



Young boys play in Haiti. Photo by Garrett Crawford

STAND  
UP  
FOR  
ACTION

# TAKE ACTION JUBILEE SUNDAY

10.16.09 - 10.18.09

*A Resource for Your  
Jubilee Congregation or  
Faith Community*

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Dear Jubilee supporter,

Thank you for your continued commitment to Jubilee justice.

This year, Jubilee USA Network will be holding its annual national Jubilee Sabbath and Jubilee Sunday on the weekend of October 16-18, 2009. **We encourage Jubilee Congregations and other interested congregations to hold services and events that weekend focusing on themes of Jubilee and global poverty.**



We chose this weekend because it coincides with the annual Stand Up, Take Action days sponsored by the UN Millennium Campaign, for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. From October 16-18, 2009, tens of millions of people around the world will literally “stand up” in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

We hope that your congregation will add your voice to millions across the globe speaking out against global poverty this October by holding a Jubilee Sunday service and participating in the Stand Up!

Together, we have made a concrete difference in the lives of the world’s poorest people over the past decade. The global Jubilee campaign for debt cancellation has secured more than \$90 billion in debt relief. More than ten million children have gone to primary school for the first time in Africa thanks to debt relief.

But the global economic crisis threatens to set back some of our gains – unless we raise our voices now. In 2009, the UN estimates that 55 million to 90 million more people will be living in extreme poverty than anticipated before the crisis.

**That’s why your participation in Jubilee Sunday and the Stand Up, Take Action weekend is more critical than ever this year.**

Enclosed you will find an education and worship guide which offers you the resources you need to hold a Jubilee-themed service and instructions on how to join the global Stand Up campaign.

The resources are adaptable: you can use them in the way that makes the most sense for your congregation. You can use or adapt the sermon notes to create the service. You can hold a “Stand Up Against Global Poverty” event using the enclosed resources either during your service, or afterwards with your study or social justice group.

We also hope you will complement your Jubilee service and/or Stand Up by taking action. You can do this by ordering and signing postcards as part of Jubilee USA’s new “Change, Not Chains” postcard campaign in support of the Jubilee Act (see pg. 20 for more info). As always, please call on our staff at 202-546-4470 to discuss ideas for your service/Stand Up event and to order postcards.

Your prayer and action this fall will help us meet the challenge of fighting global poverty.

In Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Watkins". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Neil Watkins  
Executive Director/National Coordinator

## *SECTION 1*

Worship Resources

Jubilee Congregations: The Vision

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# Jubilee Congregations

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## The Vision

For many reasons, it feels as if it is midnight in our time.

War, the AIDS epidemic, the rising cost of food, instability, and poverty rage globally, fed by the scandalous inequalities that create a rift between us and our brothers and sisters in the Global South. Yet, it was Martin Luther King Jr. who called attention to the fact that it is in the midnight sky that the stars shine the brightest. Ours is the blessing and the challenge to be stars that shine brightly through the midnight, bearing witness to God's vision of a transformed world.

When people of faith join together for a holy purpose, rooted in our scriptures, we can turn the tides of economic injustice, challenge harmful policies and advance a prophetic vision of right relationships among nations, fairness, equality and hope for the world's poor.

### **This is the vision of Jubilee.**

People of faith have been at the heart of many major social movements in U.S. history; the abolition, women's suffrage, civil rights, peace and other movements have been sustained by people of faith. By participating in the Jubilee movement, your congregation joins the ranks of many who have faithfully struggled for — and won — social change.

The Judeo-Christian tradition teaches us where people lack vision they ultimately perish. Our brothers and sisters are perishing under the crushing weight of international debt payments to wealthy creditors. The vision of Jubilee calls for the building of right relationships between communities, peoples and nations. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. captured the essence of Jubilee best when he said, "We are caught in an inescapable garment of destiny. Injustice anywhere represents a threat to justice everywhere." In our world today international cooperation builds true security while the crisis of debt breeds instability, hopelessness, and unnecessary suffering.

*Injustice anywhere  
represents a threat to  
justice everywhere."*  
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We know debt cancellation works. It is up to us to generate the political will needed to achieve this life-affirming goal. Movements turn the impossible into the inevitable. Ten years ago many economists, politicians, and development specialists argued that cancelling the debts of impoverished nations was an impossible task given the entrenched nature of the debt and the lack of public awareness and engagement around the issue. The rising wave of people of faith contacting our elected leaders, educating the media, and reaching out to others in our communities has put this crisis on the national agenda.

