

Episcopal Life THIS WEEK

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people?

Achieving the U.N. Millennium Development Goals

Become 'ONE Episcopalian,' join the effort for global good

By Alexander Baumgarten

First in a 10-part series

To the more than one billion of God's people around the world who live each day in extreme poverty, the most important thing each of us can do today is visit www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE and become "ONE Episcopalian."

Did you know that every three seconds in our world, someone dies simply because he or she is too poor to continue living? Or that every six seconds, someone dies from AIDS, malaria, or tuberculosis? Or that in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean, a child is orphaned every 14 seconds?

These brutal realities — along with issues like conflict and war, inequality between men and women, and lack of basic education for millions of children around the world — comprise the phenomenon known as global poverty. The good news is that the solutions for global poverty are within the world's reach. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight targets for eradicating global poverty, have been adopted by more than 190 nations, including the United States. The goals are built on the understanding that the resources, strategies, and knowledge to end this crisis exist if only the moral will can be built.

That's where Episcopalians like us come in.

Recognizing that people of faith are key to building the will to achieve the goals, the Episcopal Church's 75th General Convention in June 2006 voted to make the goals the top mission priority for the church over the next three years. In order to do this, the Convention endorsed a new effort called ONE Episcopalian, in which the church has partnered with ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History (www.ONE.org).

The ONE Campaign is a movement of more than two million Americans of all beliefs and every walk of life who believe that by standing as one we can call our government to do more to fight poverty and disease in the world. The campaign never asks for your money. It asks for your voice with our government, because that's what's needed to achieve the MDGs.

Let us pray that the cries of the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world for daily bread may inspire works of compassion and mercy among those to whom much has been given.

- Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations

The campaign calls for the U.S. government to spend an additional one percent of its budget each year on fighting poverty in the world. (Currently, the U.S. spends far less than one percent.) That additional one percent can prevent 10 million children from becoming AIDS orphans; put 104 million children in grade school; provide safe drinking water to 900 million people around the world; and save 6.5 million children from death before their fifth birthdays.

In short, an additional one percent would build a better, safer world for all people; a world that looks radically more like God's will for it. The only way it will get done, though, is with your voice.

Can you get involved today by becoming a ONE Episcopalian? You can sign up online at www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE, and it takes less than one minute.

One by one, Episcopalians can help make poverty history. ■

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Episcopal Church & Global Good

The eight United Nations MDGs form a blueprint agreed to by the world's countries and leading development institutions.

They are the Episcopal Church's top mission priority for the next three years.

Millennium Development Goals

Learn more about it

- **ONE Episcopalian**
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE/>
- **DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa)**
www.data.org
- **Educational resources from Episcopal Relief and Development**
http://er-d.org/programs_36756_ENG_HTML.htm
- **United Nations Millennium Development Goals**
www.un.org/millenniumgoals/
www.millenniumcampaign.org

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