

# Desmond Tutu Program to End Global Hunger

*A FreshMinistries  
Initiative in Partnership  
with the Anglican  
Communion*







*“Your program is quite exciting and has such a great potential for helping to eradicate poverty. You and your colleagues already have an enviable record of making a difference. I commend you and your colleagues on a superb record. Well done.”*

– Desmond Tutu

**The Desmond Tutu Program to End Global Hunger is a sustainable effort of FreshMinistries, working in concert with the Anglican Communion, to bring fresh, healthy food, agribusiness development, climate awareness and education on nutrition and agriculture to both your community and communities all over the world.**

# The Vision

## *Just Imagine:*

- If you were hungry, poor and without hope. Then imagine receiving the opportunity to raise yourself up from poverty through an extraordinary Anglican Global Initiative.
- If owning your own aquaponics farm and operating a successful sustainable business was within reach.
- If providing economic opportunity to local citizens and businesses that work with your farm was attainable.
- If providing your family with reliable, ongoing economic security was possible.
- If the value of the safe, organic food production on your farm was realized without adverse impact on the environment.

Now believe that this goal is truly reachable through a global network of Agribusiness Economic Development Centers – Partners in building aquaponics centers in major cities and in the poorest communities. We would like you to join us as part of this endeavor.





*This model addresses every single one of the components necessary for sustainable development in an impoverished area. It is not just putting a hoe in people's hands but giving them an equity stake in the economy."*

**– Pamela White, Former  
U.S. Ambassador to Haiti**



FreshMinistries is building state-of-the-art aquaponics centers and training individuals and communities to operate them productively. FreshMinistries, a non-profit organization, has worked for decades to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable communities. In aquaponics, it discovered the near perfect solution to reduce hunger and economic deprivation in impoverished areas where the lack of arable soil and/or water, or the means to otherwise obtain healthy foods and sustainable incomes from farming.

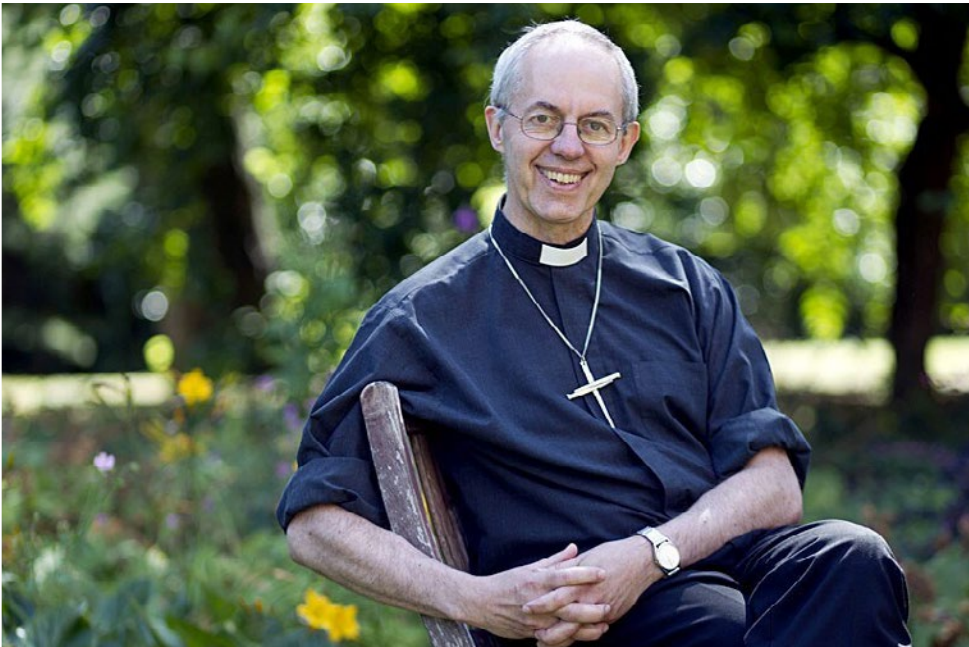


# What is Aquaponics?

Aquaponics is an ancient farming technique used by Aztec Indians as early as 1000 A.D. Aquaponics combines aquaculture and hydroponics to create a symbiotic growing environment within which both plants and fish thrive.

Today, FreshMinistries' aquaponics farms use greenhouse enclosures to increase the opportunities for year-round growing and the introduction of natural, chemical-free pest control.

Additionally, using a controlled space enables aquaponics systems to be built on land previously deemed unsuitable for farming, such as: rooftops, vacant lots in urban settings, churchyards, schools, universities, seminaries, and, areas with poor, limited or damaged soil.

