



**Holston Conference 2015 Mission Emphasis**



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*A Challenge  
from Bishop Taylor  
for Holston's  
Children in Poverty*



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Hello, I am Bishop Dindy Taylor. Holston Conference has a wonderful commitment to outreach and missions. Together we made the God-sized goal of over \$1.2 million for Imagine No Malaria. Bed nets, health education, and medication were provided through these gifts to save the lives of children in Africa. Thank you, Holston, for your outpouring of grace and hope through these generous gifts. Together we saved more than 120,000 lives.

As we look toward the 2015 Annual Conference Missions Offering, I want to extend a challenge. What if we as the body of Christ known as the Holston Conference committed ourselves equally as strongly to the children of our neighborhoods? We do not have to look to Africa to find situations of poverty and great need. Children in our communities go to bed hungry, live in homes affected by addiction, struggle to have the supplies they need for education, and long for a caring adult to nurture them along the way. Our congregations see these children and seek to respond. Through community food pantries, backpack ministries, school supply collections, tutoring and after school care, many of our congregations are already seeking to reach these young lives.

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Through the conference mission offering this year, we will commit ourselves to these efforts with a renewed sense of urgency. Our focus is on Children and Poverty right here in the Holston Conference. The funds we collect will be available to be used in all 12 of our districts to support new and existing ministries that address this pressing need.

While we will collect the offering at annual conference in June, we are providing an opportunity for you to begin your giving now. I would like to challenge every person who worships in your congregation to commit themselves to \$10 and 10 hours of service on behalf of Children and Poverty in the Holston Conference!

Imagine the seeds that can be planted for these young lives to grow into the health and wholeness that God envisions for all of us.

We know that these needs are great and that they will not be solved in one year. But we have a dream, given to us by a mighty God, of life in its abundance, of justice and mercy walking hand in hand, of grace and peace being made known in our land. We want to live into God's vision for all God's children right now, no matter how big the challenge, no matter how difficult the task. Holston, let's bring it home! How many lives can we change this year?

Thank you, Holston. I can't wait to see how your generosity pours out as we share our financial gifts and the gifts of our time for the children who surround our churches, God's children, in need of our love.



Tutoring ministries are one way for congregations to engage with children in poverty.



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