Though much has been accomplished over the past ten years, the imperative to finish what we started remains: to lift the excruciating burden of debt and end the imposition of harmful economic policies that jeopardize the security of millions by denying their basic right to health care, education and clean water, and to work for more responsible lending in the future. **The power to create change is in all of our hands.** Only a world that is free from want and need can be a world of true security for all.

# Jubilee Service

## Minute for Mission

*A brief statement that can be read from the pulpit to help introduce the concept of debt, the Jubilee Vision, and how your congregation can be supportive and get involved!*

Today is Jubilee Sabbath/Sunday, a day once a year when we raise the concerns of countries which have been impoverished by the huge payments they make annually on foreign debts. Hundreds of millions of people living in poverty in low and middle-income countries alike are enslaved by a debt they can never repay. Debt costs lives, health, education, and...hope. As Julius Nyerere, the former president of Tanzania, said "Must we starve our children to pay our debts?"

In today's financial crisis, many people know what it feels like to struggle with paying a mortgage or keeping up with credit card debt. Some have found themselves deeply in debt and unable to repay it. It's even worse to be in that situation if someone else ran up the debt and left you to carry it. Much of the debt in developing countries is a result of "bad faith" lending where banks pushed countries to take new loans or knowingly lent money to corrupt governments. Many of the loans should be considered illegitimate. This money never helped the citizens, and was often stolen by dictators. It was used for irresponsible projects that failed to serve a greater purpose or it caused harm to people or the environment.

When individuals in the U.S. become deeply indebted, we draw a line under the debt. That line is called bankruptcy. It is a line beyond which we do not allow people to fall. No such line can be drawn in international law. When poor countries become deeply indebted their governments owe vast sums to wealthy creditor countries and international banks controlled by the rich nations. These same institutions then take on responsibility for determining levels of debt relief.

*"Must we starve our children to pay our debts?"*

*- Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania*

This is unjust. It's time we do something about it. Debt burdens that prevent countries from meeting the most basic needs of their people cease to be merely an issue of economic and financial concern for a few and become a spiritual concern for us all. Leviticus 25-26 is a magnificent and widely ignored text which calls for Jubilee, or a periodic and complete overhaul of the economy. Jubilee is all about debt cancellation, restored community, and freedom from debt bondage.

Today on this Jubilee Sunday, as part of the global Stand Up & Take Action campaign, congregations are coming together across the country to learn and pray, and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South. As part of our worship service, we will be standing up against global poverty and in support of the Millennium Development Goals by reading a pledge (see pg. 18). We will also write postcards to our Senators and Representatives calling for CHANGE NOT CHAINS (see pg. 21). Together we will urge them to join us in observing the Jubilee and addressing extreme poverty by supporting legislation that would expand debt cancellation to some of the world's most impoverished countries.

Let us stand in the light of the jubilee message of salvation, redemption, and liberation as we worship God together.

# Jubilee Sunday Sermon Notes

24th Sunday of Pentecost, Year B, October 18th.

Gospel Reading - Mark 10:35-45

*Mark 10:35-45*

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36 And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" 37 And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" 39 They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." 41 When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 42 So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

*Context*

The gospel text for October 18 occurs as Jesus travels to Jerusalem. It falls as last in the series of Jesus' three predictions about his impending death (8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34), and the related three cases of the disciples' incomprehension (8:32-33; 9:32-34; 10:35-41). Along the way, Jesus also instructs the disciples and other followers about three teachings on the cost of discipleship (8:34-9:1; 9:35-50; 10:42-45). To follow Christ involves dying to oneself in order to live for others. But just as the rich young man was unable to let go of his possessions and wealth in order to follow Jesus (10:17-31), the disciples fail to understand that they too must sacrifice in order to serve the kingdom of God.

This lack of understanding on the part of the disciples is intercalated between two healing stories. At the beginning of the journey, Jesus heals a blind man whose "sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly" (8:22-26). But Jesus' own disciples seemed unable to observe or understand that Jesus came not to amass power or wealth, but "to bring good news to the poor" (Isaiah 61: 1-2; Luke 4:18).

*whoever wishes to become  
great among you must be  
your servant - Mark 10:43*

Following this story of James and John, Jesus heals another blind man, who "regained his sight and followed him on the way" (10:46-52). The stories of blind men who regain their vision and faithfully follow the teachings of Christ contrast the stories of the disciples who cannot see or obey. While all twelve disciples fail to see, Mark explicitly focuses upon the myopic vision of James and John in the gospel text.