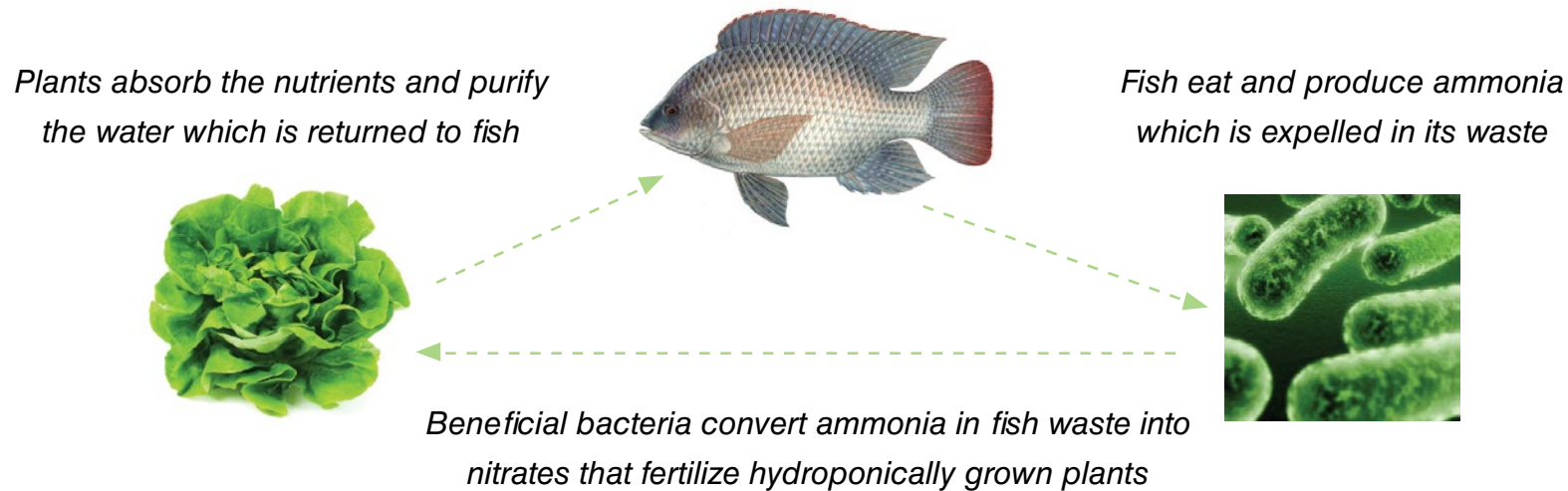


*Christians follow the example of a saviour who knew vulnerability, poverty and exclusion. They are called not only to serve and love the poor as Jesus did, but also to tackle the causes of poverty wherever they're found."*

**– Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby**

# How Aquaponics Works

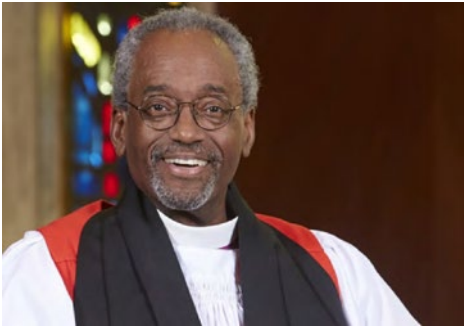
A closed-loop recirculating growth system that combines hydroponically grown produce with aquaculture.



Aquaponics imitates the natural relationship between water, aquatic life, bacteria, nutrients and plants that grow together naturally in waterways all over the world. Further mimicking nature, the sun is harnessed via solar panels to provide renewable energy to fuel the growth centers' pumps and electricity. This method promotes an unbelievably climate/environmentally smart process by:

- Recycling nutrient-rich water continuously so there is no toxic/chemical run-off
- Climate resilient state-of-the-art farming techniques require approximately 5% of the water required for traditional farming
- Can be built on non-arable land such as rooftops, drought prone areas, parking lots, etc.
- Produces 10x the food on 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the land required by traditional farms





*“Christ has no body but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks (with) compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.”*

– The Most Rev. Michael Curry



## FreshMinistries' primary areas of focus



Jacksonville, Florida

Washington, D.C.

New York, New York

Charleston, South Carolina

Terrier-Rouge, Haiti

Mpumalanga, South Africa

London, England

## Making the Dream a Reality

FreshMinistries has already begun to establish aquaponics farms and training centers in several key areas across the globe, including but not limited to, South Africa, Haiti, Washington, D.C., Charleston, S.C., New York City and London. These prototypes enable us to train local entrepreneurs and community members with the skills needed to establish their own successful aquaponics farms and gain financial independence. Moving forward, we intend to target dioceses interested in an aquaponics center and regions particularly plagued with food shortages and economic hardships. We are identifying willing and ready partners and/or donors (individuals, dioceses, congregations, and foundations) with interest in sustainable agribusiness development and feeding the hungry.





