

prayer of the helping hands

One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?”

— **John 6:8-9**

“The little ant says that what she has is not a lot, but enough to show to the person she loves.”

— **Burkinabé proverb** (*pronounced bər-KEE-nə-bay*)

Bountiful Lord,

When thousands stood before you,
hungry and tired
You first invited your disciples
to feed them
And then you showed them how.

In your love for humanity,
You have invited us to be vessels of
your compassion and mercy;
Show us how to play a part in your
miracles.

Lord, we do not confront the hunger
of 5,000 today
But the hunger of nations.
But we have many hands
And full hearts
And we have your Gospel to show us
the way.

Bless not only our hands
But those of our hungry brothers and
sisters.
The hands that plant, nurture and
harvest
Working for a future that is
free from hunger.

We are young and old
We are weak and strong
With different faces and
different talents.
Through you
The compassion of a small, overlooked
child
Became a feast for all who hungered.

Look upon the compassion of all
gathered here today
And the determination of our brothers
and sisters overseas;
Transform it into a feast for the ages.

What you taught us is what the
Burkinabé teach us:
That we have enough
Right here and right now
To do untold wonders.

May all the members of your family eat
until they are satisfied.

Amen