

we pray for change

*a novena in our Mercy tradition for an end to poverty
prepared by Kōpū Tūponotanga Atawhai
2nd-10th October 2010*

How to use this booklet:

Pray:

We invite you to join us in daily praying with the reflections on each page from the 2nd – 10th October.

Share:

Share with others your insights into poverty and the Millennium Development Goals as a result of your prayer.

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Sources used in compiling this resource:

- Photographs: Students of Paul VI College, Samoa, used with permission.
- Mercy e-News 30/8/10, MGC report from an intern, Jose, at the Commission on Social Development (COSD).
- The Global Prayer, resource from www.micah2010.org
- 2010 MDG report, UN Publications, www.un.org.
- Millennium Development Goals report Card, www.odi.org.uk
- www.mercyworld.org (various pages)
- www.e4gr.org/news/prayers/index (various pages)

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals were named and nations committed themselves to achieving them by 2015.

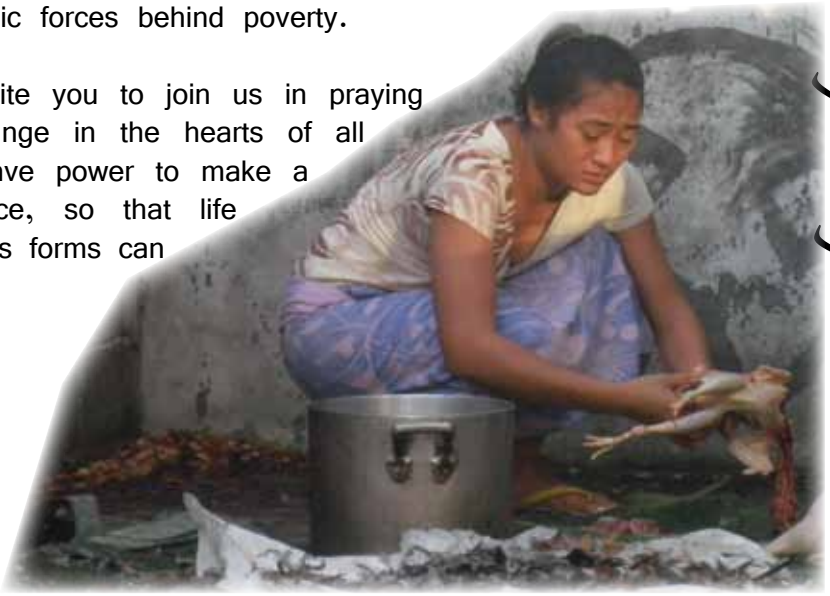
We, nations, governments, organisations, groups and individuals will need to make a greater effort if the goals are to be achieved.

However, the goals in themselves, are not a target to be achieved. Rather they are about changing the way we care for our sisters, our brothers, the Earth, and this change must be seen as the target.

Mercy has always focused on women. How much the Millennium Development Goals do or do not succeed will have an enormous impact on women, and their daughters, as women are more likely to live in poverty than men.

2010 marks 10 years since the promises were made and there are only 5 years left to make them a reality. Prayer and practical action are both needed to overcome the spiritual and economic forces behind poverty.

We invite you to join us in praying for change in the hearts of all who have power to make a difference, so that life in all its forms can flourish.



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GOAL 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Extreme poverty afflicts more than a billion people who subsist on less than a dollar a day.

We cannot merely pray to you O God to end starvation – for you have already given us the resources with which to feed the whole world and we must learn to share. Lord have mercy.

God knows I would rather be cold and hungry than that the poor in Kingstown or elsewhere should be deprived of any consolation in our power to afford.

Catherine McAuley

“While the most successful examples of reduction of extreme poverty in the modern era can be seen in East Asia and the Pacific region, the success in these areas has been uneven and world-wide, poverty has increased rather than decreased.”

COSD

God of Mercy,
You challenge us to feed the hungry.

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

Centred in you, help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

2 October 2010

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GOAL 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

More than 115 million children of primary school age, are denied the most basic education.



We cannot merely pray to you O God to improve the education access for all children – for you have given us resources to be educators. Lord have mercy.

