

HALVE POVERTY BY 2015

FINISH

THE RACE

Micah Challenge →

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
PRAYER STATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This interactive prayer activity is designed to allow people to take time to reflect and be engaged with the issues of global poverty in a physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual way, bringing them to God in prayer.

The introductory prayer station is about “Jesus Our Advocate”, for people to reflect on the way that Jesus is an advocate for them personally. This includes some Bible verses, and the instructions for a prayer activity.

There are then eight stations for each of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aim to halve global poverty between 1990 and 2015. Each MDG station includes the following:

- The targets and progress against the targets for the particular goal.
- Bible verses for people to reflect on.
- Instructions for a prayer activity, which also include a short anecdote or facts.

HOW TO SET UP THE PRAYER STATIONS

Set up each station on a separate piece of cloth. Put the “Jesus our Advocate” station in the middle of the room and the MDG stations around the edges of the room.

See page 3 for a list of the materials you need and how to organise them for the prayer activity at each station.

Print out a copy of each prayer activity instructions and place them on the relevant stations.

People may reflect at their own pace, and interact with as many of the stations as they wish. It is helpful to play some appropriate music, such as the Micah Challenge Heart Life VOICE CD, to set the mood for people to reflect.

POSSIBLE FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

Discussion in pairs/triplets about what impacted them particularly while interacting with the prayer stations, and then pray together.

Include a resource station at the end for people to take part in a Finish the Race Activity, which can be found at www.finish2015.com.au.

Planning for action – discuss what can the group do together to get involved in Micah Challenge. See the Micah Challenge website for action ideas.

SETTING UP EACH PRAYER ACTIVITY

Jesus Our Advocate: You'll need: Paper and pens/textas, a candle, images of Jesus from different cultural perspectives.

MDG 1: You'll need: Hammer, and bricks/rubble/rocks.

MDG 2: You'll need: Notebook (or two if there are a lot of people), pens, textas, pencils.

MDG 3: You'll need: Sticks (go scavenging in your neighbourhood!), and a large tray of sand or dirt to bury the sticks in. Wet the sand a little so the sticks stand up better. Tie red ribbon around half the sticks, blue around the other half. Stand the blue sticks upright in the sand and bury the red sticks.

MDG 4: You'll need: Modelling clay/play-doh (available from your closest \$2 shop or make your own playdough). Have them moulded into babies, ready for people to use.

MDG 5: You'll need: Coloured A4 paper. Have a mother and baby already made from the activity instructions (see page 6) so people know what the finished product should look like.

MDG 6: You'll need: A large bowl, water, red food colouring, marbles (from your \$2 shop if you don't have any), and a piece of cloth.

MDG 7: You'll need string to outline the base of the well, and stones/rocks (from wherever you can find them, or you can get smooth stones from the \$2 shop). Lay the stones in the shape of a road.

MDG 8: You'll need: Fair Trade tea bags (e.g. from www.tradewinds.org.au), cups, hot water, sugar, milk.



ERADICATE
EXTREME POVERTY
AND HUNGER



ACHIEVE
UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY
EDUCATION



PROMOTE GENDER
EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN



REDUCE CHILD
MORTALITY



IMPROVE
MATERNAL HEALTH



COMBAT HIV/AIDS,
MALARIA AND
OTHER DISEASES



ENSURE
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY



DEVELOP A GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR
DEVELOPMENT

JESUS OUR ADVOCATE

BIBLE VERSES

ISAIAH 42:1-4

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on the earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

1 JOHN 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-13

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

PRAYER ACTIVITY

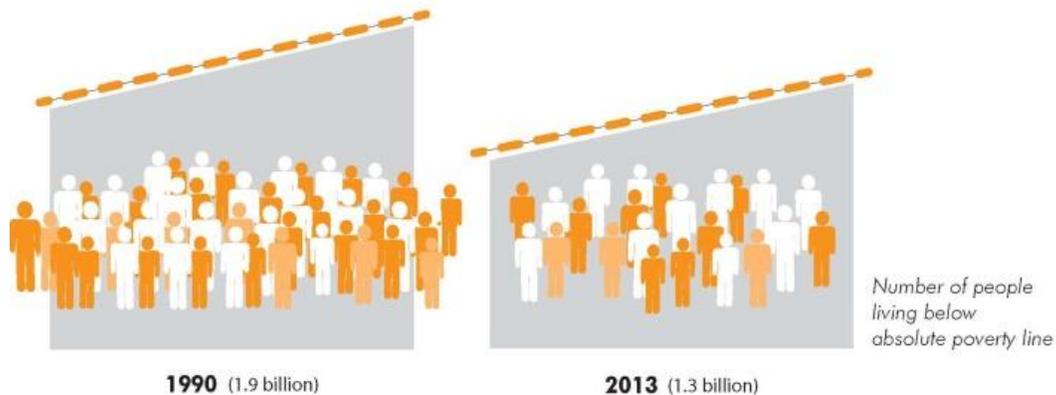
Before we think about speaking up for others, we start by remembering that we need somebody to speak up for us.

