



Joining hands to break the chains of debt

November 2005

Dear friend of Jubilee USA,

It has been a good year for Jubilee USA Network and our partners across the globe. Our work together helped lead to the G-8 promise of debt cancellation which will save lives in 18 nations in Africa and Latin America.

As 2005 draws to a close, I would like to highlight some of Jubilee USA's accomplishments in this year and share some of our exciting plans to build on our successes in 2006 and beyond.

As you reflect on our progress and the challenges that lie ahead, I hope that you will consider making an end of the year investment in the future of Jubilee USA – so that we can ensure the promises made by President Bush and the G-8 nations in 2005 become a reality. Together, we can build an even broader movement towards our bold Jubilee vision of debt cancellation and the righting of unjust economic relationships.

In 2005, with your support and commitment, we:

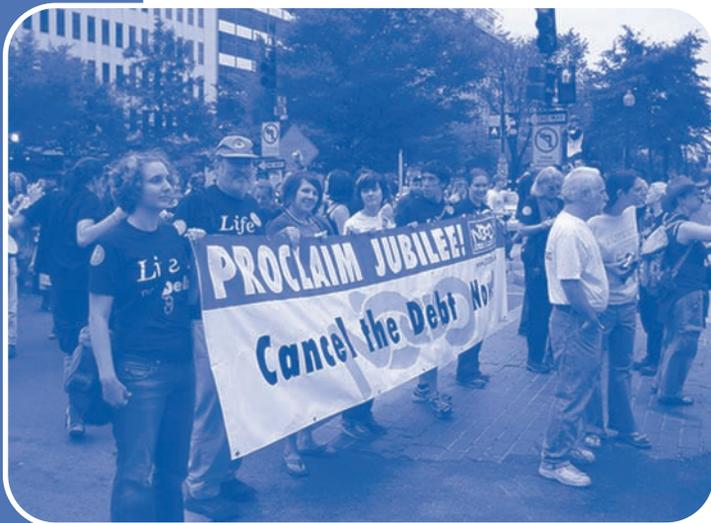
- **Mobilized thousands of Americans to call for life-saving debt cancellation.** We delivered more than 13,000 "Wipe Out Debt in 2005" postcards to the administration, organized several call-in days and mobilizations outside of the US Treasury department, and generated more than 75 co-sponsors on the JUBILEE Act in Congress.
- **Set new organizational records for media coverage of debt and global poverty.** Together, Jubilee staff, member organizations, and grassroots leaders generated dozens of articles, editorials, and op-eds on debt in publications across the country including the *New York Times*, the *Wall St. Journal*, the *Financial Times*.
- **Built our grassroots base and congregational network across the country.** We invested in our growing Jubilee Congregations program, published a 70-page education and worship guide for the program, and hired a new staff coordinator. We took 6 leading civil society leaders from Africa, Asia, and Latin America on tours to 10 U.S. cities in April and October, bringing the message of hope and Jubilee justice to thousands of people in dozens of churches, campuses, and communities – and generating more than 5,000 cards and letters to Congress and the Bush administration on debt.
- **Helped to create the political will for the G-8 debt agreement announced in June and assure its approval by the IMF in September.** The deal will provide \$40 billion in debt cancellation for 18 impoverished nations in Africa and Latin America. When the IMF/World Bank threatened to weaken the deal in August and September, we mobilized with our global partners and developed a successful media strategy to help challenge threats to the deal.

On November 10-11, Jubilee members and leaders from across the country gathered in Washington, DC to celebrate our victories and plan for the challenges ahead.

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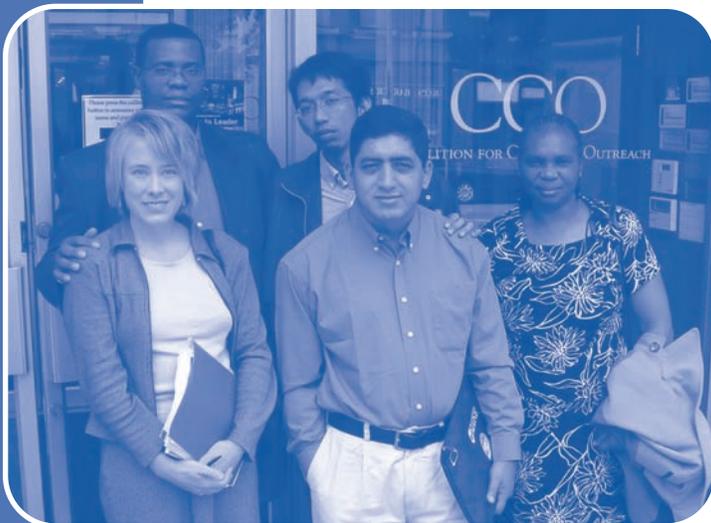
www.jubileeusa.org



Jubilee USA staff and members march for global justice in Washington, September 2005



Jubilee partners from Indonesia and Kenya visit College Lutheran Church, a Jubilee Congregation in San Diego, October 2005



The Coalition for Christian Outreach hosted events in Pittsburgh for the "Drop the Debt, Invest in People" tour, October 2005

As we met in November, we focused most of our attention on the real tasks ahead of us: How to build on our considerable successes, and break through to the bold Jubilee cancellation of debt that we seek. I am happy to report that following months of gathering input, consultations, and drafting work, we have developed a three-year strategic plan for Jubilee USA Network.

