

DROP THE DEBT

Fall 2006

NEWS and ACTION from Jubilee USA Network, Washington, DC

BUILDING MOMENTUM INTO THE 2007 SABBATH YEAR

Global Connections Tour to Kick Off in October

Focus: debt, poverty, and environment

By Abbey Fisher, Tour Coordinator

IN 2005, JUBILEE USA LAUNCHED two successful speaking tours that brought global south civil society leaders to the United States to share their message and inspire people across the country to take action on debt cancellation. This fall, Jubilee will hold its third national speaking tour to build the momentum of the Jubilee movement in the United States as we prepare for the 2007 Sabbath Year, seven years after Jubilee 2000.

This year's tour will break new ground for Jubilee, going to places we've never been and bringing the Jubilee call for debt cancellation to activists and concerned citizens who are new to the Jubilee movement.

There are two legs of this year's tour, each with its own theme and speakers:

Drop the Debt, Invest in People! Tour: Debt & the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Building on Jubilee's success pressuring President Bush and other world leaders to adopt the G-8 debt deal in 2005, the tour will travel to **Western Pennsylvania, Columbus, Ohio, Indianapolis, Ind., Chicago and Lexington/Louisville, Kentucky**, to explain why debt cancellation is needed for more countries to fight extreme poverty and meet the MDGs — the targets for poverty reduction set by the United Nations. Jubilee's international guests for this

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Global Connections Tour

October 12-November 15, 2006

New Energy for Debt Cancellation Tour (Debt, Oil & Climate Change)

Denver and Boulder, Colorado • October 16-18
Boise and Pocatello, Idaho • October 20-22
Salt Lake City • October 24-26

Drop the Debt, Invest in People! (Debt & MDGs)

Western Pennsylvania • October 22-25
Columbus, Ohio • October 29-31
Indianapolis • November 3-6
Chicago • November 8-11
Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky • November 13-15

For more information please contact national Tour Coordinator Abbey Fisher at abbey@jubileeusa.org or (717)578-3945.

Demand Broader Relief for Haiti

Ask your representative to co-sponsor H.Res. 888 for 100 percent debt cancellation

By Debayani Kar, Communications & Advocacy Coordinator

PEOPLE IN HAITI and around the world are hopeful that 2006 will mark a positive shift toward just and equitable development in the most impoverished country in the Americas. In a country where 80 percent of the population lives in abject poverty and one out of nine children die before reaching their fifth birthday, justice has been delayed for far too long.

Under the 29-year rule of the Duvalier father-son dictatorship, the Haitian people suffered immeasurable human rights abuses, increasing poverty levels and skyrocketing debt. In 2005, the country's total external public debt reached \$1.3 billion, nearly half of which was accrued under the Duvalier regime.

This past April — shortly after the February election of President René Prével — Haiti finally became eligible for admission into the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) program that could result in debt cancellation from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). After years of exclusion from debt relief programs, Haiti's entrance into HIPC signals a

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“...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you...”
— Leviticus 25:10

Jubilee USA Network began as Jubilee 2000/USA in 1997 when a diverse gathering of people and organizations came together in response to the international call for Jubilee debt cancellation. Now over 75 organizations including labor groups, churches, religious communities and institutions, AIDS activists, trade campaigners and over 9,000 individuals are active members of the Jubilee USA Network. Together we are a strong, diverse and growing network dedicated to working for a world free of debt for billions of people.

In the Jubilee Year as quoted above in Leviticus, those enslaved because of debts are freed, lands lost because of debt are returned, and community torn by inequality is restored. Today international debt has become a new form of slavery. Debt slavery means poor people working harder and harder in a vain effort to keep up with the interest payments on debts owed to rich countries including the US and international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Jubilee USA Network brings together people to turn this reality around by active solidarity with partners worldwide, targeted and timely advocacy strategies and educational outreach. Please join us in working for Jubilee justice.

