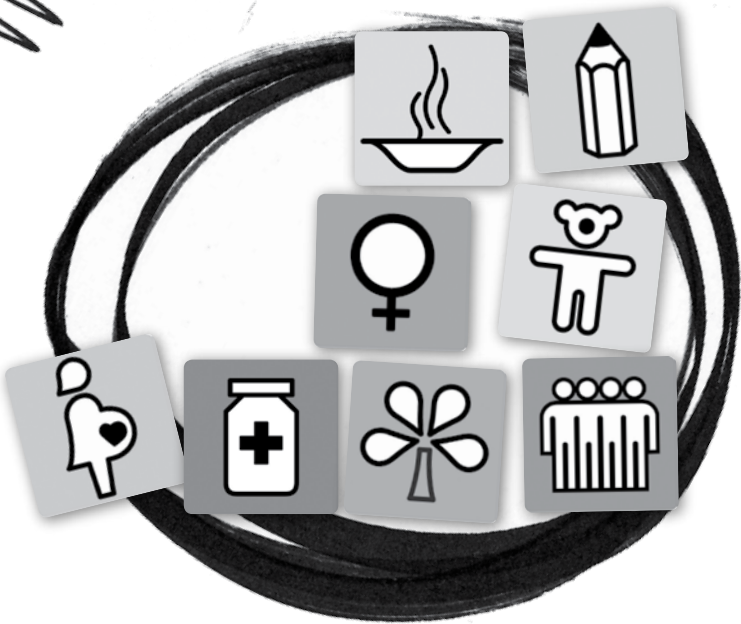


# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS PRAYER STATIONS



Micah Challenge



[www.micahchallenge.org.au](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au)  
[info@micahchallenge.org.au](mailto:info@micahchallenge.org.au)

## INTRODUCTION

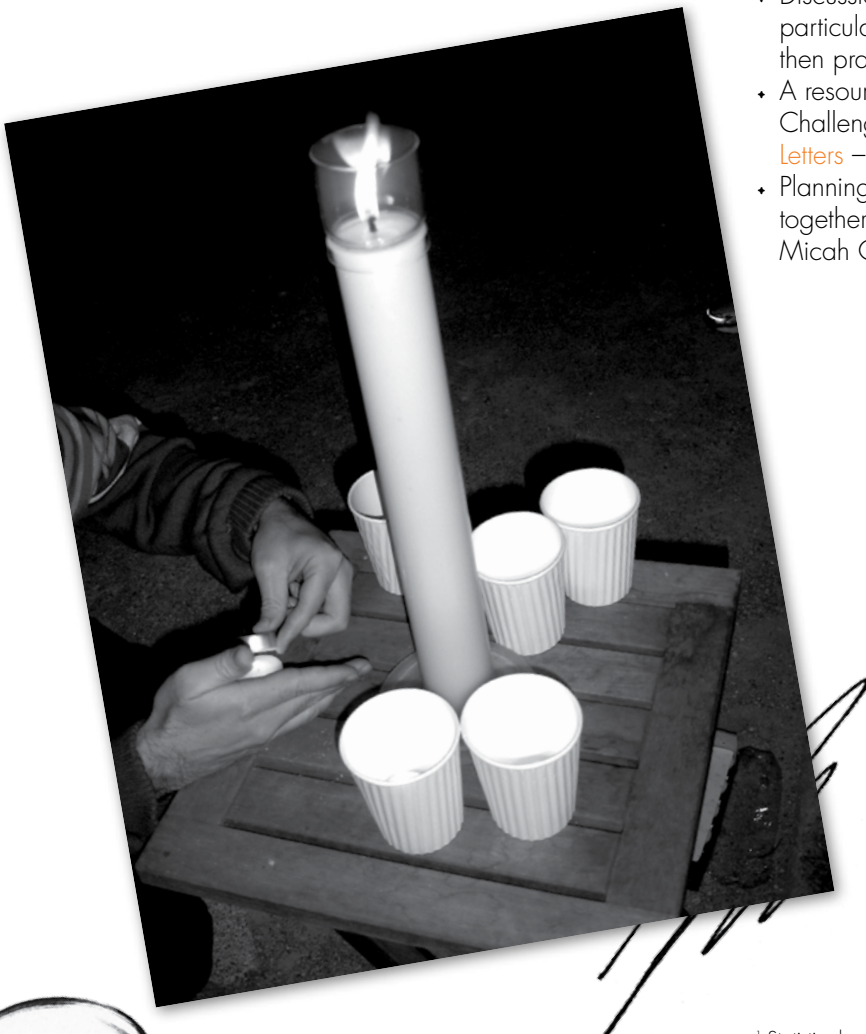
This interactive prayer activity is designed to allow people to take time to reflect and be engaged with the issues of global poverty in a physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual way, bringing them to God in prayer.

