

Seasonal Hunger

Seasonal Hunger: *A chronic, slow, persistent, insidious condition that affects generations of people in geographic regions such as Guatemala. Unlike famine, this hunger is a cycle of quiet and predictable starvation.*

The period between June and September is referred to as a period of "seasonal hunger" in Guatemala. During these months, farmers have often run low or out of the previous season's crops while those of the next season are not quite ready for harvest and consumption.



During some recent reading, I came upon this term "seasonal hunger". It was used in the same paragraph with words like starvation, drought and Guatemala. I am very aware of the harsh implications of not having a large enough harvest upon the poor in the Ixil, but I had no idea there was an official term for this heartbreaking situation.

The majority of the people in rural Guatemala are considered extremely poor. Many are sustenance farmers, meaning they eat what they grow and live day to day. Standard practice is to set aside corn and beans for consumption year round. However, the food for the family often does not last until the next harvest. So they learn to stretch the dwindling supply as long as possible.

Here in the United States, we have little appreciation for the abundance in which we live in. Imagine for a moment that you woke up this morning to discover that during the night, someone had broken into your house and they stolen every crumb of food. There will be nothing to feed the kids when they climb out of bed. Your wallet is empty, there is no money stashed away and you do not have any credit cards. To make things worse, all your neighbors are awaking to the



exact same scenario. You are hungry but have to go to work anyway. The kids have little energy as they shuffle off to school. This is hard for anyone to imagine. Now realize that this same scenario will play out tomorrow, and the day after – for the next three months.

With our lunch feeding program, WIND is attempting to address this dire situation for the Horeb families faced with starvation this time of year. We are thankful that your support allows WIND to offer a daily feeding program for the kids who most need this sustenance. We are thankful knowing that they are receiving at least one nutritious meal per day.

The next time you feel hungry, please say a prayer for those who are going without food and for the organizations striving to help. I am reminded of an African proverb I recently came across "Pray, but when you pray, move your feet". Our awareness must be followed by a response. Ten dollars provides a meal to one child for a week. Please help us keep these precious kids fed by giving today.