



December 1, 2007

Dear Friend of Jubilee USA,

I am writing to you as the 2007 Sabbath Year draws to a close to say thank you.

Thank you for the critical role you played in helping us to achieve our amazing victories this year.

We knew that this would be a special year. We set some ambitious goals. And, together with the help of tens of thousands of supporters like you, we met those goals.

As you reflect on our achievements together in 2007, *I hope that you will consider making an end of the year investment in the future of Jubilee USA so that we will have the capacity we need to win passage of bold Jubilee legislation in the U.S. Congress. Will you make a gift of \$50, \$100, \$250, or \$500 today?*

SABBATH YEAR SUCCESS

We began 2007 with a prophetic Jubilee vision. A vision of a world without want and injustice, a world of right relationships, equity, and justice for all.

We set 2 big policy goals this year. First, we wanted to see new, Jubilee debt legislation introduced into the House of Representatives and we wanted to win a committee hearing on this legislation. Second, we sought to win the introduction of a companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

I am happy to report that we have achieved both of these policy goals! The bi-partisan Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007 (HR 2634) was introduced by Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) on June 7, 2007. Since that day, the bill has gathered 87 co-sponsors. On November 8, the House Financial Services Committee, under the leadership of Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), held a legislative hearing on the Act. With your help and support we will see the bill passed by the committee and moved to the House floor for a vote in early 2008!

On October 16, a bi-partisan group of Senators led by Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Richard Lugar (R-IN), and Christopher Dodd (D-CT), introduced S. 2166, the Senate companion bill to the Jubilee Act. The Senate bill now has 12 co-sponsors, with strong bi-partisan support, and a hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is in the works for later this year.

This legislation goes a long way toward addressing the unfinished agenda on international debt. It would:

- ⊕ Cancel the debts of up to 24 additional nations not currently eligible for debt cancellation, provided that they demonstrate plans to spend the money on effective poverty reduction strategies;
- ⊕ Cut harmful economic policy prerequisites that are delaying access to life-saving debt relief for countries like Haiti and Liberia;
- ⊕ Require the Treasury Secretary to address the challenges presented by so-called vulture funds, one of which recently extracted \$15 million from impoverished Zambia; and
- ⊕ Establish policies for responsible lending to avoid the accumulation of odious and unjust debt in the future.

While great leadership by the Members of Congress mentioned above was essential, it was the activism of thousands of Jubilee supporters like you that made the critical difference, especially during the Cancel Debt Fast campaign.

"The Jubilee Movement is one of the most outstanding humanitarian efforts I have seen in my career. I am so proud of my affiliation with the Jubilee Movement because it **brought the needs of the world's poorest people to the attention**

REP. MAXINE WATERS (D-CA) of the **world's most powerful leaders.**
HEARING OF THE HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 8, 2007

"God has told us often times that we can't give away enough. I think **demonstration of His power and His love and His** **debt relief is a promise.**

I could not have imagined in 2000 the difference that all of you **REP. SPENCER BACHUS (R-AL)** have made, that Rev. Duncombe has made."
SPEAKING AT THE JUBILEE PRAYER BREAKFAST, OCTOBER 16, 2007

PHOTO: STUDENTS GATHER OUTSIDE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL | MT. MERU, TANZANIA

According to the World Bank, Tanzania has received \$3 billion in debt relief. Since then, the country has increased funding for poverty reduction by 130 percent over the last six years. Debt cancellation has allowed the country to eliminate school fees, resulting in an estimated 1.6 million children in school almost overnight and 3.1 million children in school in 2003. With the savings from debt relief, over 31,000 classrooms were built.