The introductory prayer station is about "Jesus Our Advocate", for people to reflect on the way that Jesus is an advocate for them personally. This includes some Bible verses, and the instructions for a prayer activity.

There are then eight stations for each of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aim to halve global poverty between 1990 and 2015. Each MDG station includes the following:

- The targets and progress against the targets for the particular goal<sup>1</sup>.
- Bible verses for people to reflect on.
- Instructions for a prayer activity, which also include a short anecdote or facts.

There is also a prayer sheet for people to take away with them afterwards, with suggested points for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession for each of the MDGs.



### How to set up the prayer stations

- Set up each station on a separate piece of cloth. Put the "Jesus our Advocate" station in the middle of the room, and the MDG stations around the edges of the room.
- See page 2 for a list of the materials you need and how to organise them for the prayer activity at each station.
- Photocopy and cut out the targets and progress for each MDG, Bible verses, and prayer activity instructions (pages 3 to 9) and place them on the relevant stations.
- Take as many photocopies of the prayer sheet (pages 10 and 11) as there are people. Have them available for people to take away after they have finished the stations.
- A3 colour images for each station can also be downloaded from the Micah Challenge website and printed out (as can the MDG symbols from [www.mdgmonitor.org/press.cfm](http://www.mdgmonitor.org/press.cfm)<sup>2</sup>).

People may reflect at their own pace, and interact with as many of the stations as they wish. It is helpful to play some appropriate music, such as the Micah Challenge Heart Life VOICE CD, to set the mood for people to reflect.

### Possible follow up activities

- Discussion in pairs/triplets about what impacted them particularly while interacting with the prayer stations, then pray together.
- A resource station for people to take part in a Micah Challenge activity (e.g. [5th Birthday Card](#), [Offering of Letters](#) – see the Micah Challenge website for resources).
- Planning for action – discuss what can the group do together to get involved in Micah Challenge. See the Micah Challenge website for action ideas.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics have come from United Nations (2009) The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009; UNICEF (2009) The State of the World's Children 2009; UNICEF (2008) The State of the World's Children 2008.

<sup>2</sup> MDG symbols are © UNDP Brazil.

## SETTING UP EACH PRAYER ACTIVITY

**Jesus Our Advocate:** You'll need: Paper and pens/textas, a candle, images of Jesus from different cultural perspectives.

**MDG 1:** You'll need: Hammer, and bricks/rubble/rocks.

**MDG 2:** You'll need: Notebook (or two if there are a lot of people), pens, textas, pencils.

**MDG 3:** You'll need: Sticks (go scavenging in your neighbourhood!), and a large tray of sand or dirt to bury the sticks in. Wet the sand a little so the sticks stand up better. Tie red ribbon around half the sticks, blue around the other half. Stand the blue sticks upright in the sand and bury the red sticks.

**MDG 4:** You'll need: Modelling clay/play-doh (available from your closest \$2 shop or make your own play doh). Have them molded into babies, ready for people to use.

**MDG 5:** You'll need: Coloured A4 paper. Have a mother and baby already made from the activity instructions (see page 6) so people know what the finished product should look like.

