Engage Children & Youth with the MDGs

Development and the Next Generation

With 1.5 billion of the population between the ages of 12 and 24 (The Millennial Generation is born between 1982-2001) around the world, youth represent a tremendous opportunity to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty worldwide. Youthink! readers and young people from around the world submitted ideas and recommendations, many of which were included in the highly influential World Development Report 2007 entitled Development and the Next Generation.

http://www.youthink.worldbank.org/

They don't need to be sold on the MDGs and global reconciliation ... they're already there. What the Church needs to be doing is what it should be doing in all aspects of its life -- giving this highly creative generation power, responsibility and resources to do mission.

Here are some ideas:

• Take a portion (or even all) of the minimum of 0.7% of your congregation's budget that is going toward the MDGs and let the Millennials (children, youth and young adults) decide where to spend it. Let them do the research, the vetting, the praying, the dreaming. Then have them do follow-up on what happens with it and report back to the rest of the congregation.

• Give Millennials 2 or 3 preaching slots a year to talk about where Christ is moving in their lives and where they see God calling us to be active in the world.

• Have the youth group design a "MDG fair" for the rest of the congregation... with activities to illustrate each MDG.

• Have children and youth do a "YouTube scavenger hunt" -- finding as many videos as they can that deal with global poverty and the MDGs

• Let the Millennials in your congregation design a global mission page for your church website (and you might want to let them redesign the whole site!)

• Pass out white paper plates and red dot stickers (one per person). Stick the sticker on the plate with instructions to draw a circle on the plate every time they passed easily obtainable food and water.

• Fill a clear bowl with 1,500 marbles, glass stones or other small objects. OR build a cross out of 1,500 popsicle sticks. Each stick or stone represents a child who will die of a preventable, treatable cause during an average Sunday Eucharist.

Designing a Church School curriculum: Becky Lee of St. James Episcopal Church in Glastonbury, CT was contemplating how to introduce the subject of the MDGs to her local church education program. She turned to Cornerstones Publishing and found several workshops that could be used for the MDG rotation. She decided to use the Where in the World lesson from the Feeding the 5000 unit in the Witness to God’s Presence Year of curriculum. It is interactive and works with all ages, exploring the unequal distribution of resources in the world and how our faith calls us to take care of those in need. She worked with Cornerstones to develop an Episcopalian version of this lesson. It can be purchased online at www.cstones.com for $15.
General Resources for Congregational Study:


Build a Better World I, Build a Better World II and Build a Better World: Africa are magazines for children to learn about other parts of the world and their struggles for a better life.* www.churchworldservice.com/


Pearson, Sharon and Christina Szoke. Treasure Magazine: UN Rights of the Child (2003: Episcopal Church Center)*


Sach, Jeffrey. Investing in Development – A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (2005: UN Millennium Project) www.unmillenniumproject.org

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*Stations of the Cross for Global Justice and Reconciliation* (2006: Episcopal Church Office of Governmental Relations)*

The Hope Chest – activities for teaching children about the lives of other children in developing countries
[www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)


**MDG Websites (general):**


Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation [www.e4gr.org/mdggoal.html](http://www.e4gr.org/mdggoal.html)

The Episcopal Church [www.episcopalchurch.org/programs_36756_ENG HTM.htm?menu=menu36744](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/programs_36756_ENG HTM.htm?menu=menu36744)

The ONE Campaign [www.one.org](http://www.one.org)

UN Millennium Campaign [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org)

UN website on MDGs [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

UN working with youth [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)

World Bank has data on the MDGs [www.developmentgoals.org](http://www.developmentgoals.org)

MDG Toolkit [www.mdgtoolkt.undg.org](http://www.mdgtoolkt.undg.org)

The World Scouts program on the MDGs [www.youthoftheworld.net](http://www.youthoftheworld.net)

Action Aid [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

Oxfam International [www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)

Social Watch [www.socialwatch.org](http://www.socialwatch.org)

Civicus [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)


Taking it Global - online community for youth [www.takingitglobal.org/home.html](http://www.takingitglobal.org/home.html)


Cool Planet for Teachers – lesson plans [www.oxfam.org/uk/coolplanet/index](http://www.oxfam.org/uk/coolplanet/index)

