



Litany to Raise Awareness and Raise Change for Children in Poverty

Leader: The Lord is our Provider. The testimony of our lives and Scripture remind us that every good and lasting gift comes from God. God has made promises and provisions to care for all that God has created. Sometimes we forget that God has created us as the hands and feet and messengers of Jesus Christ, so the promises and provisions of God can flow through us to others. Through the Penny Project, we seek to raise awareness and to raise change so that children and families struggling with poverty will know they have not been forgotten by God or by their neighbors.

People: Through the Penny Project we will be reminded that God has called us to be caring and generous people who give more, not only when we gain more, but give more because of all God has given us.

Leader: The Lord provides us with inspiration. We are grateful for youth who have not become victims of the “me first” culture, but choose the “Kingdom-of-God first” culture trusting the promise of Christ that if we focus first, on the mission that matters to God, we will also attain the things that really matter most.

People: We give thanks to God for the youth of First Baptist New London, New Hampshire who were inspired to ask, “What can we do to raise awareness about the number of children suffering from hunger in our state?” They selected the penny in hope of making that insignificant and often ignored coin a symbol and reminder of children who live in poverty and are often considered insignificant and ignored in our society.

Leader: The Lord provides us with compassion.

People: We are grateful for youth who ask “What about them?” before they ask, “What about me?” Many youth care about the lack of food on their neighbors’ tables as much as they care about the amount of food on their own table.

Leader: The Lord provides us with resources and calls us to be good caretakers of those resources.

People: Our children are both gifts and resources who deserve our best care and attention. Our time, talent and treasures are also resources shared to demonstrate our love for God and one another. We pray the Penny Project will help us pay more attention to the needs of our children and share our resources to support those things that cause our love to grow.

Leader: The Lord provides us with knowledge.

People: Stories and statistics tell us that 14 million children in the United States and Puerto Rico struggle every day with hunger, homelessness, poor schools, poor health and insufficient income in the places they live. We are told that this number is increasing—but if we choose to channel the brilliance and creativity God gives us, we can respond in imaginative and practical ways to stop the numbers from growing.

Leader: The Lord provides us with partners.

People: We are grateful that the youth of First Baptist Church, New London, invited National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, to join them in spreading the Penny Project vision to raise awareness and raise at least 14 million pennies by 2010 to represent each child in poverty in this nation. We eagerly anticipate those groups who will join us, and inspire the youth in their congregations as leaders of this vision. We will also encourage our legislators to join us in this vision to transform our communities, the country and communities around the world for our children.

Unison: God began the Penny Project through 8 youth of First Baptist Church of New London, and we are confident God will bring this project to completion through youth and congregations around the nation. We pray God will bring this project to completion in a way that causes us to be more caring with one another; that visibly improves the lives of our neighbors who seek to live beyond the limitations of poverty; and that gives glory to God most of all.