



## WEEK TEN

The "Souper Bowl" seeks to "love the Lord our God and love our neighbors" by encouraging people to give one dollar each as they leave worship on (or near) Super Bowl Sunday. Young people from congregations in all parts of the country stand at sanctuary exits and receive the dollar donations in large soup pots.

The organizers of the Souper Bowl don't control the use of the money collected. In fact they never touch a penny of it. They believe that each community knows it needs best, so each church is asked to donate its collection directly to a charity it chooses. Organizers only ask that each group report totals on game day so that national totals can be tallied.



The Souper Bowl's straightforward approach has helped it score big since its kickoff. It began when the Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina launched a city-wide effort in 1990. That year 22 churches raised \$5,700. The Souper Bowl was conducted statewide in 1991 & 1992 with 146 and 310 churches joining the team. In 1993, the first national Souper Bowl took place. Well respected

Christian leaders were asked to allow the use of their names as "Advocates" and material was sent to a variety of denominations. The efforts paid off as 885 congregations from roughly 30 states team up to raise \$144,000



The years since has seen the number of churches participating and the money raised climb every year. Last year's Souper Bowl generated \$3.6 million for charities around the country. The 12,500 participating congregations represented all 50 states and Canada. Since it became national in 1993, this simple but significant effort of caring and unity has enabled an aggregate of over \$16

million to be sent to ministries that care for "the least of these our brothers & sisters."

Each year over One hundred-twenty million people will tune in to watch the Super Bowl football game. The Souper Bowl vision is to transform that occasion into a day of caring and unity. With God's help, and with your help, it will happen next year, and the year after that, and the year after that and the year after that.

## Thought for the Day

In this week's thoughts for the day you are going to sample life around the world. While doing so you must pretend you are in a Sunday School class of 20 students.

**Sunday:** 47 of every 100 people in the world are able to read (this means only 11 of your 20 classmates can read)

**Monday:** 35 of every 100 people suffer from hunger or malnutrition (this means 7 of your 20 classmates are chronically hungry or malnourished).

**Tuesday:** 50 of every 100 people are homeless or living in substandard housing (this means 10 of your 20 classmates are either homeless or nearly so).

**Wednesday:** 1 out of every 100 people has a college education (with only 20 students in your class, the odds are that neither you or any of your classmates have a college education).

**Thursday:** The poorest 20% of the world's population (1.3 billion people) collectively earn 2% of the world's income, i.e., about \$1 per day (this means 4 of your 20 classmates have only \$1 per day to live on).

**Friday:** The middle 60% of the world's population (3.5 billion people) collectively earn 33% of the world's income, i.e., just barely enough to get by on (this means 12 of your 20 classmates earn *JUST* enough to survive).

**Saturday:** The richest 20% of the world's population (largely in North America and Europe) collectively earn 65% of the world's income, i.e., earning much more than enough to survive including many luxuries (this means only 4 of your 20 classmates live the lifestyles we have grown accustomed to in the USA).

## Getting Involved

As Souper Bowl 2003 approaches, get your church involved in the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's as easy as A, B, C, D:

- A. ASK.** On Souper Bowl Sunday (or as near as possible), make an announcement asking members to give \$1 each as they leave worship. (Get permission and publicize ahead of time).
- B. BOWL.** Have young people holding large soup pots stand at sanctuary exits to collect the donations.
- C. CALL.** 800-358-SOUP OR, better yet, click on the "report here" button on this web page on game day to report how much your group collected and where you will send it. Your game day reporting will help us provide accurate totals to the media.
- D. DELIVER.** (Or mail) the funds directly to the charity you select. Also, youth groups are encouraged to spend a day serving at the recipient agency.

For more information log onto the Souper Bowl of Caring website  
[www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org)  
or  
contact Donegal Presbytery's Hunger Action Enabler  
Rick Schmidt at 717/252-2970 or [frederick\\_schmidt@yahoo.com](mailto:frederick_schmidt@yahoo.com)