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development [www.cafod.org.uk/resources/youth_leaders.html](http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/youth_leaders.html)


**Video Resources:**

*A Diary of Angelia Jolie and Jeffrey Sachs* [http://shop.mtv.com/viewproduct.htm?productId=4432334](http://shop.mtv.com/viewproduct.htm?productId=4432334)

*Silent Killer: The Unfinished Campaign Against Hunger* KCTS TV 2005 [www.kcts.org](http://www.kcts.org)

*Girl in the Café* HBO 2005 [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)
Specific Resources on each of the MDGs

#1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

30 Hour Famine – international youth movement to fight hunger www.30hourfamine.org


Beckman, David and Art Simon. Grace at the Table: Ending Hunger in God’s World (1999: Paulist Press)


Bread for the World Make Hunger History: Teaching Children About Hunger (grades 4-6) *
www.bread.org

Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table – 7-session resource from the Presbyterian Hunger Program* www.pcusa.org/hunger/features/justeating.htm

Kidder, Tracy. Mountains Beyond Mountains (2003: Random House)


Websites:
Evangelical Church in America www.elca.org/hunger
United Methodist Church www.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/hunger.stm
Bread for the World www.bread.org
World Vision www.wvi.org
Global Call to Action Against Poverty www.whiteband.org
Church World Service www.churchworldservice.org/decisions/index.htm
Presbyterian Church www.pcusa.org/hunger/resources.htm
Heifer Project International www.heifer.org (Read to Feed Program)

#2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Websites:
Millennium Campaign on #2 www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=313469
Procuring supplies for children www.unicef.org/supply/index_education.html
Go Girls! www.unicef.org/girlseducation/campaign_gogirls.html

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#3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
Empowering Young Women to Lead Change
www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/628_filename_empowering-young-women

#4: Reduce Child Mortality
Websites:

#5: Improve Maternal Health

#6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

Websites:
Millennium Promise’s Millennium Villages™ www.millenniumpromise.org
National Episcopal Alliance of Churches www.neac.org
United Church of Christ www.ucc.org/hiv aids
AIDS Education Global Information System www.aegis.com
Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance www.thegaia.org

#7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
Adamah Congregations – curriculum and special program from the National Council of Churches of Christ’s Eco-Justice Program area on Sacred Water http://www.ncccecojustice.org/adamahh20.html


Scherff, Judy. Just and Proper Use: Issues in Environmental Stewardship (New York: Episcopal Church Center, 1992)*

McGinnis, James. Educating for Peace and Justice (K-5) (St. Louis: Institute for Peace and Justice, 1995) Unit 3 – Respect Nature: Become Friends with the Earth*

McGinnis, James. Families Caring . . . At Home . . . In the Community . . . For the Earth (St. Louis: Institute for Peace and Justice, 1995) Chapter 5 – Consumerism and Stewardship / Chapter 6 – Caring for the Earth*


The EarthWorks Group. *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth* (Andrews and McMeel, 1990)*


Water World – Children’s Voices (An educational booklet on water for children) UNEP 2003.*


**Websites**

Centered Life: Connecting Sunday to Monday www.centeredlife.org
Institute for Peace and Justice www.ipj.ppi.org
Spirit in Nature: www.spiritinnature.com
GreenFaith: Interfaith Partners for the Environment www.greenfaith.org
Partners for Environmental Quality – Interfaith Environment Coalition (NJ) www.peqnj.org
Virtual House Tour – www.H20use.org
The Water Page (history of water in the world’s religions) www.thewaterpage.com/religion
Forum on Religion and Ecology www.hds.harvard.edu/cswr/ecology
National Religious Partnership for the Environment www.nrpe.org
Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences www.ifees.org
U.S. National Council of Churches Eco-Justice / Web of Creation www.webofcreation.org
United Nations Environment Programme www.unep.org
Alternatives for Simple Living www.simpleliving.org
Protection of Species www.creationcare.org/files/endangeredcreatures.pdf
Classroom Earth www.classroomearth.org/
Water for All – Oxfam’s online learning resource on water and change www.oxfamo.org.uk/coolplanet/water/index.htm

#8: **Global Partnership for Development**
Church World Service *Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table* (curriculum – readings and reflection for action)*


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