*This Passage*

After Jesus predicts his death and resurrection for the third time, James and John make an audacious request -- "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory" (10:37). By contending for

honors, it seems that the disciples have failed to internalize Jesus' discussion of his passion (8:31-45). But Jesus does not rebuke them. Instead, he uses their behavior as an opportunity for instructing them about servant leadership (Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12). Jesus introduces the inverted power dynamics of the kingdom of God -- honor will go to those who serve rather than to those who exact service from others. In fact, first prize will go to the "slave of all" (10:44).

Contemporary followers of Christ are not unlike the first disciples in our tendency to hear what we want to hear. To become a servant is to suffer and to sacrifice. And Jesus' call to reject earthly things and follow him to the cross is not easy to hear or internalize, particularly from a place of privilege. For far too long, debt has deepened poverty and cost lives in the world's underdeveloped countries while facilitating the flow of resources from the South to the North. When we listen to our neighbors in the global south, we hear firsthand how debt has become a new form of slavery.

But there is hope; together we can break the chains of debt. Jesus' question to his disciples is relevant for followers of Christ today: "Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (10:38). Personal sacrifice and servant hood is the currency of the Kingdom that challenges the powers that be, and brings about lasting structural change. Jesus ultimately commands us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:36-40). Through orthopraxis -- right belief and right behavior -- we can bear our crosses and serve alongside our brothers and sisters in the global south. To stand up and serve the least of these, with joy in our hearts is the Jubilee that Jesus Christ desires.

### *Liberation Theology*

Christian social justice movements and messages tend to emphasize ministry for the poor instead of ministry with the poor. But just as Jesus became incarnate and served among the neglected and oppressed, liberation theology challenges Christians to live out their faith by standing up against those who tyrannize the poor. This is not a popular message -- it is a prophetic call that highlights the often overlooked oppression and suffering brought about by Western capitalism and wealth. It is uncomfortable for a church and its members to explore their own culpability in the face of global poverty.

But liberation theology can provide hope to both the privileged and the oppressed as our faith leads us to challenge the realities of exploitation and poverty. Jesus' servant leadership teaching calls us to side with the poor and disenfranchised peoples of the world. And in order for us to have power with and not power over those whom we intend to serve, it is important that their voices be heard.

*Here are just a few ways to include the diverse voices of those working for debt cancellation in the global south in your Jubilee Sunday service:*

- » In support of the Millennium Development Goals, take action during the service and read the STAND UP pledge (see pg. 17) against global poverty and then write postcards to Congress to pass the Jubilee Act (see pg. 20).
- » Invite a speaker from the global south to speak to your adult education classes or to preach to your congregation.
- » Visually project or listen to Watch: Voices from the Global South during the sermon ([www.jubileeusa.org/resources/audiovideo/globalsouthvoices.html](http://www.jubileeusa.org/resources/audiovideo/globalsouthvoices.html)).
- » Translate the Call to Worship and Prayer to a foreign language - perhaps one that represents the demographics of your own community/congregants.

# Call to Worship & Prayer

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## Litany

**ONE:** God of Life, you allowed your Son – the Suffering Servant - to be pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. Through your love we are healed, and called to serve your creation.

**ALL: Let our lives be changed, for we long to live in your hope and bring good news to those oppressed by the yoke of debt.**

**ONE:** Despised and forsaken, you stand with those neglected in impoverished and indebted countries. Through the strength of your Spirit and inspired by your compassion, empower us to be in solidarity with our neighbors.

**ALL: Let our communities be changed, for we long to break the chains of debt and to live abundantly together.**

**ONE:** Each of us has turned our own way and been blind to injustice around us – in us – and through us. Help us to create a world where unjust debts are cancelled, for with you all things are possible.

**ALL: Let the world be changed, for we long to see the end of poverty and to celebrate in jubilee.**

**ONE:** You came not to be served but to serve. Teach us to walk in your way of life, liberty, and truth so that justice may roll down like a mighty stream.

**ALL: Let your light break forth like the dawn. Give us faith that we may know that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Amen.**

## PRAYER

Creator God,

We join to praise you knowing that you are a God who has come to share in the common lot. Yet we mourn our fractured human community and confess the shame of our silence in the face of injustice. Teach us by your Spirit to live as Christ and to serve others. May we remember today those who live, those who have died, and those who work to change your world. We pray that we too may be a spokespeople for your justice in order to change lives - to end debts - to make your Kingdom real.

Amen.

# Call to Jubilee

Stan G. Duncan

♩ = 100

God of the low - ly, God of Li - ber - ty.  
Grant us your bless - ing, mold us in your peace.  
Guide us from dark - ness, guide us from our fears.

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a steady bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

5

Call down your Jus - tice. Call for ju - bil - ee! Bind up the bro - ken.  
Grant us your wis - dom, help our warr - ing cease. Come God of Mer - cy,  
Give us the courage to wash a - way our tears. Help us to stand and

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line has three phrases of lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support for the vocal melody.