The plan addresses key challenges we face in our work now and identifies three main campaign goals for the coming three years.

First, **we must hold the Bush administration and the G-8 nations accountable for their promises.** Debt cancellation still remains a promise – the relief will not come for the 18 qualifying nations until June 2006 at the earliest. We have to ensure the G-8 keeps its word, and we will be working with civil society in the beneficiary countries to assure funds get to those who need it the most. In 2006, we will work to expose the damaging economic conditions that the IMF attaches to debt relief and to assure that harmful conditions don't delay more countries from getting debt cancellation. Finally, we will build pressure to expand the deal to include the InterAmerican Development Bank.

Second, we will be **building our movement for a much broader Jubilee cancellation of debt for global poverty eradication.** 9 out of 10 people in developing countries will see no benefit from the G-8 debt deal and more than 60 nations as a minimum require immediate 100% debt cancellation if they are to have any hope of meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Finally and importantly, we will be strengthening our partnership with debt campaigners in Africa, Asia, and Latin America who are demanding **cancellation of odious and illegitimate debts.** We are working to develop a bill in Congress specifically on odious debt and we are committed to building a broader constituency for debt cancellation and global justice by increasingly linking debt with related issues including the environment, trade, HIV/AIDS, and immigration.

How will we face these challenges and achieve our goals? We have developed some exciting and powerful plans, including:

- **A call for a Sabbath Jubilee Year in 2007, seven years after Jubilee 2000.** The Jubilee scriptures call for a Jubilee year every 50 years, but every seventh year is the Sabbath, and debts are to be cancelled at the Sabbath as well. We plan to strengthen our capacity and build a nation-wide mobilization in 2007 for a much bolder cancellation of debts. 2007 is a year with many opportunities:

- The G-8 summit will be in Germany (the site of the Jubilee 2000 debt relief commitments);
 - The World Social Forum will be held in Africa for the first time amidst calls from Jubilee South for repudiation of odious debts;
 - It is the halfway point to the Millennium Development Goals and five years after the UN Monterrey conference; and
 - It is the 200th Anniversary of the end of the Atlantic slave trade, which groups in Africa plan to celebrate with a demand for justice.
- **2006 will be a year of capacity and movement building to assure our ability to place our prophetic demands on the global agenda again in 2007.**

In 2006, we will focus our energies on expanding the Jubilee Congregations program and grassroots capacity. We are planning to:

- Bring a delegation of Jubilee congregations leaders to Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington in March;
- Organize a regional grassroots training conference in Portland, Oregon in May;
- Jointly organize lobby days in June in Washington with American Friends Service Committee to build support for a re-introduced and strengthened JUBILEE Act; and
- Continue our successful monthly action program which provides congregations, local chapters, and individual supporters a concrete way to take action with Jubilee every month.
- At the spring meetings of the IMF/World Bank, we'll also highlight the fact that 2006 is the 10th Anniversary of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative with a new report and creative action.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. We are planning new reports, materials, a much-needed updated Jubilee DVD for release in late 2006, briefings for Congress, a targeted media strategy, close partnership with global South campaigns, and new materials and resources on the links between debt, the Millennium Development Goals, the environment, and trade. See www.jubileeusa.org/jubileeplan.pdf for a more detailed presentation on our plans for 2006-2008.

We have set an ambitious agenda for ourselves. But given the crisis of poverty and debt that continues to impact people and the environment in Africa, Asia, Latin America, we feel that we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. So long as millions must go without education or clean water in order to service their debts, we cannot rest. So long as more than 2 million Africans die each year because their governments service illegitimate debts rather than providing HIV/AIDS treatment, we cannot rest. Can you rest, or be inactive, in the face of these challenges? We have seen that debt relief works – according to the World Bank, social spending has increased by 75% in countries that have received relief.

Will you invest in Jubilee USA at this critical time – so that we will have the capacity to lock in our victories, and build on them? Will you help us to build the capacity we need in 2006 so that we can be ready for the Sabbath year in 2007? Please consider a year-end contribution of \$75 or \$100 to enable us to build on our successes in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Neil Watkins
National Coordinator

“Total cancellation of the debt of 14 African countries ... is an important step. We must ensure that the effects of this initiative are not undermined by conditionalities. We must also ensure that the principle of debt reduction for all African countries is firmly laid down, since it is all African countries that are crushed, under similar conditions, by this debt.”

- Alpha Oumar Konaré, chairperson,
African Union Commission,
July 4, 2005



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YES, I want to help Jubilee USA Network!

I will invest in Jubilee justice every month by making a Monthly Donation of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

I authorize Jubilee USA Network to charge my credit card at the end of every month. I understand I can change my monthly pledge at any time by notifying Jubilee USA.

I want to help fight for economic justice with my one-time gift of:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other \$ _____

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Please charge my credit card:

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Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

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