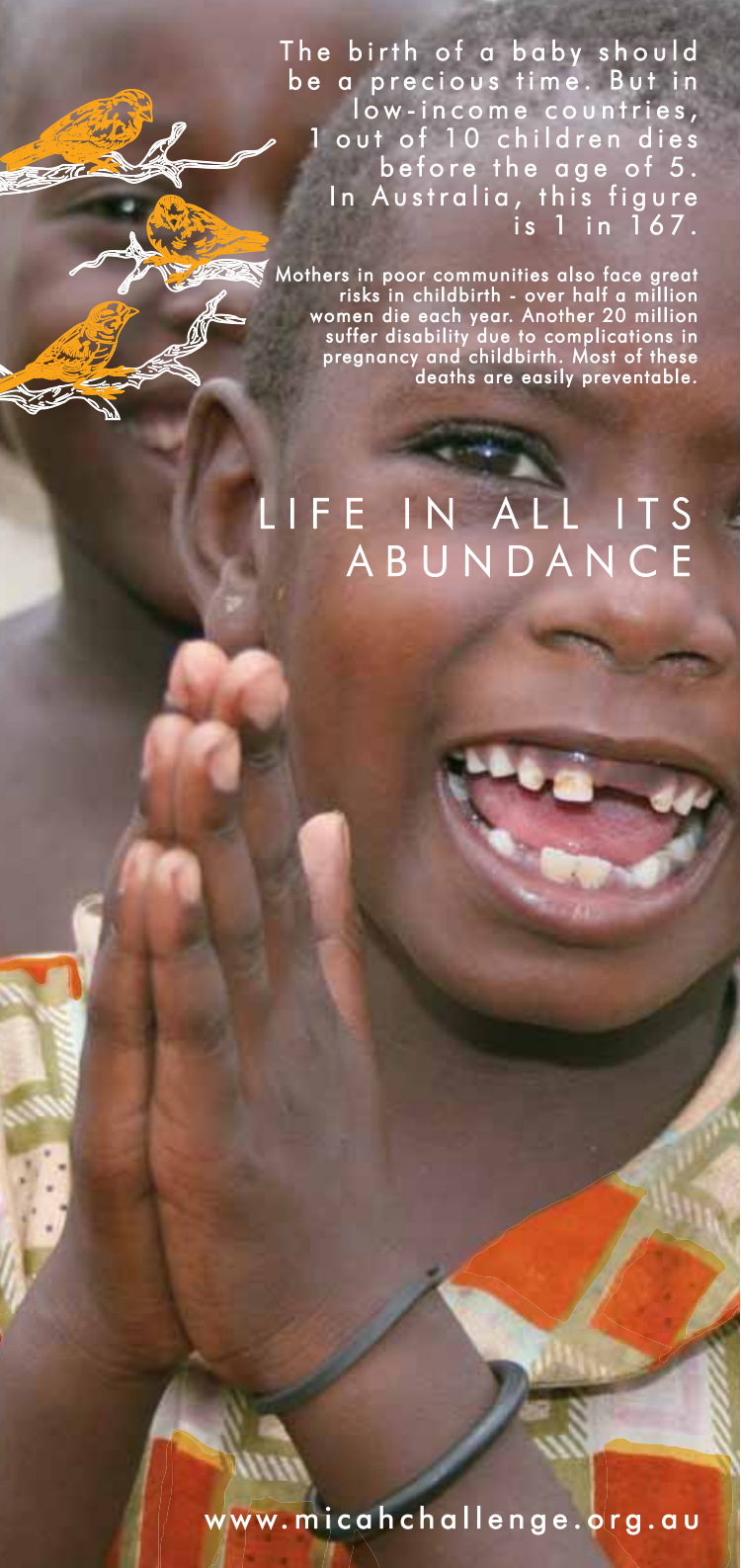




The birth of a baby should be a precious time. But in low-income countries, 1 out of 10 children dies before the age of 5. In Australia, this figure is 1 in 167.

Mothers in poor communities also face great risks in childbirth - over half a million women die each year. Another 20 million suffer disability due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth. Most of these deaths are easily preventable.

LIFE IN ALL ITS ABUNDANCE



In 2000, the nations of the world agreed to halve global poverty by 2015. They set targets to reduce by 3/4 the number of women dying in childbirth and to cut child mortality by 2/3.

Access to basic health care – midwives, mosquito nets, immunisation and breastfeeding advice – is needed to reach these targets. Breastfeeding alone could give infants in developing countries a 300% better chance of survival (UNICEF).

We can act to support projects which deliver change and we can ask the world's leaders to meet the Millennium Development Goals – to support pregnant women, promote breastfeeding, educate about HIV/AIDS and protect women from violence.

God sees our hearts and the hearts of millions of women who have no choices and no hope. He asks, "What are we willing to do?"

Pray for women and families in places of crisis. Cry out for their protection from hunger, homelessness and violence. Pray for hope. //1

Encourage your work, playgroup or homegroup to support projects that deliver health care for women and children. //2

Send a photo of your group to the Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Bob.McMullan.MP@aph.gov.au, asking him to devote another \$500 million a year to basic health services to bring hope to women and infants in poverty. //3

Find out more about these issues and the Christian campaign for action on global poverty at www.micahchallenge.org.au



Micah Challenge

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

