What’s it like to go to bed hungry? I think of this every once in a while, when I get busy in the evening and don’t have the time or the energy to pop a bowl of popcorn for my evening snack.

I’m sure many who read those two sentences either chuckled or rolled their eyes. Unfortunately the fact is, that is the only way 9 out of ten Americans can think or visualize of going to bed hungry. But what about the other 1 out of 10? That’s about how many Americans face “food Insecurity”. We’ve even found a nicer way of making it sound. We no longer have hunger in America we now have “food insecurity”.

There are 30 to 40 million people in America in this category and almost 50% of them are children. On top of that the majority of these are minorities.

We can ask “What can I do? I’m only one person. “ That is true and it’s estimated that it would take over 20.5 billion dollars per year to meet the needs of all the Americans that need help. An amount I’m sure few of us have available on an annual basis. And this is just in America. When you add in the rest of the world it becomes a staggering amount.

For me it is easier to tackle this challenge by breaking it down to a more manageable scale. The LCR hunger drive is a step in that direction. It is estimated that it costs about $3.02 per meal per person In America. I ask myself how many meals can I support this year or at $9.00 per day how many people can I support for a day. I can wrap my head around $9.00 a lot easier than 20.5 billion. LCR’s past goals of $25,000 would meet the needs of 7.5 people for a whole year. Still not a big dent in 30 to 40 million but when you add in all the other churches in America it will add up.

So I will continue to ask myself how many $9.00 gifts I can afford so that those in need are helped. I realize that I can’t do it all but to do nothing is not an option.

-Jim Michaelis