

# The Millennium Development Issue Part I



## The Millennium Development Goals *The universal language of human flourishing*

### Top ten things I learned from my father-in-law about how to be a Christian for real

10. When people need help, help them. Also, bring food.
9. Pray often, with your eyes open if necessary (say, when you are driving). Sing and laugh often too.
8. Three of the most important gifts you can give your children are love of music, love of reading, and love of the Lord.
7. To give your children these gifts, you must first make time for them in your own life.
6. Be grateful. The meal on your table could not happen without the help of thousands of people all over the world. Two hundred years ago, even kings could not enjoy a meal such as we have most every night. The vast majority of the world does not have access to even the simplest lunch. So be thankful for it.
5. Be kind to people. This is not easy and takes work. At the same time, it is fun. Develop habits of kindness—build such activities into your life.
4. Sometimes being kind to people means confronting them—finding ways to get them to think about getting their kids into seatbelts, ways to help them realize the destruction an affair will cause to all their relationships, ways to get them to stop smoking before it kills them, ways to get them to seek help for alcohol or drug abuse. It is okay to confront people from a position of weakness, acknowledging your own faults, but still remaining firm.
3. Open your door to anybody who needs a meal or a place to stay. Invite them. Word will get around. Don't wait until your house is spotless or you have prepared a special meal. What you have will somehow be enough.
2. Being a Christian means being different. Get over it.
1. Don't be afraid—of those whose skin is different than yours, whose beliefs or worship styles are different from yours, of those who are more powerful than you, of those who are poor, of the culture around you, of those who seem angry or petty or foolish, of trying something that might not work, or of taking a chance on something that seems to be the will of the Lord. If we really believe that our God created, sustains, and redeems the world, we ought to relax and get on with the business of being thankful by taking care of it.

by Bill Boerman-Cornell

### Millennium Development Goals Questionnaire

1. When were the MDGs adopted?
2. How many MDGs are there?
3. Name as many of the MDGs as you can.
4. How many people live on less than \$1.00/perday
5. What is the target date for the MDGs?

Answers can be found at:  
<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/>

May you seek the best for your neighbour. May your neighbour seek the best for you. May God's love and justice stream from your heart, from your mind, from your mouth and from your fingertips. May you experience God's love and justice flowing from your neighbour.

Go forth expectantly, blessed in the knowledge that God will surprise you every single day, with an opportunity to share God's love, and build God's kingdom.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

\* *Benediction* in "Liturgical Resource for October 17th, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty" from the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

OSJ

Social Justice News for Redeemer CRC Members

OCTOBER 2010



**Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger Success**

- In 2005, 1.4 billion people lived on US\$1.25 or less a day. 10 million die every year of hunger and hunger-related diseases. Rising food prices may push 100 million people deeper into poverty. But fewer children below five are undernourished - from 33% in 1990 to 26% in 2006.



**5 Improve Maternal Health**

More than 500,000 women in developing countries die every year in childbirth or during pregnancy. In 2006, nearly 61% of women gave birth with the help of a midwife or doctor, compared to 55% in 2004.

**Achieve Universal Primary Education**



- 28 million more children are able to attend school since 1999. But 75 million still miss out on education-34 million boys and 41 million girls.
- More than 90% of children in developing countries are enrolled in primary schools and 54% attend secondary school.

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

In 2007, 33.2 million people were living with HIV. Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds. It infects 350-500 million people each year, killing 1 million. Global distribution of bed nets increased from 1.35 million in 2004 to 18 million in 2006.



**7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

Nine planet Earths would be required to absorb the world's carbon if every person had the same energy-rich lifestyle as people in developed countries. Nearly one billion people live in slums. 2.5 billion people-nearly half the population of the developing world-live without adequate sanitation. Since 1990, 1.6 billion more people gained access to safe drinking water.

**Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women**



- Women have more access to employment now than ever before. But they still earn one-third less than men.
- In 2008, women held 18% of parliamentary seats worldwide.

quick facts **MDGs**

**Develop a Global Partnership for Development**



- Landline and mobile phone users jumped from 530 million in 1990 to over 4 billion by 2006.
- Developed countries' subsidies to domestic agriculture are still more than three times higher than their Official Development Assistance.
- To date, of 41 heavily-indebted poor countries, 33 have received US\$48 billion in debt relief.
- ODA needs to double to about US\$100 billion a year to achieve the MDGs.

**Reduce Child Mortality**



- A child born in a developing country is over 13 times more likely to die within the first five years of life than a child born in an industrialized country.
- For the first time in 2006, annual deaths of children under five dropped below 10 million.

**Why are there 8 MDG goals—not one goal can move forward without addressing the other**

Articles in this newsletter excerpted from "The Advocate" a paper and portal serving

**CRC Justice Seekers**  
*let justice roll on like a river*  
[JusticeSeekers.ning.com](http://JusticeSeekers.ning.com) is an online community for Christian Reformed folks to discuss, inform, and share their thoughts on justice with others in the denomination.  
<http://justiceseekers.ning.com/groups>

This newsletter is a publication of the Social Justice Team of Redeemer Christian Reformed Church, Sarnia ON  
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Christian Reformed social activists by the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action of the CRC: [www.crcjustice.org](http://www.crcjustice.org) and **Kairos Times**, a monthly e-newsletter of KAIROS, the social justice organisation of eleven Canadian churches and church agencies. [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org) and of Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ)'s monthly newsletter **OLA** <http://cpj.ca/index.html> and the **Mobile Justice Newsletter** of the Committee for Contact with the Government (CCG) [http://www.crcna.org/pages/ccg\\_mobilejustice.cfm](http://www.crcna.org/pages/ccg_mobilejustice.cfm)