

*Micah Challenge*  
HALVE POVERTY BY 2015



*Engage Your Church in Justice – Take action on 10.10.10.*

**Micah Challenge Australia is calling on churches and Christians around the country to set aside Sunday 10 October, 2010 (10.10.10) to focus on justice as an integral part of worship. On this day, churches are encouraged to join with millions of Christians around the world to make a stand with and on behalf of the poor.**

During worship services Christians will **pray**, make a **promise** and offer their **handprint** as a 'letter' to our nation's leaders. It is ten years since world leaders committed to halve global poverty by 2015. 10.10.10 is a day to collectively recommit to following the call in Scripture to pursue justice and to remind both ourselves and our leaders of the promise to halve global poverty by 2015.

On Sunday 10 October, 2010, in services from Los Angeles to Auckland, London to Mumbai and Manila to Melbourne, Christians will be actively seeking God's justice to flow. Micah Challenge is asking churches to include **three** actions in their church services on that day.

*1. Global Prayer* – Join with 100 million Christians to pray for God to move to release the poor and marginalised from the cycle of poverty. Churches around the world will be using a combination of formal and informal prayers. The 10.10.10 Global Prayer below is based on Nehemiah's prayer before he was granted permission by the king to start work on the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem (Neh 1 & 2). This prayer will be prayed by millions of our brothers and sisters on 10 October, in their many languages and expressions of worship.

*O Lord, our great and awesome God, loyal to your promise of love and faithful to all who honour and obey you, hear our prayer. We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.*

*We confess that we have not always obeyed you. We have neglected your commands and have ignored your call for justice. We have been guided by self-interest and lived in spiritual poverty. Forgive us.*

*We remember your promises to fill the hungry with good things, to redeem the land by your mighty hand and to restore peace. Father God, help us always to proclaim your justice and mercy with humility, so that, by the power of your Spirit, we can rid the world of the sin of extreme poverty.*

*As part of your global church, we stand with millions who praise and worship you. May our words and deeds declare your perfect goodness, love and righteousness to both the powerful and the powerless so that your Kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen*

*2. Big Promise* – Take the opportunity, as disciples of Jesus, to recommit to living a life that overflows with justice, mercy and humility. Christians all over the world will offer our hands as a promise to tirelessly work for justice for the poor. As an active sign of this promise people will be asked to make a handprint on a giant canvas as a 'signature' of their offering and commitment.

You will need:

- A good sized space
- A piece of canvas - one pass curtain lining from a fabric store such as Spotlight or Lincraft would work well.
- Paint (water soluble) or markers/textas if you are planning to trace your hands

- Paint trays or similar to hold the paint so people can dip their hands
- A bin or bucket for people to wash their hands and old towels to dry
- A drop sheet to avoid mess

If your canvas is on the floor, instruct people to start at the middle to avoid others walking over their hand print.

Be creative. Get kids involved. Don't rush. Create some space in the service for people to reflect and pray through the issues and their own response.

You could also use a simple public statement of promise such as 'We promise to remember the poor. We promise to remind our leaders to keep their commitment to the poor' or you could write your own.

**3. Big Hand Over** – Turn your pledges into action to reduce the devastating effects of poverty by making an appointment to present your canvas to your Federal Member of Parliament. This is an opportunity to raise our voices as Christians and demonstrate we, as a community, want government action to halve poverty. See the guide for visiting your MP at [www.micahchallenge.org.au/contact-your-politician](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/contact-your-politician).

## How to run a 10.10.10 Service

The options for how you can incorporate these three key actions into a meaningful worship service are endless. We encourage you to get creative and share ideas, but here are some of ours:

**Sing** - Focus on worship songs with themes of justice. Use the 10.10.10 campaign song, 'You Have Show Us' by Martin Smith, or other songs from the *You Have Shown Us* album produced by Kingsway Music and Micah Challenge for the campaign. Artists include Martin Smith (Delirious?), Chris Tomlin, Stuart Townend, Matt Redman, Brenton Brown, Cathy Burton and Tim Hughes. *You Have Shown Us* CDs are available for sale from Micah Challenge.

**Preach** - Read key passages from the Bible concerning the poor. Preach on a passage from the prophets, or on an aspect of God's justice. Some sermon notes will be available online.

**Study** - Do a church wide bible study for 4 weeks leading into or out of 10.10.10. Use material from Director of Micah Challenge International, Joel Edwards' new book *Just Mercy*, which features four Bible studies prepared for 10.10.10. Books available for sale from Micah Challenge.

**Pray** - Incorporate an interactive prayer time including the 'Global Prayer' (available online) with members of the congregation praying about particular issues of poverty and justice. See [www.micah2010.org](http://www.micah2010.org) for ideas for prayers for children and other groups. Or use Micah Challenge's MDG prayer stations.

**Watch** - Use *The World We Want to See* DVD to introduce people to Micah Challenge and to stimulate thinking about why and how Christians can advocate for the poor. A special music video and message from Martin Smith in support of the 10.10.10 campaign is also available online.

**Create** - Get an artist or the kids from your church to paint some images on your canvas.

**Act** - Encourage people at your church to participate in 'Ride to Worship Week' (9-16 October) on 10.10.10. Ride to Worship is a helpful reminder of the need to reduce our contribution to climate change, which is having devastating effects for the world's poor. Visit [www.arrcc.org.au](http://www.arrcc.org.au) for more information.

**Engage your community** - Use your 10.10.10 canvas as an opportunity for church-led community action. Before or after 10.10.10, take your canvas into the community and invite others to offer their hands as a promise of commitment to fight poverty. Organise a stall at the community fair, take it to playgroups, schools or workplaces or you could even go door knocking.

**For information about 10.10.10 around the world and more resources visit the Micah Challenge International 10.10.10 website: [www.micah2010.org](http://www.micah2010.org)**

**Please register your church's involvement on the Micah Challenge Australia website. All resources mentioned above will be available from Micah Challenge Australia [www.micahchallenge.org.au/micah2010](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/micah2010).**