



# The Episcopal Church

**March 13, 2011 – First Sunday in Lent / Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday**

At the 2009 General Convention, Lent was officially designated as a time to encourage dioceses, congregations, and individuals to remember and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief & Development. All Episcopalians are invited to celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on March 13 or another convenient date during Lent.



Photo Courtesy of Harvey Wang for Episcopal Relief & Development

Originally established in 1940 as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church and an independent 501(c)(3) organization. Together with the worldwide church and ecumenical partners, the organization rebuilds after disasters and empowers people by offering lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger, and disease. Episcopal Relief & Development now reaches over 40 countries and has touched the lives of more than 2.8 million people worldwide. Its programs work toward:

- Alleviating Hunger and Improving Food Supply
- Creating Economic Opportunities and Strengthening Communities
- Promoting Health and Fighting Disease
- Responding to Disasters and Rebuilding Communities



**Episcopal Relief & Development**

Healing a hurting world

## Millennium Development Goals: Eight Steps Toward Healing a Hurting World

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established to reduce the number of people who live in extreme poverty by the year 2015. Developed by the international community, including leaders from 191 countries, the eight goals below have been endorsed by development institutions and religious bodies around the world.

The Episcopal Church initially dedicated itself to supporting the MDGs at the 74th General Convention in 2003. Putting its commitment into action at the 2006 convention, the church resolved to contribute 0.7% of its annual budget through Episcopal Relief & Development's Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund. In 2009, the church renewed its support of the MDGs by endorsing the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund to fight malaria and by continuing its 0.7% budget contribution through the initiative.

Episcopal Relief & Development uses the Millennium Development Goals as a framework to guide and help measure the impact of its work. All of Episcopal Relief & Development's international development programs work toward achieving the goals. For more information, please visit [www.er-d.org/MDGs](http://www.er-d.org/MDGs).



## Lenten Resources

For complimentary Lenten devotionals from Episcopal Relief & Development in English and Spanish, along with sermon notes, prayers, and other resources, scan the QR code to the left with your smart phone, or go to [www.er-d.org/Lent](http://www.er-d.org/Lent).