8

set the cap - tives free. Bring in the home - less Help the blind to see. \_\_\_\_\_  
break the debt - ors chains, call down your jus - tice, on the wick - ed's claims.  
fight for li - ber - ty. Help us to live in sol - i - dar - i - ty.

The third system concludes the musical score. The vocal line ends with a final phrase. The piano accompaniment provides a concluding harmonic structure.

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Call out your peo - ple. Help us see our sin. Bring us to re - pen - tance and  
 God of the lone - ly, God of mys - ter - y, God who knows the poor in \_\_\_  
 Help us to hear cries of cap - tiv - i - ty. Help us God that we may \_\_\_

14

Ne - ver sin a - gain.  
 sol - i - dar - i - ty.  
 be your Ju - bi lee!

17

# Music Suggestions

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The following songs and hymns connect with scripture and prayer for justice for the world's poor, and the work of their advocates. They are found in many denominational hymnals and popular songbooks.

A Place at the Table  
Canticle of the Turning  
Comfort, Comfort You My People  
Freedom Is Coming  
God is Working God's Purpose Out

*"Shame our wanton selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal..."*

God of Grace and God of Glory  
Goodness is Stronger than Evil  
Guide My Feet  
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands  
I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*"Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!"*

Let Justice Roll like a River  
Let Streams of Living Justice  
Let Us Go Now to the Banquet or Vamos Todos al Banquete  
Live Into Hope

*"The voice of God is calling its summons in our day; Isaiah heard in Zion and we now hear God say: "Whom shall I send to succor my people in their need?  
Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?"*

O Freedom  
The Voice of God is Calling  
There's a Voice in the Wilderness  
Vine and Fig Tree

*"And everyone 'neath their vine and fig tree, shall live in peace and unafraid."*

We Are Called  
When I Needed a Neighbor  
When the Poor Ones  
When We Are Living

# Jubilee For Children & Youth

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## Worship for Children

**LESSON:** To involve children in the CHANGE NOT CHAINS Campaign (see pg. 21 for more information).

• **Possible Activities:**

- » Organize a Coin or Penny Drive\*\*
- » Distribute coins and teach a Children's Sermon on the value of sharing (Mark 8:1-9 or Acts 2:42-47)

• **Possible Discussion Questions:**

- » What do you think it means to share? How or when do you share? How do others share with you?
- » How much spare change do you have? What could you each buy or do with your coins? Who could we help others if we were to share our money? (Relate to how sharing enabled people to be fed and served in Mark 8:1-9 or Acts 2:42-47)

\*\*Please consider sending donations to Jubilee USA to help cancel debts and fight global poverty\*\*

**LESSON:** Talk about how we are all part of God's global family.

• **Possible Activities:**

- » Read the "Whole World" and sing along to the CD. You might even want to make up hand motions.
- » Explore the Putumayo World Playground Activity Kit

• **Possible Discussion Questions:**

- » What is a family? How should we treat members of our family? How do our parents treat us?
- » What do you think it means to be a part of a global family? How should we treat members of our global family? How do we want them to treat us?
- » Can you think of something nice that we could do for someone in our global family who is hungry or sick?

**LESSON:** Talk about the story of the Good Samaritan and what it teaches us about how we should treat our neighbors, both across the street and around the globe.

• **Possible Activities:**

- » Read the Bible story in Luke 10:25-37
- » Watch Veggie Tales video: "Are You My Neighbor?"
- » Read the book "Reach Out and Give"

• **Possible Discussion Questions:**

- » What does the Bible say about how we should treat our neighbor or a person in need?
- » Does it matter what neighborhood or country that person is from?
- » From the story we read (or video we watched), what are some good examples of how we should treat people? What are some bad examples?
- » Have you helped anyone in need this week? Tell me about it.
- » Let's talk about some people we could help. Discuss ways to help parents, siblings, teachers, classmates, and even children in other countries.

# Resources for Children

## **Whole World, by Christopher Corr (Sung by Fred Penner)**

Sing around the planet, from high in the mountains to low in the valleys, in every town and every city, and with all the fish and birds, trees and flowers! Includes a catchy sing-along CD (Ages 4-9).

PRICE: \$16.99 To order: <http://www.barefootbooks.com>

## **Are You My Neighbor? Veggie Tales Video**

"Tale of Two Cities" The story of the Good Samaritan is brought to life in this delightful adaptation. Children learn that loving your neighbor means helping those in need - even if they don't live next door!

