

# JUBILEE ACT TALKING POINTS



## 2007: THE SABBATH YEAR

### SUPPORT BROADER DEBT CANCELLATION TO FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY

#### FOR USE IN DISCUSSING THE JUBILEE ACT WITH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

---



Sub-Saharan Africa has repaid 90 percent of the \$294 billion received in loans between 1970 and 2002. However, high interest rates and unjust lending practices have left \$201 billion in debt remaining, totaling \$14 billion of annual debt service for all Sub-Saharan nations combined.

---



Even with the small steps taken to cancel debt so far, Uganda has been able to double its school enrollment and Mozambique has vaccinated 500,000 children.

---



Burundi was able to eliminate school fees in 2005, allowing an additional 300,000 children to gain access to education. In Zambia, 4,500 new teachers have been hired and fees for rural healthcare have been abolished since 2006.

---



Yet despite these and other successes to date for every dollar Africa receives in aid, it pays out \$2.30 in debt service.

---



Expanded debt cancellation for 67 of the world's most impoverished countries, which the JUBILEE Act calls for, is crucial for them to have any hope of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

---



Removing economic conditions from debt cancellation, such as those requiring impoverished countries to privatize much-needed resources or freeze all hiring and salaries for health care workers, would further enable these countries to channel resources towards poverty alleviation.

---



The JUBILEE Act also calls for an audit of lending to those impoverished countries that have demonstrably odious or illegitimate debts such as Haiti and Liberia.