

What Can ONE person DO?

Five Easy Steps to making the MDGs a part of your spiritual life

- 1) **Pray.** Hold people facing poverty in prayer. Use intercessory prayer to bring suffering before the mercy and love of God. Pray for God to open our hearts and minds as we pray for our brothers and sisters in need.
- 2) **Study.** Lead discussion groups and participate in book groups to discuss poverty. Then spread the word. Jeffrey Sachs' book, [The End of Poverty](#), is a good beginning resource. Encourage Sunday schools and youth groups to do projects to learn about MDG issues around the globe. Have space in every parish and diocesan newsletter dedicated to education about the MDGs – and how local community members in your faith group are responding. Post MDG statistics around your church – include statistics about the difference that \$10, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000 can make (see Episcopal Relief and Development www.er-d.org.)

Informational Websites on MDGs

ONE Episcopalian (includes worship resources)- <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn/>
The ONE Campaign - <http://www.one.org/>
The Millennium Campaign - www.millenniumcampaign.org
DATA- Debt, AIDS, Trade, and Africa - sponsored by Bono of U2 - <http://www.data.org/>
The Millennium Project - <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/index.htm>
Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation – www.e4gr.org

- 3) **Financial Giving.** In addition to your stewardship to your church, make giving .7% to organizations targeting the MDGs a part of your spiritual discipline. Encourage your parish to give .7% as a line item in their budget. Instead of buying tangible gifts for Christmas and birthdays, give donations to organizations that target the MDGs. Have every household in your congregation collect pennies in jars (kids love doing this), then have a “penny harvest” every six months with the proceeds being split between local outreach and international development.

Where to Begin with your .7%

Episcopal Relief and Development- <http://www.er-d.org/>
Bread for the World - www.bread.org
Kiva - www.kiva.org
Charity Navigator - www.charitynavigator.org (evaluates non-profits, searchable database)
Guidestar - www.guidestar.org (evaluates non-profits, requires a free log-in)

- 4) **Build relationships.** Connect with the impoverished through mission work and cultural immersion experiences. Put a face with the cause and grow in understanding. Organize a church pilgrimage to developing country and connect with a denominational or other faith-based group there.

- 5) **Advocacy.** Work with Episcopal Public Policy Network (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn/>) to form parish and diocesan wide networks for calling Congressional representatives when MDG issues come before Congress. Write letters to your Congressional representatives urging them to support funding for the MDGs. Make appointments to see your elected representatives and let them know these issues are important to you. Be sure to join the ONE Campaign!

Many of these ideas are from Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation- www.e4gr.org