Reflect on the way that Jesus is an advocate for you. Write down some things that you would like Jesus to ask for your on your behalf.

GOAL 1:

ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY & HUNGER

Since 1990 **two billion** people have been lifted out of extreme poverty and **the proportion living below the absolute poverty line (\$1.25/day) has halved.**



BIBLE VERSE

JAMES 2:15-17

“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed”, but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

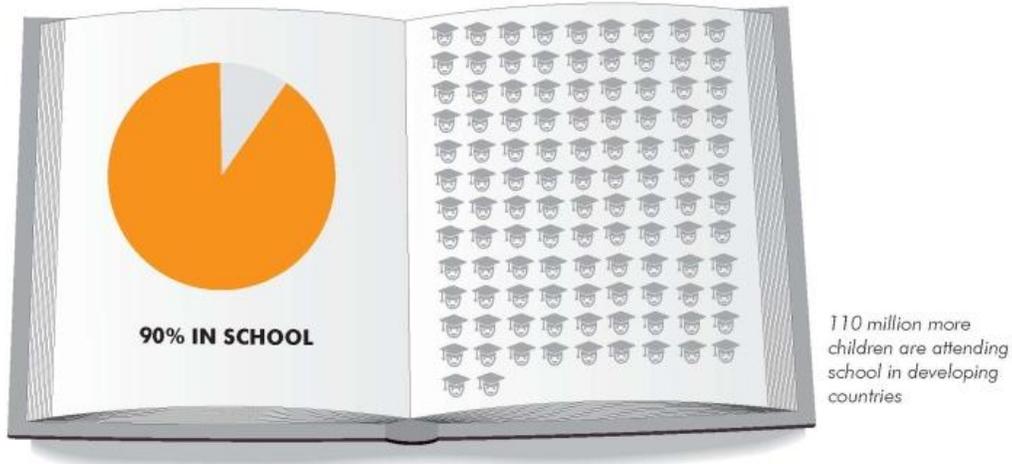
PRAYER ACTIVITY

1.4 billion people live on less than \$1.25 a day (in 2005 prices). In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a boy spends every day chipping through stones in search of minerals to sell. For a flour bag of stones he is paid as little as 25 cents. His family and community are dependent on this industry. Break a piece off the rubble with the hammer as a prayer to bring daily bread to this community.

GOAL 2:

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Since 1990, **an additional 110 million children are attending school**, which means over 90% of all primary level children in developing countries are now enrolled.



BIBLE VERSE

LUKE 2:52

Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in divine and human favour.

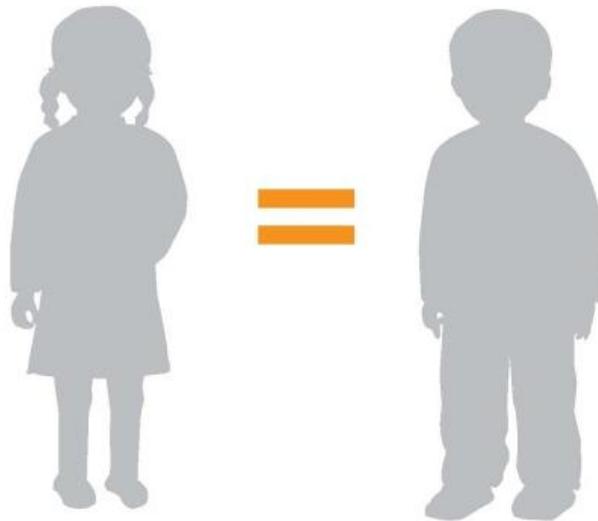
PRAYER ACTIVITY

Rowena was three when she started work in the Philippines, sorting through a garbage dump to collect recyclable materials. She's never been to school at all. Think about how education has empowered you. On one page, write or draw something you've learnt in the past year. On another page, write or draw a prayer for children like Rowena who have not had the opportunity to finish, or even begin, primary school.