PRICE: \$14.99 To order: [http://bigidea.com/products/shows/shows\\_content.aspx?pid=10](http://bigidea.com/products/shows/shows_content.aspx?pid=10)

## **Reach Out and Give, by Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed.**

Even very young children can help to make the world a better place. This book begins with the concept of gratitude, because feeling grateful is a powerful motivator. Words and pictures show children contributing to their community in simple yet meaningful ways. Includes discussion questions, a philanthropy role play, generosity games, and ideas for service projects.

PRICE: \$10.95 To order: <http://www.nprinc.com/kids/roag.htm>

# Worship for Youth

*LESSON:* To involve youth in the CHANGE NOT CHAINS Campaign (see pg. 21 for more information)

### • Possible Activities:

- » Organize a Coin or Penny Drive\*\*
- » Distribute coins and teach youth about the value of sharing (Read Mark 8:1-9 or Acts 2:42-47)

### • Possible Discussion Questions:

- » What happened when people shared in Mark 8:1-9 or Acts 2:42-47? How or when do you share? How do others share with you?
- » It only takes .40 cents to expand debt cancellation to many impoverished countries so that People have access to improved education, health care, and clean water. What would you be willing to give up so that global poverty can be addressed with your .40 cents?

\*\*Please consider sending donations to Jubilee USA to help cancel debts and fight global poverty\*\*.

*LESSON:* Read about or watch examples of people who have dedicated their lives to standing up against injustice and changing the world. Discuss why they did it and how it related to their love for God and other people.

### • Possible Activities:

- » Read a story from "The Teen Guide to Global Action"
- » Watch (entire or part of) the film "Amazing Grace"

### • Possible Discussion Questions:

- » Why do you think \_\_\_\_\_ decided to dedicate their time and energy to working for change? Was it a good choice? Why or why not?
- » How did this experience affect her/him? What feelings did s/he experience? What joys and difficulties did s/he face?
- » Is it possible for us to do something to change our world?

*LESSON:* Talk about God's call for Christians to serve the poor and work for justice, both at home and around the world.

• **Possible Activities:**

- » Read Micah 6:8
- » Read the story of St. Francis and St. Clare in "The New Friars," pg. 65

• **Possible Discussion Questions:**

- » What should we learn from the teachings of Micah or the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare? Are there connections between them and the example of Jesus' life?
- » Can you think of other examples from the Bible that talk about serving the poor or working for justice?
- » What do you think serving the poor or working for justice might look like today? In your neighborhood? In our country? In another part of the world?

*LESSON:* Discuss Shane Claiborne's story of celebrating jubilee on Wall Street when kids, nuns, businessmen and the homeless joined together to throw a party and give away \$10,000 on the street in front of the New York Stock Exchange.

• **Possible Activities:**

- » Read the story of "Jubilee on Wall Street" in the *Irresistible Revolution*, pg. 186
- » Read Luke 4:16-20 on jubilee and Luke 18:18-23 about the rich young man

• **Possible Discussion Questions:**

- » Based on what we read, what do you think jubilee is about? And why do you think God talks about it?
- » What do you think of the vision of jubilee means for our society today? What does it say about money? What does it say about our relationships?
- » What are some practical ways that we can begin to live out the vision of jubilee in our lives?

## *Resources for Youth*

### **The Teen Guide to Global Action, by Barbara A. Lewis**

Kids everywhere are deciding they can't wait to become adults to change the world. This book includes real-life stories to inspire young readers, plus a rich and varied menu of opportunities for service, fast facts, hands-on activities, user-friendly tools, and updated resources kids can use to put their own volunteer spirit into practice.

PRICE: \$12.95 To order: <http://www.nprinc.com/service/tgga.htm>

### **Amazing Grace**

Amazing Grace is a film based on the life of antislavery pioneer William Wilberforce. Elected to the House of Commons at the age of 21, and on his way to a successful political career, Wilberforce took on the English establishment and persuaded those in power to end the inhumane trade of slavery. As with the movement to end debt, jubilee was a powerful symbol for the abolitionist movement.

PRICE: \$16.99 To order: <http://www.amazon.com>

### **Irresistible Revolution, by Shane Claiborne**

In *Irresistible Revolution*, Shane Claiborne invites you into a movement of the Spirit that begins in the heart and extends through us into a broken world. Using example from his own unconventional life, he stirs up questions about the church and the world, challenging you to live out an authentic Christian faith. Note: Read Shane's story about practicing "Jubilee on Wall Street," pg. 186-189. PRICE: \$12.99 To order: <http://www.betterworld.com>

## *SECTION 2*

Stand Up & Take Action

STAND UP Instructions

STAND UP Pledge

STAND UP for the MDGs: Cancel the Debt for Human  
Development

Take Action: CHANGE NOT CHAINS Campaign

# Stand Up Guide

Join millions worldwide on October 16 - 18th to **STAND UP & TAKE ACTION** against poverty and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals!

