

December 1, 2009



Dear friend of Jubilee,

As this year draws to a close, I am writing today to thank you and to ask for your continued support.

2009 has been a whirlwind year. The economic crisis hit our country hard, and it is ricocheting across all corners of the developing world.

In the midst the crisis, Jubilee USA has been a voice of justice for the world's poorest.

We brought prophetic messages to the G-20 summits in London and Pittsburgh. We've been bringing calls for justice to the halls of Congress. And we've been working in synagogues, churches, and communities across the country to build a bigger constituency for the Jubilee vision of right relationships and global justice.

This year, together, we've made a real difference in the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

### 2009 HIGHLIGHTS:

- » In April, **Liberia** reached an agreement with its commercial creditors (including some potential "Vulture Funds") to eliminate \$1.2 billion of its commercial debt. Jubilee USA's multi-year advocacy for cancellation of Liberia's odious debt and outreach to policymakers helped to ensure a US financial contribution of \$5 million to help cover the costs of the buyback.
- » On June 30, 2009, following a four year campaign by Jubilee USA and its partners, **Haiti** secured \$1.2 billion in debt cancellation from its major creditors, including the World Bank and the Inter American Development Bank. This means that Haiti is now able to redirect payments totaling \$40-60 million each year to address urgent social needs instead of servicing debt.
- » In June, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) re-introduced the Stop VULTURES Act (HR 2932) in the US House, which now has 28 co-sponsors. The legislation would prohibit profiteering by **Vulture Funds** on countries that have benefited from debt cancellation. Jubilee USA is leading a coalition of NGOs in Washington working to curtail the immoral practices of Vulture Funds in Africa and to build political support for the legislation.
- » In October, Jubilee Congregations and communities across the country organized more than 70 **Stand Up, Take Action** events as part of the global day of action against extreme poverty. More than 6,000 Jubilee USA supporters Stood Up for justice in solidarity with 170 million people across the globe, and signed postcards to their Members of Congress in support of the Jubilee Act.

We've had a busy year, and we've achieved real results. **But we need your continued support to ensure we can build on this success and win passage of the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation and support for the Jubilee agenda by the Obama Administration in 2010.**

**Will you give \$25, \$50, \$150, \$250, or \$500 to ensure that we will be able to build on our successes of the past year?** If you give even \$1 more than you gave last year, your donation can have twice the impact; your gift will be matched by an anonymous donor.

*Continued inside...*



## JUBILEE USA: RESPONDING TO THE NEED

The demand for Jubilee’s work has grown greater over the past year, as the global economic turmoil has slammed into the world’s poorest countries like a freight train.

The World Bank is projecting that 90 million people will be pushed into poverty in 2009 alone. The United Nations is suggesting that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are slipping out of reach. Meanwhile, the IMF has found 33 of the world’s poorest countries at risk of debt distress and possibly default.

These stark realities only strengthen our resolve. Jubilee USA is rising to the occasion, and bringing our strengths to confront the crisis: our strong grassroots base, our Washington policy advocacy savvy, and our connections with hundreds of campaigns and movements across the globe.

**2010 is a critical year for global poverty work, as it represents the five year countdown to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).** This gives us a huge opportunity to win new commitments from leaders before the goals fall completely out of reach.

We’ve set ambitious policy goals for next year to respond to the urgent need:

- » **We will seek a commitment from President Obama to lead a new international deal on expanded debt cancellation as part of his plan to achieve the MDGs.** We will work to pass the Jubilee Act in both the House and Senate and to get the Obama administration to bring a proposal for expanded debt cancellation to the UN General Assembly meeting in New York in September 2010.
- » **We will win increased support in the House and Senate for legislation to restrict unethical profiteering by Vulture Funds,** as a first step towards our longer-term objective of enacting a new global framework for responsible lending.
- » We will also work with our partners to **win official audits of odious and illegitimate debts, reduce harmful conditionality** imposed by the IMF/World Bank on the poorest countries, and work to **pay back the U.S.’s climate debt to the Global South** by securing grant financing for poor countries to adapt to climate change.

**It’s an ambitious agenda, but we’ve done it before, and we can do it again – but only with your continued support.**

**Will you give \$25, \$50, \$150, \$250, or \$500 to support our exciting new plans for the coming year?**

At Jubilee, we do a lot with a little. Including myself, we have a team of four professional staff in our national office and two full-time volunteers. We rely on the support of our growing network of more than 75 member organizations, 120 Jubilee Congregations, and 28,000 individual supporters.



