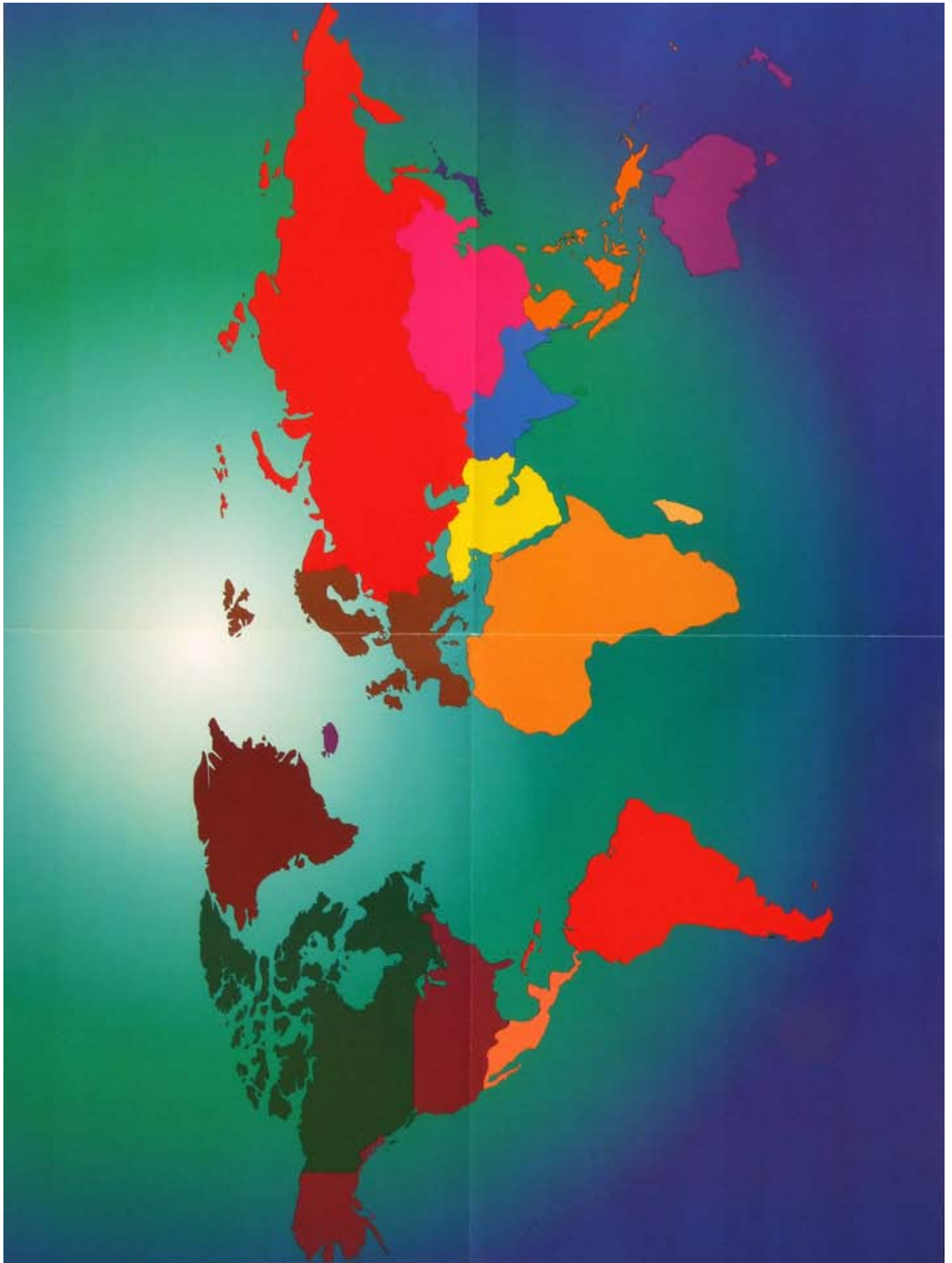


Witnesses in the World **Poster #1 Window of Opportunity** Sessions 4,6,7 Photo by Dorothy Linthicum



Witnesses in the World Poster #2 Martyrs' Window
 Photo by James C. Strickland

St Thomas Episcopal Church, Newark, Delaware



Witnesses in the World **Poster #3 The World**

Sessions 4,8

Jan Moffatt



Witnesses in the World Poster #4 Helping Others

Session 9

Photo by Dorothy Linthicum



Witnesses in the World Poster #2 Exemplar's Window

Photo by James C. Strickland

St Thomas Episcopal Church, Newark, Delaware

Fact or Fiction?

