

What Can I Do?
Justice & Solidarity Among Nations

Thank you for your prayers and fasting as the world's nations discerned their role in fighting extreme poverty and poverty related issues during the U.N. Summit, September 14-16.

While the U.N. reached a historic agreement to stop genocide, most champions of the poor agree that the Summit fell short of serving those most in need when member countries failed to endorse the far reaching reforms of the Millennium Declaration.

Originally, the U.N. Declaration set specific human development and poverty eradication goals to be achieved by 2015. They included halving extreme poverty and hunger through fairer trade and environmental sustainability; assuring that all children have access to primary education; halting and reversing the spread of major diseases, including HIV/AIDS; and reducing sharply maternal and child mortality.

Prior to the Summit, in a letter to Secretary of State Rice, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the United States "to give high priority to strengthening implementation of the global compact between rich and poor countries as agreed to in the Millennium Declaration." While some reforms took place, experts agree that more need to occur.

In his speech to the United Nations, President Bush stated, "The United States is determined to help nations that are struggling with poverty. We are committed to the Millennium Development Goals. This is an ambitious agenda. We have a moral obligation to help others -- and a moral duty to make sure our actions are effective."

Support the U.S. in following through with its promises. Contact your representatives directly at 1-800-786-2663. Ask them to cosponsor MDG legislation that provides the necessary resources and leadership to meet stated goals by 2015.



Peace & Social Justice Committee
Next Meeting: 10/27/05; 7:00-9:30 pm