



Members of Jubilee Oregon join together for a photo for Jubilee's Picture New Leadership on Global Poverty and Debt campaign in September 2008.

December 1, 2008

Dear Friend of Jubilee USA,

As this year draws to a close, I am writing today to thank you and to ask for your continued support.

First, *thank you for your support for Jubilee USA—for your donations, for your calls to your Member of Congress, for your participation in Jubilee events.*

Together we made an impact this year. **Together, we put international debt and the need for more responsible global lending back on the agenda in Washington and in communities across the USA.**

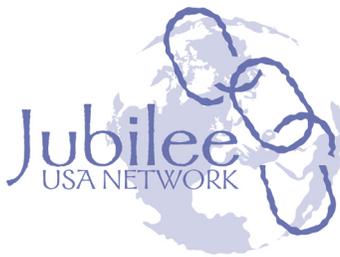
In a period of just less than a year—from June 2007 when Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Congressman Spencer Bachus introduced the Jubilee Act in the House of Representatives—to April 2008, when the bill passed the full House with a strong bi-partisan majority—we amassed a coalition of tens of thousands who made a prophetic call for justice for the world's poor *and won.*

One of the most exciting—and nail-biting—moments for me this year was watching the debate on the floor of the US House of Representatives on April 16, 2008. As the Pope met with President Bush across town, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi delivered a rare speech on the House floor emphasizing the importance of debt cancellation as a tool to fight poverty. Republican Congressman Spencer Bachus also spoke eloquently, pointing out that debt relief “is dollar for dollar the most effective program in assuring our national security.” After a dramatic moment in which an unexpected procedural maneuver almost scrapped the whole thing, the House passed the ground-breaking legislation by a strong bi-partisan vote of 285-132!

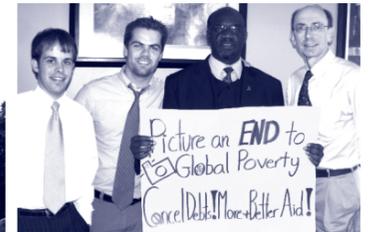
Following the House vote, the Senate moved quickly to pass a bill out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with broad bi-partisan support. But due to Senate rules and election year timing, as of this writing we don't know whether the Jubilee Act will pass the Senate before the end of the current Congress—it is being held up by one Senator who has put a hold on the bill. But even if the Jubilee Act does not pass, **the work we have done together this year has put us in an excellent position—with renewed commitment from leaders across the political spectrum—to accomplish the agenda embodied in the Jubilee Act by working with Congress and the new Administration over the next two years.**

We need your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, or \$500 today to turn the legislative victories of this past year into real change that will impact peoples' lives around the globe.

(Continued, over please)



“Together, we put international debt and the need for more responsible global lending back on the agenda in Washington.”



Jubilee chapters and congregations across the United States took a picture as part of Jubilee's Picture New Leadership on Global Poverty and Debt campaign this fall.

Global Financial Crisis: Time For A Change

As we celebrate our successes, we recognize that the financial crisis ripping through the US and economies around the world presents huge new challenges as we move forward. Here in the US, things are looking grim. We must demand a response from our government that prioritizes the needs of the majority and the poor in this country. But we also can't forget the impact of this crisis on the rest of the world.

Is this global financial crisis something new, or does it represent a repeat of past patterns and a failure of global policymakers to learn lessons from past mistakes? The rising price of oil and food in today's global economy is strikingly similar to trends in the 1970's at the start of the global debt crisis. Meanwhile, the rising cost of food—driven in part by speculation—threatens government budgets and peoples' survival in impoverished countries worldwide.

Jubilee USA will continue to fight for policies—like expanded debt cancellation, more responsible lending, and an end to harmful economic policy requirements—critical to ensuring that the poor across the globe do not pay the highest price for a crisis they had nothing to do with creating.

Our Plan for the Next Four Years

Over the past year, Jubilee USA has been consulting with members, allies, international partners, and you to evaluate our work and determine a new direction in light of our recent victories and the big new challenges in the world.

Jubilee's new strategic plan reaffirms our commitment to the prophetic Jubilee vision of justice and right relationships among people and nations.

We will continue the work which sparked the global Jubilee movement—ensuring that the United States upholds its current commitments to debt cancellation programs and winning urgently needed debt relief for countries that have not benefited yet. We will build on our legislative success with the Jubilee Act over the past two years to win expanded debt cancellation to help meet the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs), and to win an official debt audit to identify and examine odious and illegitimate debts.

But it is also essential to look at the root causes of indebtedness and the need for global financial reform and greater economic justice. **The current financial crisis underlines the need for strong new global rules for more principled and responsible international lending—to avoid the recurrence of the debt crisis, and to avoid the creation of new odious and illegitimate debts.**

To avoid the next debt crisis, we must redouble our advocacy for assistance to be provided to impoverished countries in the form of grants, rather than loans. As an essential part of these efforts, the tremendous climate debt owed to the South by the North must be addressed. In light of the growing impact of climate change on development and as a matter of justice, we must work together to ensure that adaptation to climate change is financed through grants not loans.

