

OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL'S *HUNGER STRIKE FORCE* EXPANDS PARTNERSHIP WITH KINGSWAY CHARITIES

OBI To Operate Food Distribution Warehouse Serving Appalachia

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (June 30, 2009) – Operation Blessing International (OBI) and Bristol, Virginia-based Kingsway Charities have expanded their longtime partnership. Under the new arrangement, OBI's Hunger Strike Force will operate a 23,000 square-foot food distribution site in Kingsway's warehouse for at least the next five years, enabling OBI's Hunger Strike Force to greatly expand its hunger relief efforts throughout Appalachia. John Gregory, president of Kingsway Charities and OBI president Bill Horan made this announcement today.

For 15 years, Kingsway Charities had been a partner in OBI's Hunger Strike Force, operating its own food distribution site in Bristol. Over the past 5 years, the Hunger Strike Force has delivered over 29.6 million pounds of food and relief aid into the Appalachian region of the U.S., and of that, some 13.7 million pounds specifically to the Kingsway Charities facility. However, Kingsway Charities discontinued its program in January due to financial restraints, and began looking for an organization to take over operations of the warehouse and continue the outreach. Due to its extensive experience in hunger relief, Kingsway Charities chose to expand its partnership with Operation Blessing International.

Now that the expanded partnership is in place, OBI's Hunger Strike Force will begin operations of a regional food distribution site from the Kingsway Charities building. Initially, OBI anticipates distributing as much as 2-to-5 truckloads per week, 175,000 pounds of food, hygiene and additional relief aid into Appalachia, along with utilizing the Bristol warehouse as a distribution hub to stage and transport up to 200,000 pounds of additional product per week to other neighboring states and regions. OBI hopes to be fully operational by the end of the summer and expects to distribute approximately 15 million pounds in the first 12 months.

John Gregory, President of Kingsway Charities stated, "We're extremely excited to expand the partnership with Operation Blessing International's Hunger Strike Force. The need in Appalachia in this current economy is great and we are eager to unite with such an experienced ministry."

Bill Horan, president of Operation Blessing stated, "We are grateful to Kingsway for this opportunity. The current recession is pushing an ever-increasing number of Americans into the ranks of the 'newly made poor.' By combining Operation Blessing's trucking fleet and food resources with Kingsway's strategically-placed facility and multi-denominational church network, we will leverage our mutual strengths, and as a result, feed more people than either of us could have on our own."

ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International is one of the largest non-profit, humanitarian organizations in America, providing strategic hunger and disaster relief, medical aid, clean water and community development in 22 countries around the world on a daily basis. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 202.7 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$1.4 billion to date. OBI's Hunger Strike Force (HSF) has delivered and given away more than 1 billion pounds of food, hygiene and relief aid since 1992. Its fleet of trailer trucks transports a weekly average of 2 million pounds of food and relief supplies to a network of 120 community-based partners in the USA. The food is then distributed to roughly 4,400 local food pantries and hunger relief agencies nationwide.

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