

Every seventh year we will forgo working
the land and will cancel all debts.

Nehemiah 10:31



Dear Jubilee supporter,

I hope you are as excited as I am about the upcoming 2007 Sabbath Year, seven years after the historic Jubilee 2000 campaign.

Inspired by a vision of life in community that is liberating and just, Jubilee campaigners around the world are calling on their political leaders to observe a Sabbath Year in 2007.

In the Judeo-Christian scriptures, the observance of a Sabbath Year requires the cancellation of oppressive debts and the restoration of right relationships among members of the community.

The 2007 Sabbath Year is a time for us to build on the powerful momentum of the global Jubilee campaign. It is an opportunity to build on the victories of the Jubilee 2000 campaign and to take the next step after the historic 2005 agreement which provided more than \$40 billion in debt cancellation for 20 countries.

The 2007 Sabbath Year is an opportunity to put forward a prophetic call for cancellation of unfair and unjust debts for all impoverished nations, without harmful conditions. It is a moment to call for equity and justice in our broken world.

The Sabbath Year Call

So, what's so special about the 2007 Sabbath Year?

- In 2007, we mark the halfway point to the Millennium Development Goals, a promise to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015.
- In 2007, the G8 summit will be held in Germany, where Chancellor Angela Merkel has committed to a summit focus on Africa, poverty, and climate change.
- 2007 is also the 200th anniversary of the end of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade. Inspired by the example of the abolitionist movement, we will build our own movement to abolish global poverty.

I am writing to you today because we need your involvement and your financial support to make Jubilee's Sabbath Year campaign a success. Will you consider a gift of \$50, \$100, or even \$150 today to help Jubilee launch the Sabbath Year?

Your involvement and your investment will make possible a year full of exciting advocacy and activities:

- **A delegation of U.S.-based grassroots Jubilee leaders will travel to the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya** then on to Zambia in January in order to launch the Sabbath Year in collaboration with our African partners.

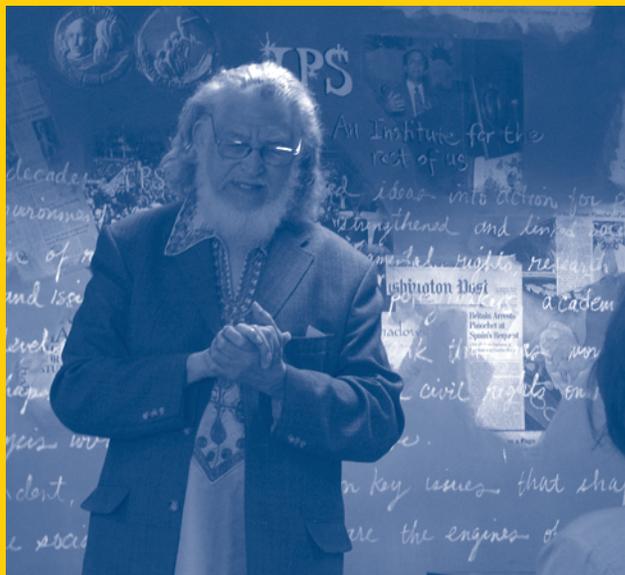
The Sabbath

Year is a moment

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Yes, it's an ambitious agenda. But the history of the Jubilee movement shows that we can achieve it with your participation and support!



- On January 21, 2007, Jubilee Congregations around the country will launch the Sabbath Year with **Jubilee Sunday** services and events.
- The Jubilee USA Network will hold its **Second Annual Grassroots Training Conference in Chicago** from April 28-29, 2007, bringing more than 150 grassroots supporters to get educated and inspired, and gain organizing and advocacy skills.
- Denominational assemblies around the country plan to introduce **Sabbath Year resolutions** in support of debt cancellation for the world's impoverished countries.
- In the fall of 2007, as the Sabbath Year draws to a close, Jubilee USA will organize **a nation-wide rolling Sabbath Year fast. The rolling fast will happen** in tandem with a public fast by Rev. David Duncombe, who will walk the Halls of Congress and speak with Members of Congress about debt cancellation legislation as he did for Jubilee 2000.
- As a member of the **ONE Campaign**, Jubilee USA will work throughout 2007 to put forward a clear call for 100 percent debt cancellation.

