

UCCSA JUSTICE WEEK

27THSeptember -02 October 2010

Algoa Region

Youth Programme Draft

Anti-“Poverty Draft

God’s own son was born into poverty in a stable, in the year of a great census. Scripture tells us that in God’s kingdom, “the least shall be the first”. Does the way we live bear witness to this truth? Are we living in true solidarity with people who are poor, homeless and excluded

UCCSA ANTI –POVERTY WEEK

The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to:

- Strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world
- Encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organizations and churches

Everyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty and hardship here or overseas is encouraged to organize their own activities during the Week or join in some being organized by other people.

A young boy sits on the side of the road wearing tattered clothes, covered in dirt, inhaling a half-eaten sandwich he pulled out of a nearby dumpster. He resorts to drugs to abate his hunger and becomes a gang member for protection; he is tired of the other boys beating him up at night. Forced to steal and beg to stay alive, to bathe in a fountain, to grow up so fast, and to witness the underbelly of society, the root of his problems - his parental circumstances - has long since faded from his memory. His parents worked at a car factory for the first few years of his life. Though they earned very little in the assembly line and were in immense debt, they somehow managed to afford a small shack and food. Unfortunately, this boy's parents worked in the SUV department of the factory, and when the gas prices increased their branch of the company was shut down due to the lack of demand for the formerly popular "gas guzzlers." Soon, they found themselves unable to buy the necessities of life and were forced to live on the streets and eat when they could at a shelter. They tried desperately to find other jobs to help support their family, but without a high school diploma it seemed impossible. The best paying job they were able to find was at a local restaurant, barely making minimum wage. During the family's first winter on the street, both parents deprived themselves to help keep their young son warm, and as a result both caught pneumonia. While the mother's condition worsened the father's slowly

began to heal; however, once the mother died the father seemed to be extremely grief-stricken and passed away soon after, leaving their four year old son to fend for himself.



Do you feel good or guilty now?

This same situation and countless others like it have affected a great number of families in our countries and throughout the rest of the world. With our rising rate of unemployment and lack of education, we are diving into poverty. Our countries and a myriad of others are drowning and need serious assistance. Money cannot make these problems vanish, no matter how much there is, but it can substantially diminish them. If given unlimited financial and human resources during the next ten years, our country and numerous others could take a sizable step in reducing the problems of homelessness, education, and unemployment.

Spiritual Dance.....A SONG

"Lean On Me"

Oooooohh

**This is for that little child with no father
For that man that doesn't have a place to stay
For that little boy living with AIDS
Can I tell you a story, tell you a story
You can lean on me**

**There's a man (oh yes)
Standing on the corner
He has no home
He has no food
And his blue skies are gone (yes it is)
Can't you hear him cryin' out**

**And there's a girl
Searching for a father and a friend
Praying that the storm someday will end
But instead of walking away
Open up your heart and say**

I am here

You don't have to worry
I can see...
I can see your tears
....your tears
I'll be there in a hurry when you call
Yes I will
Friends are there to catch you when you fall
Here's my should
Here's my shoulder, you can lean on me

halleluiah
Oooooohhhh
Listen

Oh, there's a child
Who is sick and begging to be free
But there is no cure for his disease
He looks up to his mother and

As she hold (holds), his hand (hand)
Praying' that someday
the sun will shine again
and the pain?
And the pain will end
Pain will end....Come on

I am here
I am here
You don't have to worry
You don't have to worry
I can see.. I see...
your tears
....your tears, yeah
I'll be there in a hurry when you call
I'll be there in a hurry when you call
Friends are there to catch you when you fall
I'm your friend and I'll catch you when, when, when you fall
Here's my shoulder, you can lean on me
Here's my shoulder, you can lean on me

Tell me, how can I, how can I love Jesus
When I've never seen His face
Yeah, I see you dying
And I turn and walk away

So hold my hand
Oooooohhhh
Let me take you to a friend of mine
He's waiting just to ease your troubled mind
Yeah, yeah, He loves you more than you'll ever know
Stead of walking away
Open up
Open up your heart and say
Come on

I am here
I am here
You don't have to worry
I can see your tears
I'll be there in a hurry when you call
Alleluia
Aaaaaaah
When you call, friends will be there to catch you when, catch you when you fall
Here's my shoulder, you can lean on me
Thank you Jesus, yeah
OhYeah, oh yeah

Here's my shoulder, you can lean on me
Here's my shoulder, you can lean on me
You can lean on me
Lean on me, yeah, yeah
you're my friend but you're also my brother
Here's my shoulder, you can lean on me



How did our world get into this dreadful condition in the 1st place?



Zimbabwe "Now A Factory of Poverty"

"Many children are going without education - around 75 percent of state schools are not functioning properly because the majority of state teachers are not working as they are not paid enough to survive and have to look for or work for food. Many poor families are being forced to send their children out to find work or wild foods and simply can no longer afford to send them to school,"

"The desperate competition for scarce resources that has been precipitated by this poverty and inequality is breeding grounds for civil strife and social unrest especially given the present politically volatile situation."

