

# The Birmingham News

## **Kudos to Bachus for Jubilee Act:**

Alabamians can be proud of U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus. For 10 years, he has championed one of our most effective global anti-poverty measures. This Jubilee legislation is based in Scripture: Deuteronomy 14:28-29 and 15:1-2 and Leviticus 25: 8-10, which call for debt forgiveness every 50 years.

I became involved when I read 19,000 children starved to death every day in Sub-Saharan Africa because up to one-half of their nations' annual budgets were being siphoned off as debt service by Western creditors.

As a Christian, I felt the best way to save those lives was to join Bachus on Capitol Hill and call on Congress as a starving person myself - symbolizing the millions of people starving in impoverished countries. By the Lord's grace and Bachus' support, I was given the strength to fast on water for 47 days in 1999 and 50 days in 2000.

But dozens of impoverished countries continue to struggle under the crushing burden of debt. Bachus introduced the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation (HR 2634) to help the people of these countries. I recently completed another 46-day fast for them.

Time is running out. The Jubilee Act will likely be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives this month.

Bachus should be commended for the essential role he has played in this important work. He deserves our support to win over those in Congress for whom saving human lives seems not that important.

The Rev. David C. Duncombe

White Salmon, Wash.