Last year, over 116 million people Stood Up to demand that world leaders keep their promises to end poverty and inequality. This year, help us break that record and send an even louder message to our governments. Join the global movement of people who refuse to stay silent in the face of poverty and broken promises to end it!

## WHY STAND UP?

In 2000, leaders of 189 countries signed the Millennium Declaration agreeing to do everything in their power to end poverty. They pledged to do this by achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a roadmap to significantly alleviate extreme poverty by 2015.



Still, every day 50,000 people die as a result of extreme poverty and the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing. Nearly half of the world's population live in poverty, 70% of those in poverty are women. We have the power to change this.

On October 16-18 people of faith and conscience worldwide will **STAND UP & TAKE ACTION** to push their governments for more and better aid, debt cancellation, education for all boys and girls, healthcare, trade justice, gender equality and public accountability.

## HOW TO STAND UP AND TAKE ACTION

No matter where you'll be on October 16-18, it's possible to incorporate a **STAND UP**. **STAND UP** in your class on Friday, at a Saturday night potluck dinner, at your church's worship service, in your college cafeteria... be creative or keep it simple. It's easy to be involved! Here's what to do:

- » Visit [www.standagainstopoverty.org](http://www.standagainstopoverty.org) to create an account and register your **STAND UP** plans.
- » At the time you've chosen for your **STAND UP**, gather everyone together and ask them to stand together for 1 minute. You can read the enclosed **STAND UP** pledge or another reading, have someone offer a prayer, or simply stand in silence – the choice is up to you. Be sure to count the number of people participating so it will count toward the Guinness world record.
- » **TAKE ACTION** together by writing postcards to Congress for Jubilee's **CHANGE NOT CHAINS** Campaign. See page 20 for more info.
- » Immediately after your **STAND UP**:
  - Send the postcards to: Jubilee USA Network 212 E. Capitol St. NE Washington, DC 20003 or [carly@jubileeusa.org](mailto:carly@jubileeusa.org). Jubilee USA will deliver the postcards to Congress.
  - Go to [www.standagainstopoverty.org](http://www.standagainstopoverty.org) and log in with your user name and password.
  - Follow the link to your event and report the number of participants (if you didn't register your event ahead of time you will need to create an account).

# Stand Up Pledge

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Jubilee USA Network encourages grassroots supporters and congregations to get a group together at some point during the October 16-18 weekend to stand together and read the pledge below. In doing so, **you will be joining millions of people in over 125 countries who will be joining together at this time to STAND UP and TAKE ACTION against global poverty.**

For the action component of your STAND UP, consider writing postcards to Congress for Jubilee's CHANGE NOT CHAINS Campaign (see page 21 for more info). Be sure to send your postcards and the number of people participating to [carly@jubileeusa.org](mailto:carly@jubileeusa.org) or Jubilee USA 212 E. Capitol St. NE Washington, DC 20003.

## PLEDGE

**Leader:** Could I ask you all to please Stand Up Against Poverty? (EVERYONE STANDS & READS)

We are standing now with millions around the world on this symbolic day to show our commitment to the fight against extreme poverty and inequality. We are standing because we refuse to accept more excuses in a world where 50,000 people die every day as a result of extreme poverty and the gap between the rich and poor is getting wider.

We are standing 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 is essential to bringing economic justice and an end to global poverty. We stand today in the light of God's Jubilee vision of abundant life for all and right relationships between peoples and nations.

We join in solidarity with people from over 100 countries to say, to the leaders of the wealthy countries, we urge you to keep your promises on poverty — debt relief, more and better aid, trade justice and gender equality.

To the leaders of all countries, make it your first responsibility to save the lives of your most impoverished citizens. We ask you to tackle inequality, to be accountable to your people, to govern fairly and justly, to fight corruption and to uphold human rights.

Today, and every day, we will stand up and take action against poverty. We will continue the fight against poverty and inequality and to hold leaders in every part of the world, faithful to their promises. We are asking not for charity but for justice.

We are millions of voices standing in solidarity to say, no more excuses. **End poverty now.**

# *Cancel the Debt for Human Development*

*In the year 2000, world leaders at the United Nations committed to a set of development goals to alleviate global poverty called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).*

But at the current rate of progress, the world is still decades behind. All sources of finance for development must be mobilized to assure that these modest, but critical goals are met. Full debt cancellation for impoverished countries is an essential tool to reach the MDGs. G-8 leaders, under pressure from the global Jubilee movement, cancelled some debts for some countries in 1999 and again in 2005. But much more debt must be cancelled if we are to have any hope of stopping the rise of global poverty in this generation.