Our goal by the end of 2007 is a hearing in Congress on a re-introduced JUBILEE Act – a bill that calls for debt cancellation for all countries that need it to fight global poverty, without harmful economic policy strings attached.

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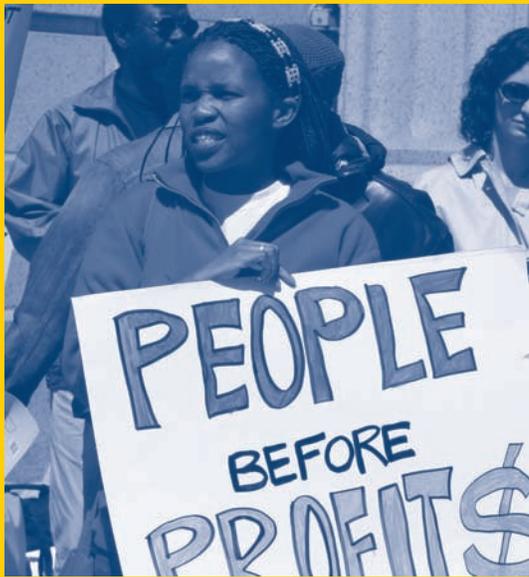
Getting Results in 2006

On October 12, more than 100 Jubilee members and supporters from around the country joined us in Washington, D.C. for our **First Annual Celebration Dinner**.

The dinner provided an opportunity to honor some of the "superstars" of the Jubilee movement, including **Lidy Nacpil**, coordinator of Jubilee South; **Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)** and **Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL)**, longtime Congressional champions; and Jubilee grassroots leaders including **Jean O'Leary** from San Diego, **Diana Bohn** from the Bay Area, **Dick Heidkamp** and **Dan McGuire** Mary Seat of Wisdom Church, a Jubilee Congregation in Park Ridge, Ill., **Pat Rumer** from Portland, Oregon, and **Rita Jankowska-Bradley** from Montana.

At the Celebration Dinner, we reflected on a year of achievements, a year of making an impact in the lives of people across the globe:

- In March we mobilized pressure on World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, causing him to rescind a proposal that would have delayed debt relief for some African countries by 15 months.
- Together with partners in Latin America, we put pressure on the InterAmerican Development Bank to move towards providing 100 percent debt cancellation for 5 Latin American nations, including Haiti. A committee of the IDB's Board of Governors has been formed to formulate a debt cancellation proposal and a decision is expected soon.
- We are already seeing the impacts of debt relief that our advocacy helped to yield in 2005. In Ghana, more money is available for education and healthcare. In Zambia, user fees have been abolished on healthcare in rural areas. In Tanzania, debt cancellation has provided free public education for children who before could not afford to attend school.
- In October and November, we held our **3rd National Global Connections speaking tour**, bringing debt campaigners from Zambia, Peru, the Philippines, and Nigeria to 11 U.S. cities over the course of a month for speaking events, meetings with church leaders, media interviews, and meetings with Members of Congress and their staff.



If the prophetic vision of right relationships, equity, and justice inspires you as it does me, I hope you will join with us in the Sabbath Year!

- With your help, we generated more than 65 co-sponsors for a resolution in the House of Representatives calling for immediate debt cancellation for Haiti, the most impoverished nation in the Western Hemisphere, which suffers under a crushing burden of illegitimate debt.

While doing this, Jubilee has continued to build and sustain strong relationships with communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America that are calling for debt cancellation and working to guarantee that debt cancellation is used to the benefit of local communities.

