



Dear Middle School Parent,

Sabiou's 10-month-old body is starting to shut down. Hunger has pushed it to the breaking point. He hasn't had any food for days, and now he's got a dangerous fever. The world is full of children like Sabiou. One of them dies every seven seconds. Here in Zeeland this is hard to imagine, but it is true.

From Friday, March 19th to Saturday March 20th the Middle School Youth Group will be participating in "**Starving?**" an event hosted by 4 area churches to help raise awareness and donations for world hunger.

Four days later, Sabiou's eyes are full of life again. And his stomach is full of nutritious food. What brought him back? Water, medicine, and a special nutritious paste made from peanut butter, supplies provided by World Vision, and international relief organization. By helping to raise awareness about children like Sabiou, and raising funds for World Vision your child can help change the lives of kids all around the world.

The youth leaders of all 4 participating churches have been working hard for the past two months planning this event for your middle school student. We will all be meeting at our various churches at 5pm on Friday March 19th. We will then go to The Bridge Youth Center in Zeeland for the kick off. After icebreaker games and an introduction we will be talking about the global hunger crisis. Following our discussion we will play a large, interactive game that deals with the issue of resources and how they are distributed. Following a de-briefing of that game we will be walking over to 2nd Reformed Church for a candle light service around the issue of hunger.

Each church youth group will be spending the night in their home church with their own leaders. In the morning we will gather again, this time in Holland. Half of the group will meet at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church to participate in a prayer labyrinth. The other half of the group will be meeting at First United Methodist Church for an art-project reflecting on world hunger. Then the two groups will switch.

Finally we will all go to Third Reformed Church in Holland where we will break our fast together by eating plain rice and beans – the food of most people in the World. The youth leaders from Third Reformed will lead us in some closing discussions about what we can do to help bring about an end to the world hunger crisis.

Everyone will return to his or her home church for pick up by 12:30pm on Saturday March 20.

Your middle school student may be uneasy about this event. The idea of fasting for 20 hours may be intimidating for them. I would highly encourage you to push them to come. Please also encourage them to bring a friend. This event has been very well planned and is the type of event that will change lives.

If you or your student have any questions feel free to contact me, Zach Trumble, at 616.318.5404 or at zach@srczeeland.org.

Please sign and date the consent form at the bottom of this sheet for your student to attend this event. Also, please help us get this consent form to any friends your child may invite. A copy is available, along with the 2nd Church Youth transportation release form on the youth website at <http://www.srczeeland.org/youth.html>

One final thought, your student should bring a water bottle to this event. Plenty of drinks will be provided to help avoid dehydration and a water bottle will help cut down on waste of paper cups.

Thank you
Zach Trumble
Director of Youth Ministries
2nd Reformed Church, Zeeland MI

Please sign and date this form and send it with your student to this event.

I acknowledge that I have read the letter describing the event *Starving?* to be held from 5pm March 19th to 12:30pm March 20th. I understand that my child will be fasting during this time period under the supervision of the 2nd Reformed Church youth director and youth sponsors. I understand that no child will be required to fast against their will, but that refusing to participate in the fast means refusing to participate in the event and the child must be picked up.

Name of Child: _____

Name of guardian: _____

Guardian phone number: _____

Guardian's signature: _____ date: _____