From top to bottom: Neil Watkins honors long-time Jubilee Board co-chairs Pat Rumer and Imani Countess. • Two young boys in Liberia, a country on its way to debt freedom. Photo courtesy of Adam Welti • St. John’s Episcopal Church in Portland, OR Stands Up to fight poverty. • Senator Bob Casey and Melinda St. Louis, Jubilee Deputy Director.

## WINNING A NEW DEAL ON DEBT IN 2010

**We know that policy change occurs when organized constituencies and communities make clear and powerful demands of policymakers who have the power to give us what we want.**

Our biggest victories of the past ten years – winning recognition of the debt issue by the G-8, cancelling billions of dollars in debt, and passing the historic Jubilee Act in the US House of Representatives – have come thanks to strategic advocacy and grassroots mobilization.

To achieve our goals in 2010, we will engage in direct advocacy with the Obama administration through sustained grassroots education and mobilization, bold engagement with the media, and by facilitating high-level advocacy with national leaders from our Network and with Administration officials.

We will also pressure the administration by working to pass the Jubilee Act and the Stop Vultures Act. To do so, we will mobilize supporters in key states and districts across the United States through our Change, Not Chains campaign. We will focus our outreach and mobilization in states home to key policymakers whose support is critical to passage of the Jubilee Act..

Some highlights of the main activities we have planned in 2010:

- » The cornerstone of our strategy to win support of key policymakers in politically strategic states is to build **strong Jubilee chapters** in these states.
- » In February, we will organize a **“Change, Not Chains Week of Action”** around the Congressional President’s Day recess.
- » In March, we will play a leadership role in the 1,000-person **Ecumenical Advocacy Days** conference. As the focus of this year’s event will be on immigration, Jubilee USA and our partners will highlight debt and trade as key push factors for immigration.
- » In April, we will hold a **speaking tour** to three states that are strategic for the achievement of our agenda in Congress, featuring an inspiring global South leader from a country that would benefit from a new deal on debt.
- » Building on our successful grassroots conferences in the past 4 years, we will hold our fifth **annual grassroots training and skills-building conference** in summer/early fall 2010. At the event, we will assemble the chains signed by Jubilee supporters across the country and deliver them to the Obama administration in a creative action.

We understand these are tough economic times. But I hope as you think about your budget and your plans for holiday giving, you will consider renewed and even additional support for Jubilee USA this year. With a relatively small investment from you, we can do a lot to amplify the voice and needs of the world’s poor amidst the current economic crisis. **And until the end of the year, if you give even \$1 more than you gave last year, your donation will be matched by an anonymous donor.**

**Will you give \$25, \$50, \$150, \$250, or \$500 to ensure that we will be able to put our exciting new plans into action?**

Thanks for your continued support in this Holiday season and in the New Year.

In peace,



Neil Watkins  
Executive Director

PS – The best way you can give to Jubilee USA is by signing up as a monthly donor. ***In these challenging times, even \$10 or \$20/month make a huge difference – because it’s money we know we can count on.*** Will you join me and become a Jubilee monthly donor? If so, just fill out the enclosed form or sign up online at [www.jubileeusa.org/support-us](http://www.jubileeusa.org/support-us).





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***“In today’s interconnected world, we cannot wash our hands of global poverty and unjust debt, setting it aside as ‘their problem.’”***

-Ruth Messinger and Rev. John Welch,  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Sept. 20, 2009



*A girl in Terrier Rouge, Haiti, a small town with no electricity. This year Jubilee helped to secure long overdue debt cancellation for Haiti. Now, its precious resources can be used to invest in poverty-reduction for the future. Photo courtesy of Dan Boarder.*

***“The Jubilee Movement is one of the most outstanding humanitarian efforts I have seen in my career. . .***

***I am so proud of my affiliation with the Jubilee Movement because it brought the needs of the world’s poorest people to the attention of the world’s most powerful leaders.”***

- Rep. Maxine Waters

***“Perhaps the most prominent cross-aisle alliance on human rights has coalesced around proposed debt relief in the developing world.”***

- Congressional Quarterly, August 1, 2009