

Faith and Facts: Global Poverty and Global Hunger

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- **Isaiah 58:6-8** – Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
- **Matthew 25:35-45** – For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.”

WHAT DOES THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAY?

- Eradicating global poverty and global hunger is one of four focus areas of ministry for The United Methodist Church as determined by the 2008 General Conference. The General Agencies, Connectional Table and Council of Bishops are all focusing on implementing this focus area of ministry.
- “The United Methodist Church, as a covenant community to God's justice, must work toward a just global economy” (2004 Book of Resolutions, "Economic Justice for a New Millennium," ¶1206).
- “We call for The United Methodist Church to develop effective public policy strategies and educate the constituency on hunger issues” (2004 Book of Resolutions, "The United Methodist Church, Justice and World Hunger" ¶1205).
- We call “for the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which set targets for 2015 in the areas of basic education, infant and maternal mortality, clean water supplies and poverty reduction throughout the developing nations” (2004 Book of Resolutions, "The United Methodist Church, Justice and World Hunger," ¶1205).
- “In spite of general affluence in the industrialized nations, the majority of persons in the world live in poverty. In order to provide basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, and other necessities, ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the world” (Social Principles, ¶163.E).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

United Methodist Resources:

- [The General Board of Church and Society:](#)
 - Promoting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals: Goals agreed upon by leaders of nations in 2000 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; universal primary education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and malaria, child mortality, and environmental sustainability.
 - Urging Fair Trade: Policies and trade rules that reduce poverty; protects workers, small producers and farmers, and the environment; and allows poor developing countries to protect their industries.
 - Advocating for Effective Development Assistance: Reform of U.S. foreign aid programs with poverty eradication as its major goal.
 - Advocating for Debt Cancellation: Provide debt cancellation to more poor countries.
- [United Methodist Committee on Relief:](#) UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church. For 65 years UMCOR has responded internationally to natural or human made disasters - those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

Other Resources:

- **Bread for the World** – Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers.
- **Christian Aid** – Christian Aid works in 50 countries, helping people regardless of religion or race to improve their own lives and tackle the causes of poverty and injustice.
- **Church World Service** – Founded in 1946, Church World Service is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works worldwide to meet human needs and foster self-reliance for all whose way is hard. This Web site contains curriculum on various social justice issues.
- **FIAN International** – FIAN International is a human rights organization that works to enable people to feed themselves with members in all parts of the world. There is enough food for everyone, now and in the future. FIAN International defends the right of ordinary people to feed themselves in dignity.
- **50 Years is Enough Network** – 50 Years Is Enough: U.S. Network for Global Economic Justice is a coalition of more than 200 U.S. grassroots, women's, solidarity, faith-based, policy, social and economic justice, youth, labor and development organizations dedicated to the profound transformation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
- **Food First:** The purpose of the Institute for Food and Development Policy - Food First is to eliminate the injustices that cause hunger.
- **Global Campaign for Education** – The Global Campaign for Education promotes education as a basic human right, and mobilizes public pressure on governments and the international community to fulfill their promises to provide free, compulsory public basic education for all people; in particular for children, women and all disadvantaged, deprived sections of society.
- **Global Trade Campaign** – The global campaign, Trade for People - Not People for Trade, works to build a movement of people within the churches and church-related organizations to promote trade justice. The campaign does this by calling for recognition of the priority of human rights agreements over trade agreements.
- **Jubilee South** – Jubilee South is a network of debt campaigns, social movements, people's organizations, communities, nongovernmental organizations and political formations. The Jubilee South network aims to develop and strengthen a global South movement on the debt. The network has members from over 40

countries from the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia/Pacific, representing 85 anti-debt groups.

- **Jubilee USA Network** – Jubilee USA Network is an alliance of more than 80 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.
- **National Coalition for the Homeless** – The National Coalition for the Homeless works to bring about the systemic changes necessary to prevent and end homelessness and to protect the rights of people experiencing homelessness by engaging in policy advocacy in the areas of housing justice, health care justice, economic justice, and civil rights.
- **ONE Campaign** – The ONE Campaign is an effort by Americans to rally Americans - one by one - to fight the emergency of global AIDS and extreme poverty. ONE is students and ministers, punk rockers and NASCAR moms, Americans of all beliefs and every walk of life, united to help make poverty history. The General Board of Church and Society is a member of the ONE Campaign.
- **Oxfam International** – Oxfam International is a confederation of 13 organizations working together with more than 3,000 partners in more than 100 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice. With many of the causes of poverty global in nature, the 13 affiliate members of Oxfam International think they can achieve greater impact through their collective efforts.
- **The Right to Education Project** – The Right to Education Project aims to promote social mobilization and legal accountability. It is concerned with achieving quality education for all and highlighting the indivisibility of rights by pointing to child's rights, to wider patterns of discrimination and to related economic and social rights. The cornerstones of the Project are this wide-reaching website, ongoing research and a diverse network of human rights and education activist
- **Sojourners** – The organization's mission is to articulate the biblical call to social justice, inspiring hope and building a movement to transform individuals, communities, the church, and the world.
- **United Nations Millennium Campaign** – The Millennium Campaign informs, inspires and encourages people's involvement and action for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. An initiative of the United Nations, the campaign supports citizens' efforts to hold their government accountable to the millennium promise.
- **The U.S. Interfaith Trade Justice Campaign** – The U.S. Interfaith Trade Justice Campaign, in partnership with religious institutions, mobilizes and facilitates an active engagement of faith communities in educational activities, policy advocacy and Fair Trade efforts, so that global trade and investment policies promote economic and social justice, human development and ecological sustainability.