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Call on Congress for True Jubilee Cancellation of Debts

Grassroots prepare for Sabbath Year push on JUBILEE Act

By Beth Stierman, Communications & Advocacy Intern

THE G-8 DEBT DEAL reached in Gleneagles, Scotland, in July 2005 marked a historic victory in the fight against global poverty, yet it was only the first step in a long journey toward a true Jubilee cancellation of debts. Nine out of 10 people living in impoverished countries have not seen any benefit from the 2005 deal. Indeed, many more countries need debt cancellation, more creditors must cancel outstanding debts, and countries are still forced to implement harmful economic programs to obtain urgently needed debt relief.

This summer, Jubilee supporters and staff brought this reality to Congress’ attention through their continued presence on Capitol Hill and in their home districts, and with the ongoing 2006 “Cut the Strings” Postcard Campaign. These activities will help build the pressure needed to achieve our goal of a hearing on the JUBILEE Act (HR 1130) by the end of the 2007 Sabbath Year.

On June 28, Jubilee USA and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) joined together to host a Life Over Debt Lobby Day. Supporters from across the nation gathered in Washington, D.C., to meet with their elected representatives and urge them to support the JUBILEE Act, a groundbreaking piece of legislation in the House of Representatives which will provide immediate debt cancellation for 50 impoverished countries without harmful economic policy strings attached. Through the dedicated work of grassroots advocates, 82 Congressional offices have now become co-sponsors of this piece of legislation.

On July 14, Jubilee USA staff worked with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Bread for the World and the ONE Campaign to organize a briefing for congressional staff in Washington, D.C., on debt and aid issues one year after the 2005 G-8 agreement.

At this event Imani Countess of AFSC and co-chair of Jubilee’s Coordinating Committee, educated staff members from 32 House and Senate offices on the need for extended debt cancellation without harmful economic policy strings attached. During the discussion that followed, Kathleen Sengstock of Rep. Maxine Waters’ office suggested that co-sponsoring the JUBILEE Act in the House and introducing a Senate Companion to the Act are important ways Congress can respond to this need.



From left: Lael Brainard (Brookings Institution), Tom Hart (DATA), David Beckmann (Bread for the World), and Imani Countess (Jubilee USA Network) spoke at the congressional staff briefing “Measuring Debt and Aid, One Year after the Scotland G-8.”

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Building Solidarity

Skill building and celebrating a must in tackling debt at first Jubilee Grassroots Training Conference

by Chris Laing, Co-Chair, Jubilee Oregon

IN THEIR BOOK, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*, authors Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink observe that the most successful organizations aim to both affect policy and “transform the terms and nature of the debate.” This point emerged at the first Jubilee national grassroots training conference in Portland, Ore., referring to Jubilee’s successes over the past nine years of action and activity.

Indeed, Jubilee has come a long way since its 1997 inception. The May conference, hosted by Jubilee Oregon at the First Unitarian Church, provided the perfect stage for assessing Jubilee’s progress, embracing new members, and attending events that were as much fun as they were instructive.

Debt cancellation was absent from the domestic or world agenda nine years ago when Jubilee 2000 was organized. But Jubilee grassroots activists worldwide have changed that reality. A recent example is the 2005 G-8 decision to cancel the debt of 19 countries.

As a testament to the growing interest of debt cancellation, more than 90 people arrived in Portland, with about half of the attendees coming from outside the Pacific Northwest region. Attendees included Jubilee grassroots activists from Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico to Portland and Washington, D.C., as well as regular folks who were new to Jubilee and followed their curiosity to the conference. The dynamic mix of young people, “midders,” and elders was especially encouraging. And though they came from different places, there remained one objective: to teach and learn from one another.