In 1828 Catherine McAuley explained that Baggot Street is a place devoted to “the daily education of hundreds of poor female children and the instruction of young women who sleep in the house”.

www.mercyworld.org

God of Mercy,
You challenge us to instruct the uneducated.

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

Centred in you, help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

3 October 2010

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empower



GOAL 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Gender equality is hailed as “a human right and at the heart of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

We cannot merely pray to you O God to end gender discrimination – for we know that you have made men and women with equal dignity and we must find ways to honour this. Lord have mercy.

We can never say, “it is enough”.

Catherine McAuley – Familiar Instructions

God of Mercy,

You challenge us to counsel the doubtful. Help us to be good listeners, and let others know how valuable they are despite the messages of inequality that they hear.

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

Centred in you, help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

4 October 2010

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GOAL 4: Reduce Child Mortality

A child born in a developing country today is 13 times more likely to die before age five than in a developed one.



We cannot merely pray to you O God for the health of all children born this day – for you have given us skills to improve their quality of life and we must utilise them. Lord have mercy.

Catherine McAuley's concern for the health of new born babies was shaped by an experience of finding a young child cradling an infant in her arms. They had been evicted from their basement room following the death of the child's parents and elder siblings from typhoid that morning.

www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/default.asp?library_ref=4&content_ref=1048

God of Mercy,

You challenge us to pray for the living and the dead, may we be steadfast in our commitment to the wellbeing of children.

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

Centred in you, help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

5 October 2010

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GOAL 5: Improve Maternal Health

The 2008 UN MDGs report acknowledged that little progress has been made in saving mothers' lives between 1990 and 2005, with a decrease in maternal mortalities of less than one percent.

6 October 2010

We cannot merely pray to you O God to watch over women who are 'with child' - for you have shown us ways to show our care and we must reach out. Lord have mercy.

'If we love God, we will undoubtedly love our neighbour also; they are as cause and effect. *Catherine McAuley*



God of Mercy,
You challenge us to comfort the sorrowing, help us to be someone to lean on in times of despair, sickness and suffering for mothers.

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

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GOAL 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

MDG reports tell us that over 20 million people have died of AIDS since it first appeared; Malaria afflicts up to 500 million people a year; killing one million annually; 1.7 million people die from tuberculosis each year.



We cannot merely pray to you O God for an end to disease – for you have given us wisdom to make a difference and we must take action. Lord have mercy.

By our vocation to the order of Mercy... we are engaged to comfort and instruct the sick poor of Christ.
Catherine McAuley, Familiar Instructions

God of Mercy,
You challenge us to visit the sick, to be there for those who need us.

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

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7 October 2010

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GOAL 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

We must reverse the loss of environmental resources and reduce the rate of significant biodiversity loss, we must reduce the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

8 October 2010

We cannot merely pray to you O God to restore the bounty of our earth – for you have already given us the skills to nurture the gifts of creation if only we would make responsible stewardship a priority. Lord have mercy.

Climate change poses a further serious risk to poverty reduction and threatens to undo decades of development effort. COSD

God of Mercy,
You challenge us to warn wrongdoers. Give us courage to speak out boldly on behalf of Earth to ensure a sustainable future.

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

Centred in you, help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

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GOAL 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

To date, only five countries (Luxemburg, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands) have met the MDGs target of using 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) for overseas aid.



We cannot merely pray to you O God for those with global power to make a difference – for you have given us intellect and courage. We must strive to make a difference. Lord have mercy.

“We need to be able to imagine ourselves not in a Third World and a First World but in one world in which our duties to the poor are shared.”

Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga,
Cartias Internationalis

God of Mercy,

You challenge us to live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. May we work together with all peoples of all nations to bring about your reign.

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

Centred in you, help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

9 October 2010

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10 October 2010

Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. It is the deprivation of one's ability to live as a free and dignified human being with the full potential to achieve one's desired goals in life. It also includes the concept of vulnerability, which is the likelihood that people will fall into poverty owing to shocks to the economic system or personal mishaps, and the concept of social exclusion, which focuses on the lack of participation of individuals or groups in society. COSD

God of Mercy,

We pray for those who live in poverty, we cry out for those who are denied justice and we weep for all who are suffering.

You model for us an unceasing commitment to mercy for those who are poor. May we too be unrelenting in our pursuit of mercy for all:

Centred in you, help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