**MDG 6:** You'll need: A large bowl, water, red food colouring, marbles (from your \$2 shop if you don't have any), and a piece of cloth.

**MDG 7:** You'll need string to outline the base of the well, and stones/rocks (from wherever you can find them, or you can get smooth stones from the \$2 shop). Lay the stones in the shape of a road.

**MDG 8:** You'll need: Fair Trade tea bags (e.g. from [www.tradewinds.org.au](http://www.tradewinds.org.au)), cups, hot water, sugar, milk.



## JESUS OUR ADVOCATE

### Bible verses for Jesus Our Advocate

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on the earth. In his law the islands will put their hope. (Isaiah 42:1-4)

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1)



*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:  
Who, being in very nature God,  
Did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
But made himself nothing,  
Taking the very nature of a servant,  
Being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled himself  
And became obedient to death –  
Even death on a cross!  
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
And gave him the name that is above every name,  
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
To the glory of God the Father*

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Philippians 2:5-13)*

### Prayer activity for Jesus Our Advocate

Before we think about speaking up for others, we start by remembering that we need somebody to speak up for us.

Reflect on the way that Jesus is an advocate for you.

Write down some things that you would like Jesus to ask for you, on your behalf.



## MDG 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

**Target 1a:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than US\$1 a day.

**Progress 1a:** The number of people living in extreme poverty dropped from 1.8 billion in 1990 (42% of the population in developing countries, to 1.4 billion in 2005 (25% of the population). Even though more people are now falling into poverty because of the food and economic crises, the target still appears likely to be achieved by 2015. However, some developing regions will still have a significant proportion of their population earning less than \$1 a day.

**Target 1b:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

**Progress 1b:** 20% of the population in developing regions was undernourished in 1990-1992. This declined to 16% in 2004-2006, but increased again to 17% because of the food crisis. Poverty reduction rates, as measured by income, have not been matched by increased access to food. Significant action is needed to prevent a long-lasting food crisis.

### Bible verses for MDG 1

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed", but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:15-17)

### Prayer activity for MDG 1

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a boy spends every day chipping through stones in search of minerals to sell. For a flour bag of stones he is paid as little as 25 cents. His family and community are dependent on this industry. Break a piece off the rubble with the hammer as a prayer to bring daily bread to this community.



## MDG 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

**Target 2:** Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

**Progress:** In 2000, 83% of children in developing regions were enrolled in primary education. In 2007, this figure was 88%. However, these improvements could be dealt a serious blow by the economic crisis, and current progress is too slow and uneven to achieve the goal.

### Bible verse for MDG 2

Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in divine and human favour. (Luke 2:52)

### Prayer activity for MDG 2

Rowena was three when she started work in the Philippines, sorting through a garbage dump to collect recyclable materials. She's never been to school at all. Think about how education has empowered you. On one page, write or draw something you've learnt in the past year. On another page, write or draw a prayer for children like Rowena who have not had the opportunity to finish, or even begin, primary school.



## MDG 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

**Target 3:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

**Progress:** The gender disparity in education has declined across all levels of education, however, the 2005 target was missed. In 2007, the number of girls/women enrolled per 100 boys/men was 95 in primary education, 94 in secondary education, and 96 in tertiary education. Renewed commitment is needed to ensure that the target is not missed again by 2015.

### Bible verses for MDG 3

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

*While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly. "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them anytime you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." (Mark 14:3-9)*

### Prayer activity for MDG 3

At fourteen, Phally was working two jobs while her brothers went to school. Now, with the help of a small loan and some training, she runs a successful grocery business in Cambodia, employs her brothers, and can send her own daughter to school. Lift up a woman from her labour (red) and make her stand equal with the men (blue) as a prayer for the empowerment of women around the world.



## MDG 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

**Target 4:** Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

**Progress:** Significant progress has been made on this goal. Nine million children under five died in 2007 (93 deaths per 1,000 live births), down from 12.6 million in 1990 (67 deaths per 1,000 live births). However, many countries have made little progress, and an increased effort is needed to achieve the target.