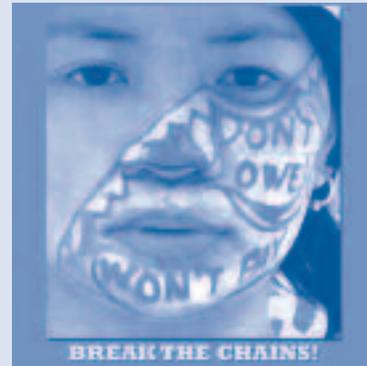
Particular highlights of the three-day event included the keynote addresses by Neil Watkins, Jubilee USA national coordinator, debt campaigner Magda Lanuza from Nicaragua, and Marie Clarke Brill, director of the Department of Public Education and Mobilization at Africa Action. The diverse workshop topics included how to answer difficult questions on debt, strategies for political action, effective communications and the media, the “Debt Boomerang,” and personal spiritual practice and Sabbath economics.

Fittingly, the conference ended with a beginning: the release party for the Break the Chains! CD produced by members of Jubilee Montana. The party showcased the Montana group’s achievement and allowed us to unite around a national fundraising activity and make our farewells.

The national staff was especially helpful, and with some national funding the pressure to both fundraise for and organize the event was reduced. Any local groups who wonder if they can manage such a gathering should be aware of our easy and positive experience.

Jubilee Oregon Co-Chair Nancy Yuill and I found that hosting the grassroots training conference was an excellent way to engage local community members on debt, to recruit new Jubilee Oregon members and to do active outreach to religious congregations. We can’t wait until next year’s conference, possibly in the Midwest! ♦

For more information on Jubilee Oregon see www.jubileeoregon.org, or email Nancy Yuill at yuillski@aracnet.com or Christopher Laing at lccm4psu@k-com.net. Kristin Sundell can be reached at kristin@jubileeusa.org or (202)546-4470.



‘Break the Chains’ of debt and groove to sounds of jubilee

It’s official! The “Break the Chains” CD, a potent mix of music with a purpose, is now released. The album features a mix of U.S. artists and internationally renowned musicians accompanied by a 24-page booklet packed with lyrics, photos, and a primer on debt that includes contributions from South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and South African poet and anti-apartheid activist Dennis Brutus.

Thank you to the folks who brought this album from conception to reality: Rita Jankowski-Bradley, Jubilee USA board member and Jubilee Montana coordinator, and her son Damian Bradley, a board member of Iamedia, the company that produced this amazing album.

EARLY BIRD OFFER!

If you order the CD before the end of November, we’ll give you a \$5 discount! Regular price for the album is \$15, our Early Bird Offer lets you pay \$10. You can purchase your CD online at www.jubileeusa.org or mail us a check noting that you want to buy the CD (see address information on page 2).

Online: go to www.jubileeusa.org and click “Donate Online.” After completing the necessary information, go to the gray “Optional Information” section and type “Break the Chains” CD in the “Name of person” box.

You can use the album to raise money for your local Jubilee chapter or congregation by placing bulk orders of the CD with Damian Bradley, at \$10 per CD. Contact him at dami-an@iamedia.org for more details. ♦

Building a Movement for Freedom from Debt, Freedom from Oil

Colavecchio, Italy, June 4-8

By Sarah Rimmington, *Communications & Advocacy Fellow*

JUBILEE USA'S NEIL WATKINS, SARAH RIMMINGTON and co-chair Imani Countess were among 45 debt, environment and global finance campaigners from the four corners of the globe who met in Italy in June to discuss the connections between oil dependence, the debt crisis and global warming. Oil dependence is contributing to a number of the most fundamental problems facing the world: the debt crisis and global poverty, environmental destruction and global warming. At the meeting convened by Oil Change International, campaigners came together to share information and identify ways to work on these issues in a more effective and coordinated manner.

