

**"IS NOT THIS THE KIND OF FASTING I HAVE CHOSEN: TO LOOSE THE CHAINS OF INJUSTICE AND UNTIE THE CORDS OF THE YOKE, TO SET THE OPPRESSED FREE AND BREAK EVERY YOKE."
ISAIAH 58:6**

WHY WE FAST

From the hunger strikes employed by suffragettes and activists for civil rights in the United States, South Africa and England to Mahatma Gandhi's fasts as a leader in the struggle to end British colonialism to the fasts employed by the peace movement in opposition to repression in Latin America and war in Iraq, fasting has long joined people of many religious traditions with the resolutely secular in a powerful response to oppression and injustice.

Fasting is a part of many of the world's religious traditions. Moses fasted before receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert before beginning his public ministry. Observant Muslims fast every day during the month of Ramadan. Fasting accompanies many Hindu rituals and festivals.

The power of fasting in the context of the worldwide struggle for debt cancellation and economic justice comes from its joining together of the political with the very personal. By fasting, we deepen our understanding of what it means to be hungry, not by choice, but by necessity.

Fasting and the experience of hunger provide an opportunity for reflection and exploration of how we in the global North might be in more genuine solidarity with those who suffer as a consequence of our affluence. Fasting is also a way for us to demonstrate to policy makers the depth of our commitment to see the people of the global South free from the chains of oppressive and unjust debts.

ABOUT THE CANCEL DEBT FAST

The central event of the 2007 Sabbath Year will be the worldwide 40-day **CANCEL DEBT FAST** calling for debt cancellation and an end to global poverty.

The fast will take place from September 6 to October 15. In the United States, the fast will be organized in tandem with a public ministry of prayer and fasting led by the Rev. David Duncombe in support of the debt cancellation that is necessary to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The Rev. Duncombe's ministry will involve an open-ended fast, beginning on September 6, 2007. As he fasts, Rev. Duncombe will visit House and Senate offices key to the passage of debt cancellation legislation, talking specifically to the office staff and to

the office holder whenever possible about how their own religious faith and spiritual practices relate to the objectives of debt cancellation and an end to global poverty and hunger.

Jubilee supporters are welcome to join with Rev. Duncombe in Washington, DC for part or all of the 40-day fast, but they can also offer support in their communities by committing to participate in a nationwide fast for debt cancellation and an end to global poverty.

Individuals and local groups can participate in this Rolling Fast by publicly committing to fast for a day or more and on the same day to contact or meet with their Member of Congress, asking the congressperson to support the JUBILEE Act as well as just trade and poverty-focused development assistance to fight global poverty.

THE SABBATH YEAR: THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE CALL

In the late 1990s, a broad network of people of faith and conscience came together under the banner of Jubilee 2000, challenging policy makers to address the international debt crisis. This mobilization brought the issue of debt to the world's attention, but it did not end the debt crisis.

Seven years after the beginning of the new millennium, we live in a world that remains seriously out of balance. Seven years after the first Jubilee debt campaign, the global gap between rich and poor continues to expand. In 2007, the world will reach the halfway point to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — global commitments that would cut extreme poverty in half by 2015. Despite these commitments, we are nowhere near meeting the goals.

Some of the money needed to meet the MDGs can be generated from aid, but new infusions of aid cannot be effective until the drain of debt payments is stopped and the burden of structural adjustment policy conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank is lifted.

Inspired by the Jubilee vision of liberation and fullness of life for all, people of faith and conscience around the world are calling their political leaders to observe a Sabbath Year in 2007, seven years after Jubilee 2000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Jubilee USA Network
222 E. Capitol St. NE
Washington DC 20003
www.jubileeusa.org

REGISTER NOW FOR THE CANCEL DEBT FAST!

You can sign up for the **CANCEL DEBT FAST** using this form or by going online to www.canceldebtfast.org.