### Bible verses for MDG 4

He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37)

*"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime." (Isaiah 65:17-20)*



### Prayer activity for MDG 4

Each year in Afghanistan, 338,000 children die under the age of five. Bismillah is one of the lucky ones. Suffering malnourishment and pneumonia, she was brought in time to a clinic where she's on her way to recovery. Take a clay baby and mould it into a grown person as a prayer to reduce the mortality rate among children under five.



## MDG 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

**Target 5:** Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.

**Progress:** Very little progress has been made on this goal. The maternal death rate in developing regions has decreased only marginally from 480 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990, to 450 in 2007 – which is 50 times the rate in wealthy countries.

### Bible verses for MDG 5

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David... The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age. She who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!... Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" (Luke 1:26-45)



### Prayer activity for MDG 5

Around 536,000 women die each year from complications during pregnancy, during childbirth, or in the six weeks following delivery. 99% are from developing countries and 80% of deaths are preventable. As a traditional birth attendant, Emily is fighting to reverse these statistics, helping with safer deliveries for hundreds of women in rural Malawi. Make a large origami woman and a small origami child using the instructions below. Reunite them as a prayer for improved maternal health.

1. Take a piece of coloured A4 paper and fold one corner across to the opposite side.



2. Tear off remaining section to leave a large square.



3. Fold all corners of square into the centre.



4. Flip folded square over and repeat step 3.



5. Flip once more and repeat step 3.

6. Flip over and fold out sleeves and skirt of the woman (for the arms and skirt, place finger inside each small diamond and bring inside corner to outside corner and flatten out).



7. Make a smaller square from the remaining paper and repeat steps 3 – 6 to make a baby.

8. Tuck the baby into the mother's sleeve.





## **MDG 6:** COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

**Target 6a:** Have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

**Progress 6a:** Overall, new HIV infections are decreasing, however, infection rates are rising in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. AIDS deaths are also declining, however, the number of people living with AIDS continues to rise, mainly because people have better access to anti-retroviral drugs and are surviving longer.

**Target 6b:** Have halted and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases by 2015.

**Progress 6b:** Nearly a million people died of malaria in 2006, 95% of them in sub-Saharan Africa. However, significant funding has now been dedicated by world leaders to the fight against malaria. The incidence of tuberculosis has declined from 370 per 100,000 population in 1990, to 234 in 2007 (not including people who are HIV-positive), but the number of new cases continues to rise.



### **Bible verses for MDG 6**

"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'" (Luke 10:9)

*Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. (Matthew 4:23)*

"As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:7-8)

*"I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25:36)*

### **Prayer activity for MDG 6**

Pedro, Rose and Chembe visit the grave of their mother who died from an HIV/AIDS related illness. Their grandfather, 75, now takes care of them. Over 15 million children worldwide have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS, and 33 million people are living with HIV. Remove a marble from the red liquid and place it on the blue cloth as a prayer to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

## MDG 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Target 7a:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs, and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

**Progress 7a:** Good progress has been made in protecting the ozone layer. In contrast, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. Climate change is already impacting on the lives of the poor, and threatens to undo progress on the MDGs, through impacts such as increased drought, flood, sea level rise, water stress, food insecurity, and tropical disease. An international agreement to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions is urgently needed to stop dangerous climate change.

**Target 7b:** Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.

**Progress 7b:** Some progress has been made in setting aside areas of land and water for conservation. However, the rate of species extinction continues to rise, more fisheries are overexploited than ever, and deforestation continues at an alarming rate.

**Target 7c:** Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

**Progress 7c:** The world is ahead of schedule for meeting the target for access to safe drinking water. 1.1 billion people in developing regions gained access to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2006. An additional 1.4 billion people will require these facilities if the sanitation target is to be met.

**Target 7d:** Have achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

**Progress 7d:** The proportion of the urban population in developing countries living in slum conditions decreased from 46% in 1990 to 36% in 2005. Significant action is particularly needed for improving the conditions of slum dwellers in Africa (62% of the urban population).