For debt campaigners, the clear message that came out of the conference was that as we work for freedom from debt, we must also work toward freedom from oil and a clean energy future. We need to ensure that world leaders reverse the course they are currently on, which calls for trillions of dollars to be spent on increasing oil production. Increased oil production will refuel the debt crisis and exacerbate poverty, global warming and other negative effects of our addiction to oil. It is also important to recall that many of the loans made to encourage oil production and economic development in fact became crippling odious or illegitimate debts in a number of impoverished countries. ♦



From left: Volunteer translator, Jorge Acosta Arias (LATIN-DAD, Ecuador) and Henry Vargas (Collective of Applied Studies on Social Development, Bolivia).



From left: Sarah Rimmington (Jubilee USA) and Siziwe Khanyile (Groundworks, South Africa).

Southern California Jubilee Congregations Prepare for Sabbath Year by Hosting Kenyan Debt Activist Wahu Kaara

San Diego, California, July 2006

By Kristin Sundell, *Outreach and Congregations Coordinator*

IN JULY, KENYAN DEBT ACTIVIST Wahu Kaara returned to the United States to spend two weeks with Southern California Jubilee Congregations under the leadership of grassroots activist Jean O'Leary. Wahu's visit included reaching out to nearly a dozen new congregations in the San Diego area, many of which expressed interest in becoming Jubilee congregations. It also included a visit to Democracy Fest, a national conference held at San Diego State University. Wahu appeared on a panel with U.S. Representative Maxine Waters, Lutheran pastors Bill Harman and Bill Leshner and Jubilee's Outreach and Congregations Coordinator Kristin Sundell. Following the panel, Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministries at the University hosted a special dinner and reception for Wahu, Rep. Waters and 30 area religious leaders. ♦



Jean O'Leary (front row, far right) and other representatives of Southern California Jubilee Congregations welcome Kenyan Debt Activist Wahu Kaara (front row, second from right) and Jubilee USA's Kristin Sundell (front row, third from right) to San Diego.

Debt relief and the end of the world as we know it *(and I'll feel fine)*

By Gene Tibbs, Coalition for Christian Outreach, University of Pittsburgh

FOR ABOUT A HALF MILLENNIUM NOW, certainly from the beginnings of the New World, Africa and many parts of the non-Western, non-white world have been under brutal attack. The attack on Africa has come from powerful global forces determined to destabilize African civilizations by siphoning off human and natural resources and maintaining relations that inevitably leave them as economically dependent as possible. But I'm sure there must have been a person during the Trans-Atlantic slave trade who stood on the shore — looking out over the night ocean with unspeakable anguish, yet with an almost uncontainable sense of expectation and declared: "This must end... NOW!"

Many of our foreparents, living in chapters of history that we now only read about, knew that the direct means to change their world were in short supply. But they used the means available to them, often turning their collective spirit toward utter dependence on an invisible God. They had an intuitive conviction that there must be a moral power greater than the circumstances of the world into which they were born. They were certain that — like the God of the Hebrews in Egyptian captivity — God would hear their cries and finally bring an end to the world as they knew it. By the mid-20th century, 444 years of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade ended. But as nearly 100 years of colonization concluded, many of the lingering conditions remain with us and a new era of oppression has replaced them.

Like our foreparents, many of us today find our hearts burgeoning with a powerful sense of hope and expectation for the future of our world despite the overwhelming suffering of the majority. Some of us know first-hand the harsh real-world conditions — in Africa, in Latin America, in Asia — resulting from the half-millennium-long development of what we now call "the Two-Thirds world." Many of us take for granted these phenomena all our lives: abject poverty; rampant famine; incurable disease; inexhaustible want; and ubiquitous death.

But some of us — like our fore mothers and fathers — take a stand here on the figurative shores of this new millennium, crying out for God's sovereign intervention to finally break the systemic and structural forces allied against freedom, justice and life itself. We support 100 percent cancellation of the odious and illegitimate debts held against the world's most impoverished countries by the world's richest countries. This unjust relationship exacerbates poverty, undermines development, stifles education, destroys the environment, misappropriates health care resources and does nothing to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

This, Too, Shall Pass

If we can find hope in the past knowing that slavery in the Americas and colonization ended, or even that Jim Crow segregation in the U.S. and apartheid in South Africa ended, we can believe what the Bible says. This global debt crisis resulting from mismanagement, corruption and predatory exploitation by other countries will come to an end. But it won't pass without struggle. It certainly won't pass without the unyielding, sovereign intervention of God at work through the fabric of our earthly actions, as it says in Psalm 103:6, "...work righteousness and justice for all the oppressed" or, as Jesus declared in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me...to release the oppressed."

