

# STAND UP, TAKE ACTION

**STAND UP  
SPEAK OUT**  
AGAINST POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

As Christians, we have a specific message of hope to bring to this movement. Jesus stood up and spoke out about the injustices that were happening in his time. Our scriptures tell us that God cares deeply for those who are oppressed and that God promises to hear us when we pray. But prayers don't have to be quiet!

This weekend, people all over the world are Standing Up and Taking Action to fight poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Though we know God hears our prayers quiet or loud, it makes a great witness to others to proclaim loudly God's message of love and freedom.

## TAKE THE PLEDGE

**Leader:** I ask you now to Stand Up with me against poverty and recite this pledge.

**All:** We stand now with millions around the world on this symbolic day to show our commitment to the fight against extreme poverty and inequality. We stand now because we refuse to accept more excuses in a world where 50,000 people die every day as a result of extreme poverty. We stand now because as people of faith we value the lives of all people. We stand now because we want our leaders to honor their promises to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and we ask them to exceed these goals.

As a Jubilee people, we are standing because we believe that debt cancellation and the creation of more just economic policies are essential to bringing economic justice and an end to global poverty. Today and everyday we will stand up and take action against poverty. We will continue to pray for those in poverty and for our world leaders. We will continue to fight against poverty and injustice throughout the world. We will continue to hold our leaders accountable to their promises.

We stand with millions of others around the world to shout: End poverty now!

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## A JUBILEE VISION

Jubilee USA Network is part of the worldwide movement of people of faith and conscience seeking to cancel the debts of impoverished countries and work toward a responsible and just international economy.

Jubilee USA is a bipartisan, not-for-profit alliance that includes a broad range of religious, social justice, environmental, and development organizations, as well as thousands of individuals who are working for a definitive solution to the international debt crisis through active solidarity with partners worldwide, targeted and timely advocacy strategies, and educational outreach.

### Spotlight on Debt Relief in Zambia

Zambia is one of the nations that has already benefited from debt cancellation. Zambians like the teachers at the rural Chibombo Secondary School worked hard to meet the requirements for debt cancellation. Since then, they have seen expansion of the health clinic, new teachers hired, new schools built, and greater gender equality in education. Yet they still face enormous challenges. Tuition is now free, but families are still burdened by the cost of uniforms and supplies. Debt relief has also helped to achieve improved food security in Burundi, increased investment in health and education in Nicaragua, and improved gender equality in Nigeria.

Many other countries are still waiting for even these small results from debt relief, and all countries could benefit from improved international standards for lending and foreign aid.

Jubilee USA is one of many organizations working to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals:

- 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- 2) Achieve universal primary education.
- 3) Promote gender equality and empower women.
- 4) Reduce child mortality.
- 5) Improve maternal health.
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.
- 7) Ensure environmental sustainability.
- 8) Create a global partnership and address unsustainable debt.



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