### Bible verses for MDG 7

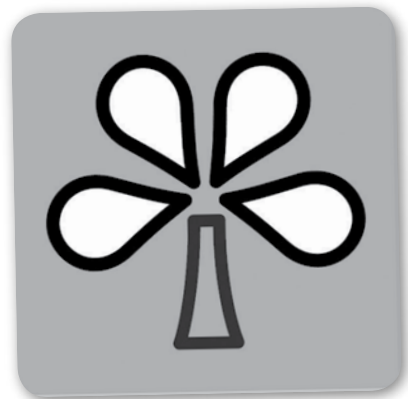
"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of waters, and the parched ground into springs..." (Isaiah 41:17-18)

*"You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst... You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth." (Psalm 104:10-14)*

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Christ Jesus], and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (Colossians 1:19-20)

### Prayer activity for MDG 7

Every day Mame collects water for her family in Senegal. She's lucky enough to live near a borehole. The average distance to travel for water in Africa is 6km, and some children spend up to six hours per day on this task. Take away a stone from their road to make the distance shorter, and use it to begin building a well as a prayer for those who still have no access to clean water, or whose water security is at risk.



## MDG 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Target 8a:** Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

**Target 8b:** Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

**Target 8c:** Address the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries, and small island developing states (includes enhanced aid, debt relief, and trade provisions).

**Progress on aid:** Overseas development assistance remains well short of the United National target of 0.7% of gross national income of developed nations agreed to in 1970. Only five countries, all in northern Europe, have met or exceeded the target.

**Progress on trade:** The proportion of developing countries' exports admitted duty free by developed countries declined in the late 1990s, but is again increasing. The proportion of developing countries' exports receiving truly preferential duty free treatment (while competitors' products are subject to a tariff) has been fluctuating at around 20% for the past 10 years. However, preferential treatment for exports from the least developed countries has increased (to more than 50% in 2007).

**Progress on debt relief:** 33 countries have received debt relief of US\$48 billion under the Highly Indebted Poor Country initiative. However, other countries (e.g. Indonesia) have become heavily indebted more recently. Countries are also vulnerable to new debt crises unless an open, rule-based loans system is implemented, and further debt relief is given in the economic downturn.



### Bible verses for MDG 8

"...Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high..." (Isaiah 58:3-4)

*A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away. (Proverbs 13:23)*

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your noon will become like the noonday." (Isaiah 58:9-10)

### Prayer activity for MDG 8

In Uganda, Simon sells the harvest from a few parched coffee plants that his parents planted before their death. He has no access to global markets or opportunity for a fair price. For every \$1 paid for tea at a supermarket, less than 15 cents goes to people in the country where the tea was grown. Take a Fair Trade teabag to give producers, blenders and packers in poorer countries a fair deal... and as you drink, pray for rich countries to recognise their responsibility to work for justice for the poor.



## PRAYER SHEET

### MDG 1:

#### Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

##### Prayers of thanksgiving:

- Give thanks that the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined.
- Give thanks for the significant progress made on poverty reduction in Asia particularly.

##### Prayers of intercession:

- Pray for the extra 55-90 million people who are expected to be living in extreme poverty because of the global economic crisis.
- Pray for justice for Africa, the world's poorest continent. Almost half of the population of sub-Saharan Africa lives in extreme poverty, and 30% is malnourished.
- Pray for aid and development agencies, that the delivery of food aid and development assistance will feed the hungry.
- Pray for reform in unfair systems of international trade, to enhance food security and the ability of small farmers in developing countries to provide food for their communities.

### MDG 2:

#### Achieve Universal Primary Education

##### Prayers of thanksgiving:

- Give thanks for the significant improvements in access to education, particularly the major breakthroughs made in sub-Saharan Africa and in southern Asia.

##### Prayers of intercession:

- Pray that parents in developing countries will not be forced to choose between sending their children to work or sending them to school to enable the family to survive.
- Pray that poorer countries will not have to choose between servicing debts to rich countries or educating their children.
- Pray for increased investment in education and the provision of teachers.