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

MOBILE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL _____

YOUR COMMITMENT

During the fast, you can commit to one to 40 days of fasting. This fast is not limited to food. You can abstain from sweets, T.V., a favorite food or activity. The most important part of the **CANCEL DEBT FAST** is for you to contact and/or meet with your Members of Congress about the JUBILEE Act — debt cancellation legislation that is part of a worldwide mobilization to end global poverty.

GIVE A FAST CONTRIBUTION

A donation is not required to join the **CANCEL DEBT FAST**, but your gift at any level is immediately put to work in support of the Sabbath Year work for debt cancellation and economic justice. Please contribute the cost of a meal or one day's food. We've already included the tip!:

- \$5: Breakfast
- \$15: Lunch
- \$25: Dinner
- \$45: One day's meal
- \$50: One day's meal, plus dessert
- \$100: Family Dinner
- Other Amount _____

(PLEASE TURN OVER)

JOIN THE CANCEL DEBT FAST!

NUMBER OF DAYS _____

START FAST DATE _____

END FAST DATE _____

YOUR ACTION

- Contact my Member of Congress (MOC) about the JUBILEE Act by phone, fax, or letter.
- Visit my MOC and discuss the JUBILEE Act.
- I have an appointment with my MOC.
- I would like assistance in scheduling a meeting.
- Send a letter to the editor about the fast.

FAST COMPANY

Would you like to:

- Join the monthly listserv.
- Join the grassroots listserv (4-5 e-mails/month).
- Start or join a Jubilee Group in your community.
- Write a blog entry about your fast experience.

THE POETRY PROJECT

Turn your passion for economic justice into a work of art! For more information call 202.546.4470 or e-mail nathan@jubileeusa.org. Look for details on the fast website.

ACTIVISM YOU CAN SEE + HEAR

Send Jubilee USA a photo video, or audio file of what you, your friends, your organization or faith community are doing during the **CANCEL DEBT FAST**. Be as creative as you want! You may want to use this opportunity to share why the fast is important to you or how the fast challenged your perspective on debt and global poverty. Please send your audio/visual files to Jubilee USA via e-mail at coord@jubileeusa.org or mail it to the address below.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

We want to know why you're joining thousands of people of faith and conscience across the globe for the fast. Feel free to attach an additional sheet.

Please do share my comments.

Please do not share my comments with others.

MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Jubilee USA Network
Cancel Debt Fast
222 E. Capitol St. NE
Washington DC 20003



A GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION

FOR DEBT CANCELLATION + ECONOMIC JUSTICE

OCTOBER 14-21, 2007

Jubilee USA urges people of faith and conscience from around the country to come to Washington, DC for the week of action, especially for the lobby day and training on October 16 to 17. Your presence is essential to create the public pressure necessary to achieve debt cancellation for every country that requires it to meet the Millennium Development Goals, without harmful policy conditions attached!

OCTOBER 14

Global week of action to end the debt crisis begins.

OCTOBER 15

Day 40 of the **CANCEL DEBT FAST**.

OCTOBER 16

We will break the 40-day **CANCEL DEBT FAST** to end global poverty with a **Prayer Breakfast** on Capitol Hill, led by religious and political leaders. The prayer breakfast will be followed by lobby training for grassroots debt cancellation advocates in preparation for Jubilee USA's National Lobby Day.

OCTOBER 17

Jubilee USA National Lobby Day for debt cancellation in Washington, DC. A special reception on Capitol Hill will end the day, bringing key Congressional supporters, U.S.-based grassroots supporters and international debt campaigners together in a celebration of both **Global White Band Day**, an international day of action to eradicate global poverty, and the **10th anniversary of the Jubilee USA Network**.

OCTOBER 18

Jubilee USA Network Council Meeting

OCTOBER 19 TO 21

Annual Meetings of the IMF/World Bank present opportunities for protest, advocacy and networking with debt campaigners from around the world. Plans TBA

**JOIN JUBILEE USA'S NATIONAL
CANCEL DEBT FAST
SEPTEMBER 6 TO OCTOBER 15, 2007**