



July 21, 2015

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Jubilee USA's 75 national partner organizations and 400 faith communities across the United States, thank you for participating in this year's Jubilee for Students weekend. Amidst debt crises in Greece and Puerto Rico and our campaigns for debt relief in West Africa and Nepal, it's helpful to remember that there's a debt crisis here at home, too – and it's our young people who are paying the price. Jubilee for Students is an opportunity to connect the local and the global and promote lending and debt policies that protect all of us.

Unfortunately, our student debt crisis is a significant challenge.

Outstanding student debt is now over \$1.3 trillion and it continues to increase at a dramatic rate. The average four-year college graduate owes \$35,000 in student debt and according to the Federal Reserve, student debt obligations nearly quadrupled from 2004 to 2015. High interest rates make debt repayment difficult and leave our students with heavy financial burdens.

During the weekend of July 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, Jubilee faith communities across the country will pray and act for affordable education and for lending and debt policies that benefit our young people.

In this packet you'll find sample interfaith prayer content for faith communities. There will also be information to connect the dots between global and student debts, and to go a little further, an action idea you can share in your community alongside your prayers.

I am grateful that your community is joining more than 65 others this year for our largest ever Jubilee for Students weekend. Your participation builds an economy that serves all of us – in Africa, in Nepal and right here at home.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric LeCompte".

Eric LeCompte  
Executive Director

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