A Powerful Agenda

Thanks to your support and involvement, we have had a successful year in 2006. But to meet the demands of the 2007 Sabbath Year, we need to expand our program and staff.

With an expanded budget in 2007, we will:

- **Hire an additional staff person to help us capitalize on the interest of more than 300 congregations across the country who have expressed interest in becoming a member of our Jubilee Congregations program.**
- **Establish regional and local organizers in key states to ensure enough Congressional co-sponsors on the JUBILEE Act to win a hearing on the bill in the new Congress.**
- **Increase our communications capacity so that we can get our message out – via the media, on the Internet, in religious and faith-based publications, and more!**

We can see the impact of our work through the improved quality of life of people in countries receiving debt cancellation; in the inspiration and empowerment of local Jubilee chapters and congregations across the country; and by reaching and involving new people with the message of Jubilee hope and justice. We have been making an impact, and we want to make an even bigger impact in the 2007 Sabbath Year.

If the prophetic Jubilee vision of right relationships, equity, and justice inspires you as it does me, I hope you will join with us in the Sabbath Year.

Check the box on the enclosed tear-off card to receive the latest news and action suggestions via our monthly e-mail update. Contact us to find out how you can celebrate Jubilee Sunday in your congregation. Visit our website at www.jubileeusa.org to learn even more about the debt issue and the many ways that you can make a difference.

Last but not least, please consider a generous end-of-year gift to help us launch the 2007 Sabbath Year. We will gratefully welcome your gift of \$50, \$100, \$150, or whatever you can afford. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift to Jubilee today! We look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the year ahead.

Blessings to you all as we enter the holiday season,

Neil Watkins
National Coordinator

PS – For your gift of \$150 or more, we'll send you a complimentary copy of the new **Break the Chains! CD**, potent music with a purpose. The album features the powerful and inspirational sounds of Zimbabwean artist Oliver Mtukudzi, The Welfare Poets, Sweet Honey In The Rock, and 16 other musicians.

PPS – Please don't delay in responding. Your gift will be put right to work!



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**We need your
help to win debt
cancellation in the
2007 Sabbath Year,
seven years after
Jubilee 2000!**

Jubilee USA Network

2007: The Sabbath Year

January 2007

Jan. 19-31 – **Jubilee USA** in Kenya for the World Social Forum and Zambia

Jan. 15 – Jubilee's Offices Closed in observance of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday*

Jan. 21 – **Jubilee Sunday**
The Gospel reading will be Luke 4:14-21

Jan. 29-Feb 1 – Jubilee USA at the **National Workshop on Christian Unity** in Washington D.C.

February 2007

Feb 16-18 – Jubilee USA **workshop** on debt at the **Coalition for Christian Outreach Conference** in Pittsburgh

March 2007

March 9-12 – **Ecumenical Advocacy Days** in Washington, D.C. Talk with your Members of Congress about the JUBILEE Act!

April 2007

April 14-15 – **IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings** in Washington, D.C.

April 28-29 – **Jubilee Grassroots Conference** in Chicago

June 2007

June 6-8 – **G8 Summit** in Heiligendamm, Germany

July 2007

The summer marks the **official halfway point** to the Millennium Development Goals

Fall 2007

National Rolling Fast calls for a hearing on the JUBILEE Act. We'll send you information about how you can join the fast.

IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, D.C.

Fall Action and Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., organized by Jubilee USA

Drop the Debt! Global Connections

Speaking Tour nationally launches featuring activists from our partners in the Global South. Invite these activists to discuss the impact of debt in your community!

Hearing on the JUBILEE Act in the Financial Services Committee or a **People's Hearing** on Capitol Hill.

Take Action & Get Involved

Tune in and take action during the 2007 Sabbath Year by joining our monthly conference calls. The **Grassroots Call** is every second Tuesday and the **Policy Call** is every second Thursday.

*Please note that Jubilee USA's national offices are closed during all federal holidays.

Jubilee USA Network

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