### MDG 3:

#### Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

##### Prayers of thanksgiving:

- Give thanks that the gender disparity in education has declined.

##### Prayers of intercession:

- Pray that girls will be able to choose the time of their own marriage and that it will not necessitate sacrificing their schooling.
- Pray for women across the world to be listened to as equals in their community and valued for their contribution to society.
- Pray for more female teachers to be trained in countries where there are cultural constraints against women's education.

### MDG 4:

#### Reduce Child Mortality

##### Prayers of thanksgiving:

- Give thanks for the increased coverage of immunisation, and the large reduction in measles deaths that has resulted.
- Give thanks for the promising signs of child-survival interventions in sub-Saharan Africa, including the use of bed nets and exclusive breastfeeding.

##### Prayers of intercession:

- Pray for the provision of simple rehydration solutions to treat diarrhoea, which accounts for one in six of the child deaths worldwide each year.
- Pray for the success of World Food Program's activities to prevent under-nutrition, which is an underlying cause in up to half of all deaths before age five.
- Pray for preventative measures to reduce deaths from pneumonia, which kills more children than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

### MDG 5:

#### Improve Maternal Health

##### Prayers of thanksgiving:

- Give thanks that every region has made some progress in improving the availability of doctors, nurses and midwives to assist at deliveries.

##### Prayers of intercession:

- Pray for the training of more traditional birthing attendants where there is a shortage of professional staff.
- Pray for the decrease of Female Genital Mutilation, which can contribute to prolonged or obstructed labour.
- Pray for women in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia, where 85% of all maternal deaths occur.



### **MDG 6:**

#### **Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases**

##### **Prayers of thanksgiving:**

- ♦ Give thanks that new HIV infections and AIDS deaths have peaked.
- ♦ Give thanks for the dramatic increase in the use of mosquito nets for children.

##### **Prayers of intercession:**

- ♦ Pray for the education and empowerment of women in developing countries, who often have no choice over the timing or manner of sex.
- ♦ Pray for Western governments and pharmaceutical companies to show compassion in allowing greater availability of inexpensive anti-retroviral drugs in poorer countries.
- ♦ Pray for the rescue of trafficked women and children, who are often forced into sexual slavery and thus exposed to the HIV virus.
- ♦ Pray for increased resourcing for and success of the Roll Back Malaria Global Action Plan, and the Stop TB strategy.

### **MDG 7:**

#### **Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

##### **Prayers of thanksgiving:**

- ♦ Give thanks for the progress made in increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation.
- ♦ Give thanks for increased awareness of the seriousness of issues such as climate change and deforestation.

##### **Prayers of intercession:**

- ♦ Pray for development agencies achieving further success in implementing sustainable agriculture and industry policies.
- ♦ Pray for all countries to work together to prevent dangerous climate change, and to support poor communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate change effects.
- ♦ Pray that poorer countries will not be forced into privatising water supplies which are provided for profit rather than as a public service.
- ♦ Pray for governments and international organisations to make rural infrastructure a priority, so that millions more are not forced into city slums simply to feed themselves.

### **MDG 8:**

#### **Develop a Global Partnership for Development**

##### **Prayers of thanksgiving:**

- ♦ Give thanks for the progress made on debt relief.
- ♦ Give thanks for improvements made in recent years in the trade conditions for some of the world's poorest countries.

##### **Prayers of intercession:**

- ♦ Pray for countries such as Australia, which have promised to lift their Overseas Development Assistance to 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income but have failed to reach this figure.
- ♦ Pray for those involved in reforming international trade systems, that poorer producers will have fair access to markets and a reasonable price for their goods.
- ♦ Pray for rich governments and global banks to forgive even more of the unsustainable and crippling debts of poorer countries.
- ♦ Pray for those all around the world who are working with the poor, that they may know God's power as they bring change and hope in culturally appropriate ways.