BACK COVER PHOTO BY STEVE DENNIS

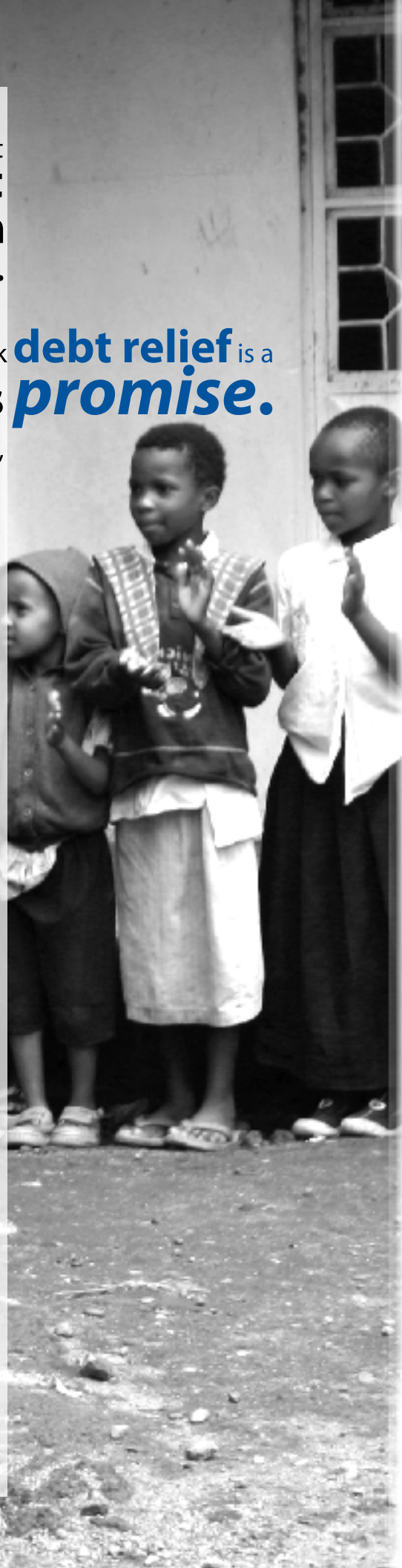
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YOUR HELP TO BUILD
ON THIS YEAR'S VICTORIES
AND TO WIN
THE CANCELLATION
OF UNJUST DEBTS.**

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THE CANCEL DEBT FAST: QUICK IMPACT

The Cancel Debt Fast was a nation-wide, 40-day rolling fast calling for cancellation of unfair and illegitimate debts and for more responsible lending. The fast ran from September 6 to October 15, 2007. At the same time, Rev. David Duncombe, a retired United Church of Christ minister who led similar fasts in 1999 and 2000, engaged in a 46-day water only fast in Washington, D.C. to help persuade Congress to support the Jubilee Act.

I had the privilege of spending a lot of time with David during his 46-day ministry of fasting here in Washington. As we walked together through the halls of Congress from one meeting to the next David's personal sacrifice and witness affected me deeply and personally. It also affected countless Members of Congress and their staff who met David or heard about his witness on Capitol Hill.

So much so that 5 Members of Congress joined 30 other well-known personalities including 2 Nobel Prize Winners and 2 former African presidents in day-long fasts of their own, in solidarity with David.

David's sacrifice also motivated many of you. More than 18,000 of you fasted for a day or more with David. While you fasted, you called Congress, and you sent more than 10,000 paper plates with the message: "I'm Hungry for Justice" to your Members of Congress.

In fact, you sent so many plates to our office that until very recently, our conference room was nearly unusable — it was so full of your plates! As David and the Jubilee staff delivered your plates to Congressional offices, the list of Jubilee Act co-sponsors grew by the day.

Adding to our effort, partners like Bread for the World, the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference, the NAACP, and the ONE campaign mobilized, too. In the critical final week of the fast, the ONE campaign generated more than 40,000 letters and 4,000 phone calls about the Jubilee Act to Congress.