## *WHAT ARE THE MDGs?*

In 2000, the leaders of 189 countries including the United States committed themselves to implement a set of development standards termed the Millennium Development Goals for which they pledged to “spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty...and to free the entire human race from want.”

The goals include:

- » Halving the number of people who live in extreme poverty (defined as living on less than \$1 a day)
- » Providing equal and full access to primary and secondary schooling for all genders; reducing child and maternal mortality
- » Halting and reversing the spread of HIV/ AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (TB)
- » Ensuring environmental stability; providing access to safe drinking water
- » Addressing the particular problems of the poorest countries including unsustainable debt levels

Although they are important targets, the MDGs are only a modest first step toward achieving the ultimate goals of poverty eradication, treatment of all those with HIV, TB and malaria, and global economic justice, including addressing unjust North-South trade patterns and removing harmful economic policy conditions on aid, debt cancellation and loans.

## *WHERE DO THE MDGS STAND 9 YEARS LATER?*

Nine years after the Millennium Summit, the world is still decades behind in meeting the goals. Beyond current commitments on debt cancellation and aid, additional resources must be mobilized to achieve and indeed exceed the MDGs.

In sub-Saharan Africa, both the absolute number and the percentage of people living on less than \$1 a day has actually increased since 1990. Now, the global economic crisis threatens to push 100 million more people into extreme poverty this year. If current trends are not reversed, Africa will be the only region in the world where there will be more poor people in 2015 than there were in 1990.

The World Bank and the United Nations have estimated that an additional \$45 to \$75 billion will be needed globally every year until 2015 to achieve the MDGs. Some of this money can be generated from aid but current commitments are far below the required level, and much aid does not reach those who need it most. Moreover, new infusions of aid cannot be effective unless the drain of debt payments is stopped.

## *DEBT CANCELLATION: AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT TO MEET THE MDGs*

It is clear that there is no magic bullet to achieve the MDGs. A combination of more and better aid, debt cancellation, trade justice, and an end to harmful economic conditions must all be employed alongside new and innovative sources of financing.

Debt cancellation is a critical tool because we know that debt cancellation works. Debt cancellation now has a ten year track record of freeing up resources to fight poverty. Thanks to the limited debt relief to date:

- » Social spending across countries that have received debt relief has risen by about 75 percent.
- » Zambia has hired 4,500 new teachers and abolished fees for rural healthcare.
- » Ghana has made large investments in basic infrastructure, including rural feeder roads and has increased its spending on education and health care.

Debt cancellation is an excellent tool for supporting development because it provides direct and predictable budgetary support to impoverished countries, avoiding the costly processes that accompany the application for, granting and monitoring of overseas aid. Likewise, money saved from debt cancellation can be used to plan for long-term projects as it is not subject to the whims of annual funding cycles and political will in donor countries.

## *HOW MUCH DEBT MUST BE CANCELLED TO MEET THE MDGs?*

It is becoming clear that it will be impossible to meet the MDGs without 100 percent multilateral debt cancellation for impoverished nations. UK Finance Minister Gordon Brown estimates that 67 countries require 100% debt cancellation in order to meet the MDGs. Moreover, in order to meet goals four through six, which relate to health, heavily indebted poor countries would have to spend at least \$20 billion annually.

Although debt cancellation is necessary to meet the MDGs, it is not sufficient. Beyond debt cancellation, heavily indebted poor countries would need \$30 billion in aid each year to have any hope of meeting Goal One and \$16.5 billion would be needed annually to meet the remaining goals.

To meet Goal One, it is estimated that poor countries would need to achieve 7 percent to 8 percent annual growth rates. This will be impossible so long as debt payments crowd out investments and other government spending priorities.

The July 2005 agreement by the G-8 nations to cancel the debts of up to 43 of the poorest nations to the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank is a precedent-setting step in the right direction, but wholly insufficient in terms of the level of debt cancellation required to meet the MDGs. While the agreement has already meant \$90 billion in total debt cancellation, the total external debt of low-income countries is \$523 billion.

## *CONCLUSION*

The Millennium Development Goals are an important set of goals embraced by world leaders that serve as a benchmark on the path to broader goals of poverty eradication and global economic justice. Confronting the scourge of global poverty requires that we mobilize all sources of finance to assure these goals are met and exceeded. Full debt cancellation for the world's impoverished nations without requiring the implementation of economic policy conditions that deepen poverty is a critical piece of these efforts.

