The Bible instructs us to be concerned for the hungry, to work for justice, and to pray for those in need. In this passage from Isaiah 58:7, God commands us to take action for the hungry:

"When you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh. Share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter. Remove your yoke from among them, and the burden from their shoulders. Do not pervert justice in the gate; do not cause your neighbor's bloodshed to be Shed." 

In response to this passage, the International Social Justice Commission (ISJC), based in New York City, is supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the零饥饿目标. These goals aim to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, sets out a vision of a world with zero hunger. The SDGs are a set of 17 goals, each with specific targets, to be achieved by 2030.

Last month we focused on the first SDG — ending extreme poverty by 2030. This month, we will discuss the second SDG, Zero Hunger, which focuses on eradicating hunger and malnutrition, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Throughout the year ISJC leaders have visited countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Pacific to discuss the SDGs with Salvation Army members and employees. They have been discussing the connection between the SDGs and our mission of sharing Christ and building His Church. The SDGs can also be seen as a way to bring justice to our justice work.

Prayer Focus: Zero Hunger

According to the UN, the number of hungry people in the world reached an estimated 786 million in 2015, an increase of 14 million since 2014. At least 49 million people suffer from hunger in the US. The global hunger task force, with a report drafted by ISJC members and experts, documented that the number of people facing extreme food insecurity rose from 112 million in 2005 to 149 million in 2015, with the largest increase in Asia, but also in Africa and the Middle East.

The SDGs are a call to action for all countries until 2030. Read more about the SDGs by visiting www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/isjcun.