Divide the class into two or more teams. Give each team a card that says “Fact” and a card that says “Fiction.” Read the statements below; each team will huddle and then select the appropriate card to hold up. Each correct answer will score a point.

- Statements:
1. The early Church was accused of cannibalism.
 2. Early Christians were accused of monopolizing the sale of sacrificial animals and meats.
 3. Early Christians were accused of immoral behavior, especially incest.
 4. Christians were accused of anti-family values.
 5. Christians were accused of atheism.
 6. Christians were accused of social snobbery.
 7. Christians were accused of being unpatriotic.
 8. Christians caused disasters.
 9. Christians were a menace to society.

Answers:

1
Fact. References to the Eucharist and partaking of the Lord’s body and blood started these rumors. They quickly died when Christians explained and demonstrated how they used bread and wine.

2
Fiction. On the contrary, Christians were accused of disrupting and diminishing the sale of sacrificial meats and animals.

3
Fact. Romans heard references to “loving their brothers and sisters” and assumed sexual impropriety. The Christians’ exemplary lives put this rumor to rest.

4
Fact. The family was the primary unit in the Roman Empire. Allegiance to Christ caused a rift in families when believers chose Christ over Caesar.

5
Fact. The Roman Empire encouraged the worship of many gods. Christian insistence on one true God meant they did not recognize or honor the multitude of Roman gods.

6
Fiction. On the contrary, the early Church was ridiculed for welcoming slaves, politicians, women, and children—all social classes and levels. Christians refrained from civic festivals, however, dedicated to Roman gods.

7
Fact. Christians refrained from civic festivals, divided families, refused to serve in the army, and worshiped Jesus Christ instead of the emperor.

8
Fact. Because Christians did not worship the Roman gods, floods, famine, and earthquakes were seen as punishment on the Empire for the disobedience of Christians.

9
Fact. Roman authorities recognized that the spread of Christianity spelled doom for the empire. The choice was Christ or Caesar.

Hunger: Myth & Realities

Myth One

There is not enough food and not enough land. Measured globally, there is enough to feed everyone. There is enough grain being produced today to provide everybody in the world with enough protein and about 3,000 calories a day, which is what the average American consumes. But the food supply in the world is not evenly distributed; those who have much accumulate more, while those who have little are near starvation. In most countries with widespread hunger, a few large landowners control nearly all agricultural production, sometimes with disastrous results. Rich farmland remains unused, or one harvest is gathered per year when there could be two or three. Land is also used for cash crops, such as cotton or coffee, instead of food.

Myth Two

There are too many people to feed. Overpopulation is not the cause of hunger. However, hunger is one of the real causes of overpopulation. The more children a poor family has the more likely some will survive to work in the fields or in the city to add to the family's income. High birth rates are symptoms of the failure of a social system — inadequate family income, inadequate nutrition and health care, and lack of old-age security.

Myth Three

Growing more food will mean less hunger in poor countries. It doesn't seem to work that way. In the last 30 years of the War on Hunger, farming methods have been modernized, irrigation plans implemented, new seeds developed, and pesticides and fertilizers made available. But who is better off? Farmers who already had land and money, not the desperately poor and hungry. Others who benefitted from these innovations are moneylenders, landlords, speculators, foreign corporations, and others. People that live and work on the land are more likely to be motivated to make the land productive, making the distribution of food more equitable.

Myth Four

Hunger is a contest between rich countries and poor countries. Many Americans believe that hunger is not their problem. But it will never be eliminated until we recognize the poor of Bangladesh, Colombia, or Senegal as our neighbors. Rich or poor we are all part of the same global food system that is gradually coming under the control of a few huge corporations. Because these businesses market their goods to those with money, the poor end up paying prices determined by people in wealthy countries. Even in countries like the United States and Canada, small farmers have been unable to afford the costs of farming.

Myth Five

Hunger can be solved by redistributing the food to the hungry. Adapting a simpler lifestyle will help us understand others and be less wasteful. But even if we all eat one hamburger less each week or fund massive food aid programs, widespread starvation and poverty in the poorest nations will not be stemmed. People will only cease to be poor when they control the means of providing food for themselves.

Myth Six

A strong military defense provides a secure environment in which people can prosper. The extraordinary investment the world makes in armaments annually — about \$900 billion — ensures that few funds are available for agriculture and economic development. The size of the expenditures shows that those who decide how a nation's money is spent are not intimately acquainted with the violence of hunger. The security of countries, both great and small, depends first of all on a population that has enough food, enough jobs, adequate energy, and safe housing. When a society cannot provide these basics, nothing can maintain the peace.

(Based on *Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity, and World Hunger: Twelve Myths* by Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins.)