# Take Action

## CHANGE NOT CHAINS Campaign

**It is time for global change – time for a global economy that works for all. It is time to once and for all break the chains of international debt to fight poverty and injustice.**

Join Jubilee USA in our Change, Not Chains Campaign to urge the Obama administration to support expanded debt cancellation and tell Congress to pass the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending & Expanded Debt Cancellation!

*Debt costs lives.* In the world's most impoverished countries, resources are diverted away from citizens' basic needs – shelter, education, health care – and used to pay debt service to rich countries and institutions. Even after the life-saving debt relief provided to date, the poorest countries still send \$100 million every day out to our government and international institutions in debt payments.

*Debt cancellation costs cents.* Many impoverished countries still pay more out in crippling debt service than they receive in foreign aid. But it would only cost .40 cents per U.S. resident to cancel the debt of up to 24 additional impoverished countries' debts to the U.S., and less than a \$1 on top of that to cancel the debts of these countries to the World Bank & IMF.

*The Jubilee Act makes sense.* Debt cancellation has already brought increased education, healthcare and vital social services for 26 countries in Africa and Latin America, with up to 14 more eligible for the program. But too many needy countries have been left out. The Jubilee Act calls for expanded debt cancellation without harmful economic policy conditions to help all the poor countries that need it to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also urges responsible lending in the future to avoid a new debt crisis and policies to create a more just global economic system. **Our pocket change can make global systemic change!**

### TAKE ACTION

- » **STAND UP for Change.** Participate in STAND UP and Take Action Days this October 16-18. Organize your faith community, university, community group to STAND UP with millions across the globe in support of the MDGs, and then take action to pass the Jubilee Act.
- » **Send a Message of Change.** Involve your community in signing postcards to Congress. Help us reach our goal of sending 20,000 postcards to demonstrate our grassroots strength
- » **Give Congress Your Change.** Collect the pocket change of members of your community and then set up a meeting with your Representative to deliver your share of the cost of debt cancellation to the U.S.
- » **Press for Change.** Members of Congress pay attention to local media. Join activists across the country and write a letter to the editor to your local newspaper on the need for debt cancellation to fight global poverty.

For organizing materials and creative ideas, visit [www.jubileeusa.org/changenotchains](http://www.jubileeusa.org/changenotchains).

To get involved, contact Carly at [carly@jubileeusa.org](mailto:carly@jubileeusa.org) or call 202-546-4470. Send your postcards to Jubilee USA Network, 212 E. Capitol St. NE, Washington DC, 20003.

# *Sign-up Sheet to Become a Jubilee Congregation*

Yes, our faith community wants to become a Jubilee Congregation!

Name of Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pastor/Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Role/Title in Congregation, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required): \_\_\_\_\_

## Financial Commitment to Jubilee

- Enclosed is our Jubilee Congregation annual commitment of \$1 per member: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is the offering received for Jubilee as our annual commitment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- We pledge to send in the proceeds of a special offering for Jubilee: \_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is an additional donation to Jubilee USA Network of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your plans to promote Jubilee in your congregation through prayer, worship, education and letter writing:

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Send registration form and donation to:

Jubilee USA Network  
212 E. Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20003

Thank you for becoming a Jubilee Congregation and joining us to restore right relationships and economic justice by proclaiming Jubilee! If you have any questions or comments, please call Carly Pildis Outreach & Congregations Fellow at 202-546-4470 or email at [carly@jubileeusa.org](mailto:carly@jubileeusa.org).

Your Jubilee banner, handbook and welcome letter will arrive within 2-4 weeks.

questions? comments? ideas?  
please contact us:

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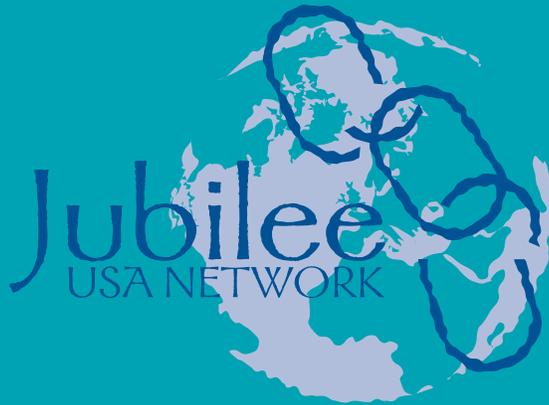
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*Jubilee USA Network is an alliance of 75 religious denominations and faith communities, human rights, environmental, labor, and community groups working for the definitive cancellation of crushing debts to fight poverty and injustice in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.*