Because while the poor continue to sink deeper into poverty, a small section of Zimbabwe's elite are enjoying every moment in Zimbabwe. They access foreign currency at official exchange rates from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe for a song, which they then use for mostly illegal deals like buying and reselling cars, and dealing in gold and diamonds. The well-connected are able to import vehicles duty-free, and resell them at high prices in foreign currency.

In Harare this elite is not difficult to identify. They drive the latest fancy cars, dine at expensive restaurants such as KwaMambo in Avondale, and frequent expensive clubs like "Room 10" in plush Borrowdale Brooke, where they spend hundreds of U.S. dollars on an evening's entertainment.

But with a third of Zimbabwean children undernourished, the failure of water and sewage infrastructure triggering a cholera epidemic that has already claimed 2,200 lives, and hyperinflation officially acknowledged to be at 243 million percent - in reality much, much higher - humanitarian workers are describing Zimbabwe as "one of the world's most active factories of poverty".



Mozambique: growth with poverty

A difficult transition from prolonged war to peace and development

"Poverty remains widespread and the country is still heavily dependent on donor aid -- and subject to the onerous conditions attached "We are a country that begs, and beggars have their sovereignty curtailed."

-- Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi The statutory minimum wage for industrial and office workers is now the equivalent of \$30 a month

According to former Finance Minister Tomás Salomão, a rural Mozambican must walk an average of 46 kilometres to reach the nearest doctor, 66 kilometres to the nearest secondary school, and 48 kilometers to the nearest telephone



Botswana

Living standards in Botswana are high by African standards, but vary considerably across the country. Ethnic minorities, such as the San, get little recognition or support from the government, and thus tend to practice a traditional lifestyle without much involvement with the formal economy. Botswana has recently come under criticism regarding alleged human rights violations against the San people, who were removed from their traditional lands in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve to develop tourism and mining. On the other hand, Botswana has

GDP per Capita (US\$)					
Country	1975	1980	1985	1990	1998
Botswana	1,132	1,678	2,274	3,124	3,611
United States	19,364	21,529	23,200	25,363	29,683
South Africa	4,574	4,620	4,229	4,113	3,918
Zimbabwe	686	638	662	706	703

SOURCE : United Nations. *Human Development Report 2000; Trends in human development*

GDP per Capita (US\$)					
Country	1975	1980	1985	1990	1998
<i>and per capita income.</i>					

Been one of the most rapidly urbanizing nations in the world. With the obvious and major exception of the dramatic effect of AIDS on life expectancy in Botswana (32 years for men and women), living standards in urban centers are good. Botswana was ranked 122 on the Human Development Index in 1997, very high for an African country. In the urban centers, 91 percent of the population had access to sanitation and sewage disposal, and 100 percent had access to safe drinking water. The percentage having access to safe drinking water across the country as a whole was 70 percent.

What are we expected to do as the Youth of UCCSA

Raise your voice and make sure that you challenge the unjust structures

- Learn, pray and take action through the week with our prayer calendar in print or online
- Hold a church service for Homelessness Sunday or Poverty Action Sunday
- Explore the theme with children and young people.
- Raise funds for vital projects and campaigns ,with a sponsored event or Cup of tea day
- Its our time to act
- Be a community Leader
- Organize flash mobs
- Campaigne for change
- Get training
- Poverty Essay

Definitions of **poverty**

- the state of having little or no money and few or no material possessions
- Poverty refers to the condition of not having the means to afford basic human needs such as clean water, nutrition, health care, clothing and shelter. This is also referred to as absolute poverty or destitution. .
- The quality or state of being poor or indigent; want or scarcity of means of subsistence; indigence; need; Any deficiency of elements or resources that are needed or desired, or that constitute richness; as, poverty of soil; poverty of the blood; poverty of ideas

- Is a condition in which a person or community is deprived of, or lacks the essentials for a minimum standard of well-being and life. ...
- People are said to be living in poverty if their income and resources are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living considered acceptable in Irish society. ...
- The most common method used to define poverty is income-based. A person is considered poor if his or her income level falls below some minimum
- A certain level of material deprivation below which an individual suffers physically, emotionally and socially. There are a number of methods of determining this level of deprivation.
- The state of living on less than \$2 a day, according to the World Bank. Poverty can also represent a lack of opportunity and empowerment, and bad quality of life in general



Do you want to join Anti –Poverty Week 2010?

Step one: Send us your contact details and tell us what you think of doing?

Step two: If you decide to organize an activity give us the details for our calendar of activities.



In Anti-Poverty Week help fight Poverty and Hardship

- Why not organize a display, stall or ward
- Maybe a workshop or lecture or forum
- How about a fundraiser, fact sheet or petition

For more information and ideas visit www.uccsaantipovertyweek.co.za

By Wellington Mthobisi Sibanda

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