"And we call for something far bigger than debt cancellation: the manifestation of a cosmic vision and the end of the world as we know it — a world of injustice and destructive relationships."

The biblical "jubilee" vision is one of global redemption and restoration toward righteousness and justice in all facets of life including economics, trade, governance, and the environment.

Total debt cancellation must happen and is possible within our lifetime. We believe we are playing a role that will change the course of history. We believe that the world we've inherited, a world of gross disparities between mostly white, northern haves and Asian/Latin American/African southern haves-least, is a world we must work to bring to an end. And we call for something far bigger than debt cancellation: the manifestation of a cosmic vision and the end of the world as we know it — a world of injustice and destructive relationships.

When this happens, I'll feel fine, just fine. ♦

Gene Tibbs is in his 17th year as campus staff for the University of Pittsburgh's Coalition for Christian Outreach, a regional campus ministry organization headquartered in Pittsburgh. His focus is Afro-Global & International Student Ministries. Gene, an active Jubilee grassroots member, lives in Pittsburgh with his wife Ngozi and their four children. They expect their fifth child in November. Gene can be reached at sankofa3m@juno.com or through his blog at www.comeheartalk.blogspot.com.

Cohesion, ambitious mission drive Jubilee Oregon into local, international arenas

By Pat Rumer, founder of Jubilee Oregon and co-chair of the Coordinating Committee of Jubilee USA Network

Jubilee Oregon is more than a volunteer base of grassroots activists, people of faith, university faculty and returned Peace Corps volunteers. We are driven by a historical reality and a biblical moral and ethical imperative to act together to remove economic oppression and share abundance.

This belief steers our push for 100 percent unconditional cancellation of the debt the global south is said to "owe" the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and bilaterally to countries of the North. This belief lies at the core of the many activities we've completed during the seven-year history of Jubilee Oregon. What became Jubilee Oregon was born in the spring of 1999, when a Jubilee 2000 chapter was formed in Portland in collaboration with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Jubilee Year.

In 1999, we began by launching a "Cancel the Debt Now" rally where we formed a human debt chain around the Gus Solomon Courthouse in Portland and presenting more than 1,000 petitions calling for debt cancellation to Rep. David Wu. We also promoted a lecture by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel, a leading Jubilee activist in Argentina. That September, a contingent of Oregon activists traveled to Seattle to rally and march with other protestors at the World Trade Organization meetings.

The following year, Jubilee Oregon supported the Rev. Dale Duncombe in his two fasts highlighting hunger and poverty in Washington, D.C. And in January 2001, we celebrated the achievements of the Jubilee 2000 movement with Rep. Earl Blumenauer, who said that he had never encountered such an effective and passionate group of people and goodwill that really cared about the world!

"The activist volunteers are deeply committed to the Jubilee vision of a more just economic system globally and locally."

We were also there for another significant event. When Jubilee 2000 became the Jubilee USA Network, Jubilee Oregon became a founding member of its Network Council. The activist volunteers of Jubilee Oregon are deeply committed to the Jubilee vision of a more just economic system globally and locally. Our strength is legislative advocacy. Oregon representatives Blumenauer and Wu are both co-sponsors of the JUBILEE Act (HR 1130) and we are engaged in dialogue with three more representatives.

Jubilee Oregon continually builds alliances with groups that work on HIV/AIDS, poverty, and African and Caribbean issues in the Portland metro area. Our focus on these concerns allowed us

to host the Jubilee USA Network Global Connections Speakers Tour in April 2005 and the first ever Jubilee USA national grassroots training conference last May.

