

What One Can Do – Learn

Why Learn?

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." - John 1:1, 14*

Jesus is the Word. Not a static Word but a living Word, a Word made flesh. Matthew 25 tells us that in encountering the poorest of the poor, we encounter Christ. That encounter can happen in many ways, through reading, listening, meeting, breaking bread ... but the common denominator is we must open ourselves up to encounter the other and be changed by it, open ourselves up to have our worlds expanded and worldviews challenged.

Learning puts us on our knees. It's the acknowledgment that we don't know everything and we need to know more. Why learn? Because God's will for us is for life abundant ... and wisdom and knowledge are a part of that. The more we know about global poverty and God's mission of global reconciliation the more we are able to be God's agents of healing ... and the less likely we are to do harm instead of good in the attempt.

What One Person Can Do (Individual Study)

Meet and listen – There are few places you can go in America and not find people from the poorest countries of the world. Seek them out in your congregation, workplace and social circles. Ask them to share stories of their homeland ... and share stories of yours.

Read – Make your bedtime reading, train reading, book club reading something about global poverty.

What Can One Person Do: Faith to Heal a Broken World by Sabina Alkire and Ed Newell is still the best, most accessible and comprehensive place to start. See the reverse of this sheet for other ideas.

Travel – There is no substitute for traveling in the developing world to learn about what life is like and the richness we have to offer one another. Prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to be an MDG pilgrim. And if you aren't being called, support those who are with prayer and money.

Change your news sources - Network news and local newspapers don't cover the MDGs and global poverty. The internet is a great alternative news source. You can stream BBC World Radio online at your computer and read BBC world online at www.bbcworld.com. For a wonderful collection of young bloggers and news from around the world go to www.globalvoicesonline.org.

What One Congregation Can Do (Corporate Study)

Meet and listen – those people from MDG countries, invite them to speak at your church. Invite them to preach. Put a human face on these goals ... we are an incarnational faith, after all!

Read – Make What Can One Person Do or another MDG study curriculum the basis of a book group or Advent/Lenten Study

Preach – Make sure the MDGs & God's mission of global reconciliation are being heard from the pulpit.

Watch – Movie nights are great for education and conversation. Try The Girl in the Café, A Closer Walk, Blood Diamond and others.

Host a speaker – A one-time event or a series highlighting global poverty/MDGs

Travel – Do a congregational mission trip (use your companion relationship if you have one). Support youth and young adults' travel ... and make sure you have the team extensively report to the congregation when they return so the trip can effect not just a few.

What One Can Do – Learn

What One Can Read (Individual reading or book group)

What Can One Person Do by Sabina Alkire and Edmund Newell. The best primer on the MDGs. A great mix of information, stories, statistics, prayers, resources, practical ideas and discussion questions. Perfect for individual or group study. Available online on Amazon.com (\$11.70) and on ChurchPublishing.com (\$18). More information – www.whatcanonepersondo.org

The Bottom Billion by Paul Collier. Accessible economics that explains how poor countries got there and are staying there.

What One Can Study (Class curricula)

Eradicating Global Poverty: A Christian Study Guide on the Millennium Development Goals – by Lallie Lloyd, produced and distributed by the National Council of Churches. A great curriculum for Sunday mornings. A short section on each MDG suitable for groups that don't have time to do out-of-class readings. Easy to read and engaging with thought-provoking questions and a great mix of story, statistics and action possibilities. To order – call 800-889-5373 or email Rbray@gbgm-umc.org.

God's Mission in the World - a study guide on global poverty and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), produced jointly between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Intended as a resource for congregations and other groups who are looking to broaden their understanding of global poverty and become part of the worldwide movement achieving the MDGs, the guide features six weekly sessions examining Christian understandings of social justice, global poverty, and the MDGs. Order at www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn/

Mission and Ministry through the Millennium Development Goals – A five-session study developed by the Diocese of North Carolina for congregations to reflect upon God's mission on earth and upon God's calling to us to fulfill that mission, and for us to consider how the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) may relate to mission and ministry. Available with facilitator's guide for free download at images.acswebnetworks.com/1/591/MDGText.pdf or through www.dioncmdg.org/drupal/education

What One Can Surf (Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation online)

www.e4gr.org – E4GR's virtual home. Your one stop shopping center for resources, links, downloads, community – you name it – for the MDGs and the Episcopal Church. Continually updated.

www.e4gr.blogspot.com – News and reflections about God's mission of global reconciliation from voices around the church and around the world.

egrnews@e4gr.org – email us to subscribe to “What One Can Do” – E4GR's biweekly e-newsletter with ideas and resources for MDG ministry

www.groups.google.com/group/e4gr - Join the conversation with other Episcopalians committed to God's mission of global reconciliation

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2327068405 – Our growing youth/young adult group on FaceBook

www.youtube.com/group/EGR - Videos about the Millennium Development Goals, ending extreme poverty and anything involving seeking and serving Christ in the poorest of the poor.

*You can find more educational resources on the Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation website
www.e4gr.org*

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation + www.e4gr.org

“That all might have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10