## Aquaponics is an essential tool in eliminating the challenges of global hunger, generational poverty and malnutrition

- Aquaponics systems can be built to most sites and budgets and become **economically viable** within a few months after initial operational launch
- Provides **sustainable income** for farmers and encourages financial security and independence
- Introduces production and distribution of healthy foods into food deserts to **boost healthy outcomes**
- **Gender neutral.** Women can easily manage and operate their own farms and gain financial independence for themselves and their families
- Provides a controlled environment for **year-round farming** opportunities and income.





*FreshMinistries works to eliminate extreme poverty by empowering communities and individuals to realize their full potential. Through aquaponics we are putting our mission into practice around the globe.”*

**– The Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III  
Chairman & CEO  
FreshMinistries**

## Who We Are

In 1989, The Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III, an Episcopal priest, founded FreshMinistries as a faith-based mission to eradicate poverty in inner-city Jacksonville, Florida. The mission has grown to reach communities world-wide through programs promoting financial literacy, life skills, job preparation, business incubation, health initiatives, and much more.

With decades of experience in building creative alliances with local and international organizations, FreshMinistries has been partnering with provinces, dioceses, and congregations of the world-wide Anglican Communion to make this dream a reality.

FreshMinistries believes that individuals and communities, including Episcopal congregations in the United States, will consider supporting this initiative to create agribusinesses, sustainable aquaponics greenhouses and training programs throughout the Anglican Communion.







# Accomplishments: Some of What We've Done

## Completed Aquaponics

- Received \$2.4 million grant from U.S. Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce to launch an agribusiness center to support aquaponics farming and entrepreneurship in the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Received a \$500,000 gift through a major global foundation for an aquaponics center in Mpumalanga, South Africa
- Launched a successful 6,000sf aquaponics farm in Jacksonville, FL

## Economic Development

- Established Beaver Street Enterprise Center – the first core city, minority business incubator in the state of Florida
- Named the number one business incubator in the world by National Business Incubator Association
- Launched three clients onto Inc. Magazines' list of 500 fastest growing businesses in the U.S.
- Created thousands of new jobs, hundreds of new businesses and \$350 million in new business revenue

## Financial Literacy

- Developed programs training the poor to understand the concepts of saving, responsible spending, and lending
- Received the Sherman Award from Secretary of the U.S. Treasury for best program in the U.S.
- Helped create the U.S. President's Council on Financial Literacy
- Dr. Lee appointed to the President's Council on Financial Literacy



# Accomplishments: Some of What We've Done

## Education

- Created FreshFutures Youth Program for Duval County high school students, providing training in financial literacy, college readiness, job training, academic enrichment, leadership and character development. The program culminates with summer internships for qualifying students. FreshFutures has served thousands of At-Hope kids in Duval County.
- Founded LifePoint Career Institute training over 1,500 individuals to become Certified Nursing Assistants
- Developed FreshPath enabling us to work with thousands of disadvantaged youth, including the court involved – through job readiness, tutoring and life skills training as well as exposure to numerous cultural events such as the symphony, art museums and college campus visits

## Health

- Created programs teaching youth health and nutrition to avoid risky behaviors
- Taught youth in southern Africa how to avoid HIV/AIDS, saving or impacting 900,000 lives (according to the Harvard School of Public Health)
- Received a \$12,000,000 PEPFAR Grant to eliminate HIV/AIDS in southern Africa

## Housing

- Built, with community partners, affordable homes in economically challenged neighborhoods
- Facilitated the building of hundreds of homes in Jacksonville, Florida's core-city neighborhoods
- Provided access to low-interest loans for low-income buyers

## Safety

- Created programs promoting community involvement and neighborhood safety
- Won a "Weed and Seed" federal grant to fight crime in partnership with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, contributing to a 64-percent crime reduction in one at-risk neighborhood.



# How You Can Help

We are looking toward the Anglican Communion for partners who are willing and able to participate with us on this journey, whether it be partnering on an agribusiness center for your community/parish or donating funds to build an aquaponics system in a region plagued with food shortages and economic turmoil.

If you would like to help with this mission please contact the Rev. Dr. Robert S. Dannals at [dannals@freshministries.org](mailto:dannals@freshministries.org) or if you would like more information about FreshMinistries, please visit our website at [FreshMinistries.org](http://FreshMinistries.org).







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*Building hope. Changing lives.*

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