Thanks to Jubilee Oregon's working groups — Jubilee Congregations, Action and Advocacy and Education, and Outreach — our actions and activities are successful.

But amid the successes and great organization, challenges remain. We want to involve more young adults and communities of color in leadership roles. We need an effective communications and media strategy and implementation. Though our core group of twelve is dedicated, we need more people. And we definitely want a dynamic 2007 Sabbath Year in Oregon!

In that spirit, Jubilee Oregon is undertaking a number of activities to make the Sabbath Year a success. The Rev. Dale Stitt is organizing a Sabbath economics study series, which will examine the power of money and what it means to forgive debt. Other proposals for 2007 include a Sabbath Year launch party on New Year's Eve, in concert with the ONE campaign and other organizations. At an early September Jubilee Oregon potluck dinner, we will brainstorm to elicit other creative ideas for 2007. In mid-October we will have a fundraising event to support our 2007 activities.

Jubilee Oregon is also expanding its reach to the academic community by recruiting interns from nearby George Fox University for congregational outreach. And Yves Labissiere and I are planning to teach a two-term course on Jubilee at Portland State University.

This fall, we will continue our legislative advocacy for debt cancellation with the Oregon Congressional delegation on both the Haiti debt resolution (H.Res 888) and the JUBILEE Act. Other plans include participation in: an Interfaith gathering; the Faith and American Values Summit sponsored by the Oregon Center for Christian Values; an Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Lecture on sustainability and the environment; and, hopefully, two Jubilee Oregon members traveling to Nicaragua with the Jubilee/Witness for Peace delegation in November. Several Jubilee Oregon activists also hope to raise the funds necessary to join the Jubilee USA delegation to Nairobi, Kenya, for the World Social Forum in January. It will be a hectic year, but as we look toward our eighth year, we look forward to working with you all to make poverty history! ♦

For more information on Jubilee Oregon see www.jubileeoregon.org or e-mail co-chairs Nancy Yuill at yuillski@aracnet.com or Christopher Laing at lcm4psu@k-com.net.

leg of the tour will be **Charity Musamba**, former national coordinator of Jubilee Zambia, and **Rómulo Torres** of Jubilee Peru, the Episcopal Commission for Social Action, and the Latin American Network on Debt and Development.

New Energy for Debt Cancellation Tour: Debt, Oil and Climate Change

This western leg will travel to Denver and Boulder, Colo., Boise and Pocatello, Idaho, and will make a final stop in Salt Lake City. By highlighting the links between poverty and environmental issues, specifically the connections between debt, the extractive industries, and climate change, all of the organizations involved in this tour leg hope to connect with new individuals and organizations to build the Jubilee movement. Tour participants are also working to meet with the senators from these states who voted against selling gold owned by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to finance the debt cancellation promised under the 2005 G-8 deal.

This western leg will travel to **Denver and Boulder, Colo., Boise and Pocatello, Idaho**, and will make a final stop in **Salt Lake City**. The speakers for this leg of the tour are **Lidy Nacpil**, the international coordinator of Jubilee South and vice president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition in the Philippines, and **Asume Osuoka** from Nigeria, the program manager of Energy and Mining at Environmental Rights Action (Friends of the Earth, Nigeria).

The heightened awareness and mobilization that resulted from past tours was critical to building the support that led to the ground-breaking G-8 debt deal in 2005. To date, this agreement has resulted in debt cancellation for 19 impoverished countries in Africa and Latin America and HIV/AIDS drugs for 100,000 additional people in Zambia. But more work remains to be done and Jubilee USA and our partners in the Global South anticipate that by visiting with communities across America this year, we can build toward an even better debt deal in the 2007 Sabbath Year! ♦

If the tour is already coming to your area and you are interested in helping organize or attend an event, Abbey Fisher will be happy to put you in touch with your local Tour Organizer. Abbey can be contacted via e-mail at abbey@jubileeusa.org or phone at 717.578.3945.

renewed hope that the unrest that has plagued Haiti for decades might come to an end. Unfortunately, this development is not a cause for celebration. Under the harmful economic conditions of the World Bank and IMF's debt relief program, Haiti will not see any debt relief until December 2009 at the earliest — by which time the country will have paid \$220 million in debt service that could have gone toward education, health care, and other social services. The existing program also excludes cancellation of Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) debt, which makes up nearly half of Haiti's debt to international financial institutions.

