

What One Can Do

*A starter list of opportunities for individuals and congregations
to get involved in the MDGs*

Prayer

- *Include the MDGs in the prayers of the people (take one a week and pray for it)
- *Include people and nations most effected by MDG issues in the prayers of the people (something new every week ... e.g. one week pray for the people of Tanzania, 1/3 of which are HIV+, the next week pray for the people of _____, x% of which don't receive primary education).
- *Episcopalians can use the Anglican Cycle of Prayer to pray for the work toward meeting the MDGs that is going on in the wider church.
- *Pray for God to open our hearts and minds to encounter Christ as we reach out to our sisters and brothers in need around the globe--and that they would encounter Christ in us.

Advocacy

- *Find out if your denomination or faith group has a lobbying arm on Capitol Hill (such as the Episcopal Public Policy Network and work with them to form parishwide networks for calling Congressional representatives when MDG issues come before Congress.
- *Especially in election years, go to candidate forums and ask questions about the MDGs, international development, the world security and public health issues involved in the AIDS pandemic, etc.
- *Write letters to your Congressional representatives urging them to support MDG funding.
- *Make appointments to see your elected representatives and let them know these issues are important to you.
- *Advocate for 0.7% giving to international development in your congregation and in your diocese, presbytery, etc.
- *Write letters to the editor to your local newspaper and diocese/presbytery/etc. newspaper.

Giving

- *Give 0.7% of your income to international development.
- *Instead of buying gifts at a store for Christmas, birthdays, etc. give the gift of donations to organizations that are working toward achieving the MDGs (Heifer Project and Episcopal Relief and Development are two organizations that do this).
- *Have a congregational fund-drive (and solicit doctors) to get materials needed to make AIDS test kits, then have an afternoon of assembling and packaging them. Include notes with them. Have the children of the congregation include pictures and letters.
- *Have every household in your congregation collect pennies in jars (kids love doing this), then have a "penny harvest" every six months with the proceeds being split between local outreach and international development.
- *Have each church school class adopt a child and pay their school fees (This can be done through World Vision and other organizations)
- *Begin a scholarship fund for international students from deeply effected countries going to college in your city.

Education

- *Have an adult education event about the MDGs and 0.7% giving.
- *Start a book study group around a book concerning an MDG issue (See Bibliography)
- *Have Sunday schools and youth groups do Lenten (or other) projects learning about MDG issues around the globe and raising money, supplies to help children in affected countries.
- *Have space in every parish and diocesan newsletter dedicated to educating about the MDGs – and what is being done about them by people in your faith group or denomination (preferably local).
- *Post MDG statistics around your church – include statistics about the difference that \$10, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000 can make.
- *Get your parish on the Washington Office on Africa mailing list and display their materials prominently in your church library. *(The Washington Office on Africa (WOA) is a church-sponsored not-for-profit advocacy organization seeking to articulate and promote a just American policy toward Africa. They monitor Congressional legislation and executive policies and actions and issue action alerts to advance progressive legislation and policy. They work in partnership with colleagues in Africa, the Africa advocacy community in the United States, and grassroots organizations concerned with various aspects of African affairs. – find out more and join at www.woafrica.org)*
- *Invite international students (esp. those of your faith/denomination) who are from countries heavily effected by MDG issues to preach, teach, tell their stories to you and your congregation.
- *Link MDG sites to your church website.
- *Encourage your clergy to become educated about the MDGs (provide materials for them) and to preach and teach about our great opportunity to live as global Christians
- *If your denomination has a relief and development agency (Such as Episcopal Relief and Development), have the local coordinator come do an adult forum presentation. Post their materials around the church.
- *Get involved with refugee resettlement through the International Institute and listen to the lives of people from effected nations.

***Experience**

- *Organize a church pilgrimage to an effected country, connecting with a denominational or other faith-based group there. Go as pilgrims walking on holy ground and listen to their stories, share your lives and work on a project that is of need to them.
- *If your diocese has a summer camp, look into possibilities of bringing children from a deeply effected country to camp for a summer (there is a Lutheran camp in Asheville, NC that does this with young people from Malawi every summer).