GOAL 3:

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

In almost all countries, **girls now have the same chance as boys** to complete primary school.



BIBLE VERSE

GALATIANS 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

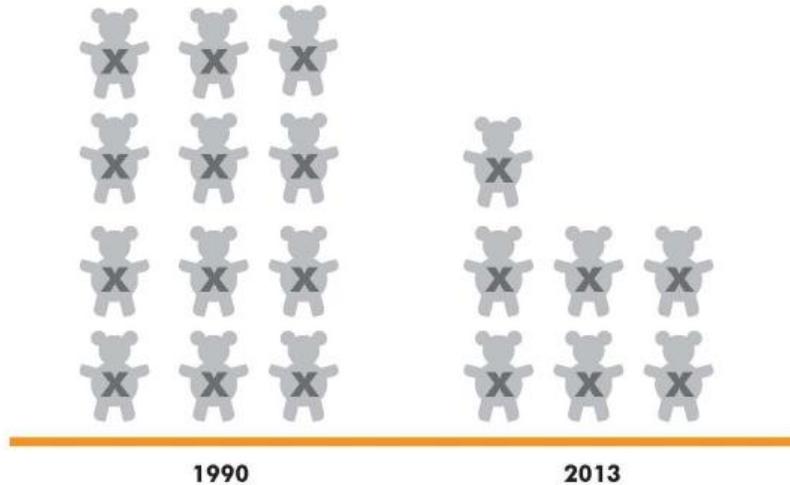
PRAYER ACTIVITY

At fourteen, Phally was working two jobs while her brothers went to school. Now, with the help of a small loan and some training, she runs a successful grocery business in Cambodia, employs her brothers, and can send her own daughter to school. Lift up a woman from her labour (red) and make her stand equal with the men (blue) as a prayer for the empowerment of women around the world.

GOAL 4:

REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

More children are **surviving past their 5th birthdays than ever before**, with child mortality rates reduced by 42%. Annual deaths of children under five worldwide fell from 12 million in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2011. **That's 14,000 fewer children dying each day** than 20 years ago.



BIBLE VERSES

MARK 9:36-37

He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

ISAIAH 65:17-20

"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime."

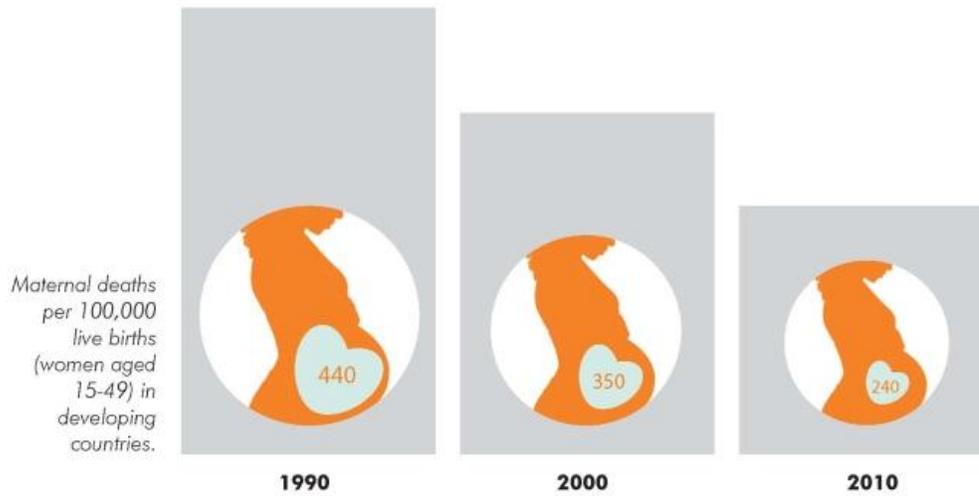
PRAYER ACTIVITY

Each year in Afghanistan, 338,000 children die under the age of five. Bismillah is one of the lucky ones. Suffering malnourishment and pneumonia, she was brought in time to a clinic where she's on her way to recovery. Take a clay baby and mould it into a grown person as a prayer to reduce the mortality rate among children under five.