ADDRESSING THE UNFINISHED AGENDA

We have other progress to report in 2007:

- ⊕ In January, more than 80 congregations across the country celebrated the Jubilee vision of justice and right relationships on *Jubilee Sunday*. Over the course of the year, *more than 25 new churches have officially joined the Jubilee congregations program.*
- ⊕ In March, under pressure from Jubilee USA and global partners, the *Inter-American Development Bank agreed to provide more than \$3 billion in debt cancellation* for Nicaragua, Honduras, Bolivia, and Guyana.
- ⊕ In the spring, we launched a campaign against "vulture funds," which are undermining the gains of debt relief in Zambia and elsewhere. We testified at a hearing on the subject held in the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and we are working with allies in Congress to put an end to the practice.
- ⊕ Over the year, we created pressure for cancellation of *Liberia's unjust and illegitimate debt*. In February, you sent in more than 10,000 handmade "Valentines" to U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr. to raise a strong call for immediate debt cancellation for Liberia. We just learned that the IMF has agreed to clear Liberia's \$800-million arrears, paving the way for eventual debt cancellation.
- ⊕ In June, we gathered Jubilee supporters from across the country at our *2nd Annual National Grassroots Training & Organizing Conference* in Chicago, where more than 170 participants came to learn and be inspired — more than double the number that participated in the conference the year before.
- ⊕ We've been working with Haiti solidarity groups to win *expedited debt cancellation for Haiti* by supporting H. Res. 241 which calls for immediate cancellation of Haiti's unjust debt. Tragically, Haiti remains mired in the red tape of the IMF/World Bank's debt relief program, while it sends more than \$50 million a year in debt payments to Washington and millions go without food, health care and education.

TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

We've achieved a lot together in 2007. But there's much that must be done to build on the progress of the past year. *The tragic reality is that impoverished nations are still sending \$100 million each day to our government and other wealthy creditors* — money that should be going for health, education, clean water and other needs to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The IMF continues to require countries to adopt harmful economic policies that hurt the poor in exchange for debt relief. Vulture funds continue to prey on impoverished countries. Irresponsible lending still looms large as a threat for many poor nations.

But the powerful Jubilee vision of right relationships, equality, and new beginnings leads us forward to meet and overcome each of the challenges before us.

As we take the next step together, we will need your continued financial support to build on our successes. *Will you consider a gift of \$50, \$100, \$250, or \$500 this holiday season?*

People are often surprised when they learn that Jubilee USA operates with a full-time, salaried staff of 5, plus 2 incredible full-time volunteers. We make a modest budget go a long way. We get results. But we depend upon the generosity of hundreds of individual donors, churches, religious communities, and organizations like yours for the majority of our funding. *That's why your support is so critical as this Sabbath Year draws to a close.*

In 2008, we will need your help again. As the Jubilee Act moves out of committee and to the House floor, we'll need you, and we'll need your family, your friends, your friends' friends and anyone else you can help us reach with the Jubilee message of economic justice for all. Our goal: Passage of the Jubilee Act in both Houses of Congress in 2008. Then we will work together to get the new administration to implement the plan in 2009.

To get there, we've developed a strategy. We'll be doing intense outreach and advocacy in states that are home to key legislators and policymakers. We'll be continuing our direct advocacy on Capitol Hill. We'll be organizing a speaking tour in the spring and expanding the Jubilee Congregations program. In the meantime, mark your calendars for a few key dates in 2008:

- ⊕ March 7 -10: Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice in Washington, D.C. Join the Jubilee track and get ready to advocate for economic justice.
- ⊕ April 13: Jubilee Sunday is a great opportunity to involve churches in your community!
- ⊕ June 2008: 3rd Annual Grassroots Training & Organizing Conference in Ohio
- ⊕ October 2008: Jubilee USA Annual Network Council Meeting & Lobby Day in Washington, D.C.
- ⊕ December 13: Jubilee Sunday

As we reflect back on the past year, we are so very grateful to you and Jubilee supporters all across the country for your involvement and support. *Please help us one final time this year with a generous gift of \$50, \$100, \$250, or \$500 so that we can continue to do great things together in the year ahead.*

Peace & blessings to you and your family this holiday season,

NW

Neil Watkins
National Coordinator

P.S. You can make an end-of-the-year gift by using the enclosed envelope and reply card or by donating through our secure online server at www.jubileeusa.org. While you're there, check out all the latest news and action opportunities at our regularly updated website!