Haiti requires immediate debt cancellation as a matter of justice and as an essential tool in the global fight to end poverty under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the set of development targets committed to by world leaders in 2000. Jubilee grassroots activists and concerned legislators are working to make this debt cancellation happen.

To accelerate the process to cancel Haiti's debt, several members of the U.S. Congress recently introduced a House resolution that urges the World Bank, IMF, and IDB to completely and immediately cancel Haiti's debt to those institutions. Representative Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) along with representatives Mark Foley (R-Fla.), Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Spencer Bachus (R-Ala.), and Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), among others, introduced H.Res. 888 on June 22. We urge you to call or meet with your member of the House of Representatives and ask them to support this resolution by becoming a co-sponsor, or to thank them if they have already done so. Already Jubilee supporters have helped secure more than 50 co-sponsors on the resolution. But many more co-sponsors will be needed for the resolution to make it to the House floor for a vote.

TAKE ACTION!

Urge your member to co-sponsor the Haiti debt resolution (H.Res. 888). To co-sponsor, members should contact Kathleen Sengstock in Rep. Maxine Waters' office at (202) 225-2201. If your representative has already cosponsored the resolution, please call to thank them. To find out if your representative has cosponsored H.Res. 888, go to www.jubileeusa.org and click on the words "break the chains of Haiti's debt." Contact information for your representative can be found at www.house.gov/writerep.

In the coming months, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will be deciding whether or not it will extend debt cancellation to the small group of countries in Latin America that qualify under the terms of the 2005 G-8 nations' debt deal.

To stay tuned for more information about what you can do, visit www.jubileeusa.org.

Calling on Congress, *continued from page 2*

Throughout the summer, Jubilee grassroots across the country continued to call and visit their elected representatives in their home districts and to send "Cut the Strings" postcards to the offices of senators, representatives and the treasury secretary, urging them to support extended debt cancellation through the JUBILEE Act, the Haiti Debt Resolution (H.Res. 888) and by pushing for an end to harmful economic policy conditions like water privatization that are often attached to debt cancellation.

As the Jubilee Network mobilizes for the 2007 Sabbath Year, we will continue to pressure our elected representatives for the cancellation of all unjust and unpayable debts. This push will culminate in the fall of 2007, when we hope to come together in Washington, D.C., for a landmark Congressional hearing on the JUBILEE Act. There are only four more months left in the rolling 2006 postcard campaign calling on the Congress and the Treasury Department to "Drop the Debt, Cut the Strings!" Please contact the Jubilee office at 202.783.3566 or e-mail coord@jubileeusa.org to order postcards that can be signed and sent by your friends, family, church, and members of local organizations that you are affiliated with. Together, we will break the chains of debt! ♦

2006 UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

September 12	Jubilee Grassroots Conference Call
September 15-17	International People's Forum, Batam, Indonesia
September 19-20	IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings, Singapore
September 27	Jubilee Congregations Conference Call
October 10	Jubilee Grassroots Conference Call
October 12	1st Annual Jubilee Celebration, Busboys & Poets, Washington, DC
October 12-13	Jubilee USA Network Council Meeting, Washington, DC
October-November	Jubilee Global Connections Tour, various locations across the US
November 7	United States midterm elections
November 14	Jubilee Grassroots Conference Call
November 29	Jubilee Congregations Conference Call
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 12	Jubilee Grassroots Conference Call

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