



**David Chapman, Interim Executive, Baptist General Convention,
offering a welcome to Childhood Hunger Conference at VUU on 11/18/15**

As I welcome you today to this strategic session as we seek to eliminate hunger among the children of VA. I welcome you as having once been one of those hungry children. As one who can't remember eating breakfast during most of my childhood. Who often went to school without a lunch and when I did -- I would sit ashamed to pull the unwrapped biscuit from the previous nights supper out of the brown greasy bag in which I carried it.

I honestly remember at times not knowing where my next meal was coming from. My mother was single mother with four young children who could not work her waitress job when she had no one to sit us. No public assistance or welfare. No work, no money, no food. Day to day. I remember a tamed rabbit I had as a pet---no more than 6-7 years old, I had to kill it in order for my family to eat.

There were times when I received help from relatives or neighbors:

A precious aunt---who paid for my school lunch for a whole year or more.

A good neighbor who packed my lunch everyday and gave it to me on my way to the bus stop.

Relatives who took me in when our home place was destroyed by fire.

If sporadic help could aid me to move from a childhood of hunger and despair to where I find myself today. How much more would two good meals a day provide a greater opportunity for so many of our children to grow into healthy, productive adults.

I am so privileged to welcome you today.

Welcome to the grounds of this great university

Welcome to the continued fight to feed hungry children, of which I was once one.

Welcome