GOAL 5:

IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

More women are experiencing safe pregnancies, with **maternal mortality rates reduced by 47%** since 1990.



BIBLE VERSE

GENESIS 21:1-7

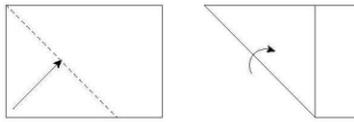
Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

PRAYER ACTIVITY

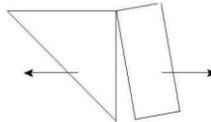
Ninety-nine percent of maternal deaths are from developing countries and 80% of deaths are preventable. As a traditional birth attendant, Emily is fighting to reverse these statistics, helping with safer deliveries for hundreds of women in rural Malawi. Make a large origami woman and a small origami child using the instructions below. Reunite them as a prayer for improved maternal health.

ORIGAMI MOTHER AND CHILD INSTRUCTIONS

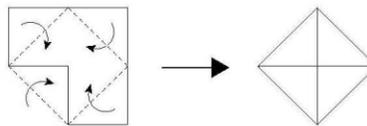
1. Take a piece of coloured A4 paper and fold one corner across to the opposite side.



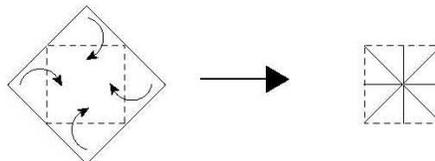
2. Tear off remaining section to leave a large square.



3. Fold all corners of square into the centre.

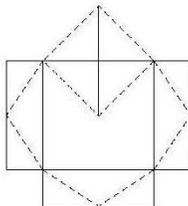


4. Flip folded square over and repeat step 3.



5. Flip once more and repeat step 3.

6. Flip over and fold out sleeves and skirt of the woman (for the arms and skirt, place finger inside each small diamond and bring inside corner to outside corner and flatten out).



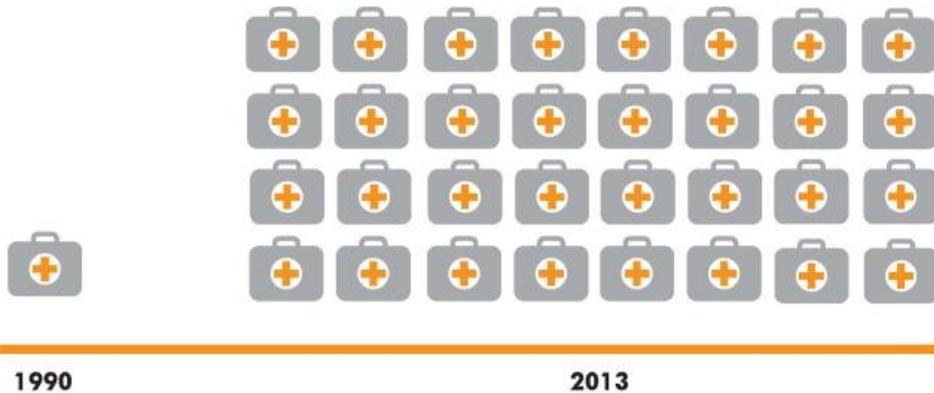
7. Make a smaller square from the remaining paper and repeat steps 3 – 6 to make a baby.

8. Tuck the baby into the mother's sleeve.

GOAL 6:

COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

The number of people receiving treatment for HIV & AIDS has risen from only 250,000 in 2002 to over 8 million today.