As we move forward with this agenda, we celebrate our vital role as the US arm of a **vibrant, increasingly coordinated and effective global movement—with partners in more than 80 nations across the globe—challenging crushing debt and working for principled, responsible, and alternative forms of financing for development.** We affirm our commitment to build even stronger partnerships with our global allies, taking leadership in our work from our Southern partners most affected by the crisis of debt.

To do this work, we need your continued support. Will you give \$25, \$50, \$150, \$250, or \$500 to support our exciting new plans?

As we work toward our new goals in the years ahead, **we have some exciting plans to get us started in 2009.** Here is a preview of what we are planning for the coming year—and how you can get involved.

- We will be **urging the new administration to support the agenda laid out in the Jubilee Act.** We'll need your

voice in this effort to powerfully communicate the Jubilee vision to the new president;

- In 2009, **we have a unique and literally once in a lifetime opportunity to affect the policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).** The IMF is seeking to sell some of its vast gold reserves but it needs approval from Congress to do so. We'll be campaigning to tell Congress—No Blank Check for the IMF! We'll be asking you to join us in urging Congress to condition their approval for gold sales on real changes in IMF policies towards poor countries and a commitment to use some of the money to fund debt relief;
- The financial crisis gives us an historic opening to demand real reforms in global economic policies. As a first step towards a global framework on responsible lending and borrowing, **we'll be joining with partners to win passage of the Stop Vultures Act, a new bill that would outlaw profiteering by vulture funds taking advantage of impoverished countries that have gotten debt cancellation.** Your voice will be essential in persuading Congress to take action on this important issue;
- Last but certainly not least, **we will be raising our voices to demand that we start repaying our climate debt to the South.** Climate change is caused by Northern over-consumption, but it will hit the world's poorest countries hardest. We'll work with partners to raise this issue and take action – especially around the Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference to be held in Washington from March 13-16, 2009. We invite you to join us in Washington for this exciting event.

I hope you share my excitement about how far we've come in the past few years, and by the urgent agenda we have identified for our work going forward!

At Jubilee, we do a lot with a little. Including myself, we have a team of four professional staff in our national office and two full-time volunteers. We rely on the support of our growing network of more than 75 member organizations, 120 Jubilee Congregations, and 18,000 individual supporters.

We need your help now more than ever. In order to accomplish

the work described above, we will need to hire an additional staff person to help us with communications and media outreach.

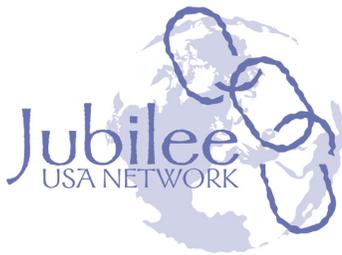
We understand these are tough economic times. But I hope as you think about your budget and your plans for holiday giving, you will consider renewed and even additional support for Jubilee USA this year. With a relatively small investment from you, we can do a lot to amplify the voice and needs of the world's poor amidst the current economic crisis.

Will you give \$25, \$50, \$150, \$250, or \$500 to ensure that we will be able to put our exciting new plans into action?

Blessings to you and your family in this Holiday season and in the New Year.

Neil Watkins
National Coordinator

P.S. The best way you can give to Jubilee USA is by signing up as a monthly donor. My wife and I give \$45/month to Jubilee USA, and it makes us feel good to know that each month, we are helping to sustain the work of this important organization. In these challenging times, even \$10 or \$20 per month make a huge difference—because it's money we know we can count on. We are grateful to monthly donors like Christine Newsome—who is profiled on the back panel of this letter. Will you join me and Christine and become a Jubilee monthly donor? If so, just fill out the enclosed form or sign up online at <http://www.jubileeusa.org/support-us>



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to turn the legislative
victories of this past year
into real change that will
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around the globe.**

Supporter Spotlight Christine Newsome

Why do you support Jubilee's work?

In the 1990s, I was already concerned about world poverty and we donated to a few different organizations such as CARE or UNICEF. This is when I first heard about the Jubilee 2000 movement—and it struck me that this campaign is getting to the heart of the problem. If you really want to get to the root causes, this is where it begins.

What motivates you to participate in Jubilee's monthly giving program, and how much do you give each month?

The reason why I give \$100 each month is because I know that organizations like Jubilee need to know what they will have as an income month by month so they can budget and count on regular support to sustain their activities.

Would you encourage others to give each month as well?

Yes—no matter how much things hurt here at home, you can bet it's even worse in poor countries. We are facing economic problems here, and we are very concerned by where we are going, but just multiply that by a factor of ten, and that's how desperate poor countries. Moreover, our world has shrunk so much in the past few years, you can count on the fact that social and economic problems around the world will have a ripple effect on the rest of us. We are no longer isolated.

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