BIBLE VERSES

MATTHEW 4:23

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

MATTHEW 10:7-8

“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

MATTHEW 25:36

“I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

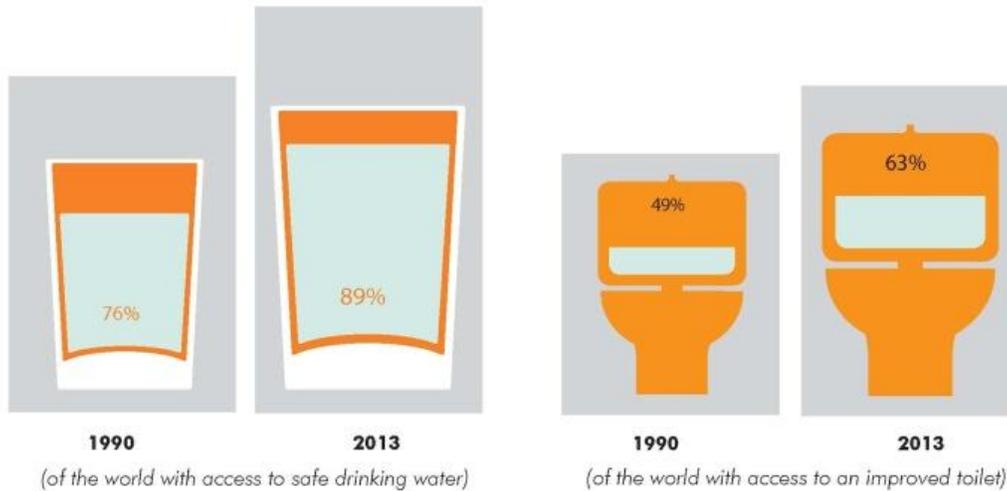
PRAYER ACTIVITY

Pedro, Rose and Chembe visit the grave of their mother who died from an HIV/AIDS related illness. Their grandfather, 75, now takes care of them. Over 15 million children worldwide have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS, and 33 million people are living with HIV. Remove a marble from the red liquid and place it on the blue cloth as a prayer to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

GOAL 7:

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Access to improved drinking water sources has risen from **76% of the world's population in 1990 to 89% today**, and access to improved sanitation has risen from **49% in 1990 to 63% today**.



BIBLE VERSES

ISAIAH 41:17-18

“The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of waters, and the parched ground into springs...”

PSALM 104:10-14

“You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst... You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth.”

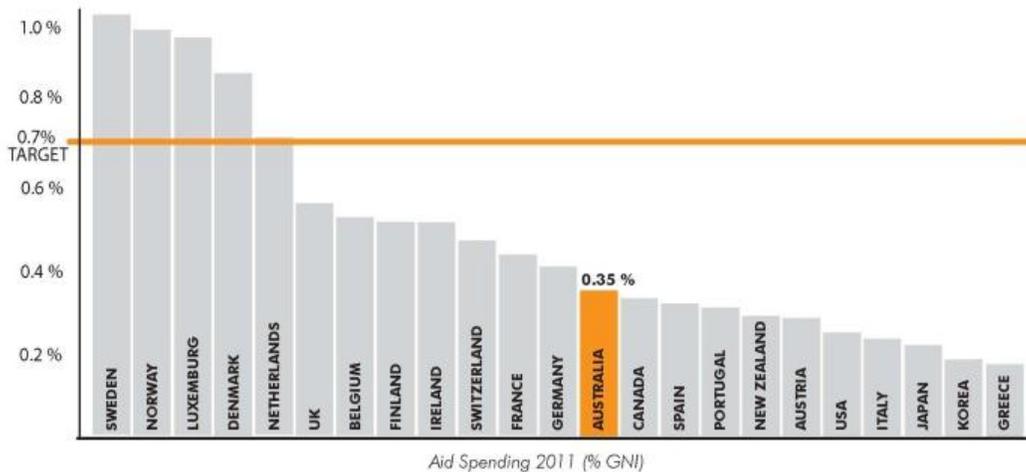
PRAYER ACTIVITY

Every day Mame collects water for her family in Senegal. She’s lucky enough to live near a borehole. The average distance to travel for water in Africa is 6km, and some children spend up to six hours per day on this task. Take away a stone from their road to make the distance shorter, and use it to begin building a well as a prayer for those who still have no access to clean water, or whose water security is at risk.

GOAL 8:

DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

While Australia's aid levels lag behind the international target of 0.7% of GNI, it has grown from **0.24% in 2000 to 0.35% today.**



BIBLE VERSES

PROVERBS 13:23

A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.

ISAIAH 58:9-10

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your noon will become like the noonday."

PRAYER ACTIVITY

In Uganda, Simon sells the harvest from a few parched coffee plants that his parents planted before their death. He has no access to global markets or opportunity for a fair price. For every \$1 paid for tea at a supermarket, less than 15 cents goes to people in the country where the tea was grown. Take a Fair Trade teabag to give producers,

blenders and packers in poorer countries a fair deal and as you drink, pray for rich countries to recognise their responsibility to work for justice for the poor.