



Methodist Relief & Development Fund

Just Living

November 2004

Dates for your Diary

1 Dec	World AIDS Day
10 Dec	UN Human Rights Day
29 Jan	Ecumenical service for MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY
9 Feb	Start of Lent
13-19 Feb	Refugee Week
1-13 March	Fairtrade Fortnight
11 March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day
10-16 April	Global Week of Action for Trade Justice
25-30 June	Methodist Conference in Torquay
1 July	UK takes over presidency of EU
6-8 July	G8 Summit in Scotland

Contact the MRDF office for more details of any of these events.

2005 a year to make poverty history

2005 promises to be an exciting year. It's the 20th anniversary of Live Aid, and the 10th Comic Relief. The UK will hold the Presidency of the European Union, and in July 2005 host the G8 summit in Scotland. 2005 is also the first year in which the Millennium Development Goals (targets agreed internationally to halve world poverty) will be assessed.

The UK Government has shown leadership within the G8 on issues relating to development and environment, and 2005 will provide an unparalleled opportunity to lobby for international commitments on aid, debt and trade policy. Aid agencies and churches are planning a major national campaign, entitled **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**, in the lead up to the summit.

The Trade Justice Movement's part of this campaign, running throughout 2005, is to encourage people to cast a vote for trade justice. 'Vote for Trade Justice' was launched in Brighton on 26 September, when thousands of campaigners gathered outside the Labour conference to call for trade rules to work in favour of the world's poorest communities. **See inside to find out how to cast your own vote for trade justice.**

In advance of the 2004 G8 summit, NGO networks from G8 countries wrote to Heads of Government to ask that the

eradication of global poverty be a central agenda item. The outcome of the 2004 summit was disappointing in this respect, with only weak statements on trade and debt relief. But there are signs that the 2005 summit could be very different. The UK Government has already begun to set the agenda, and the work of the Government's Commission for Africa will form a major part of discussions.

Between G8 summits finance ministers and others meet to take forward previous commitments and plan for the next summit. Much of the crucial discussion and decision-making takes place in the months immediately before a summit. Therefore, to have any influence, the public must make its voice heard in advance. An ecumenical event in London is planned for 29 January 2005, to which the Chancellor and other senior figures will be invited. You are invited too! This will provide an opportunity for the churches to lend their voices to the demands for justice for the world's poor. The Methodist Church will also work with partners in other G8 countries between now and next summer. **See the Dates for you Diary for all 2005's important campaign dates.**

To keep in touch as plans develop for 2005 contact MRDF or Steve Hucklesby on 020 7467 5245 or HucklesbyS@methodistchurch.org.uk



Welcome

2005 promises to be an exciting year.

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

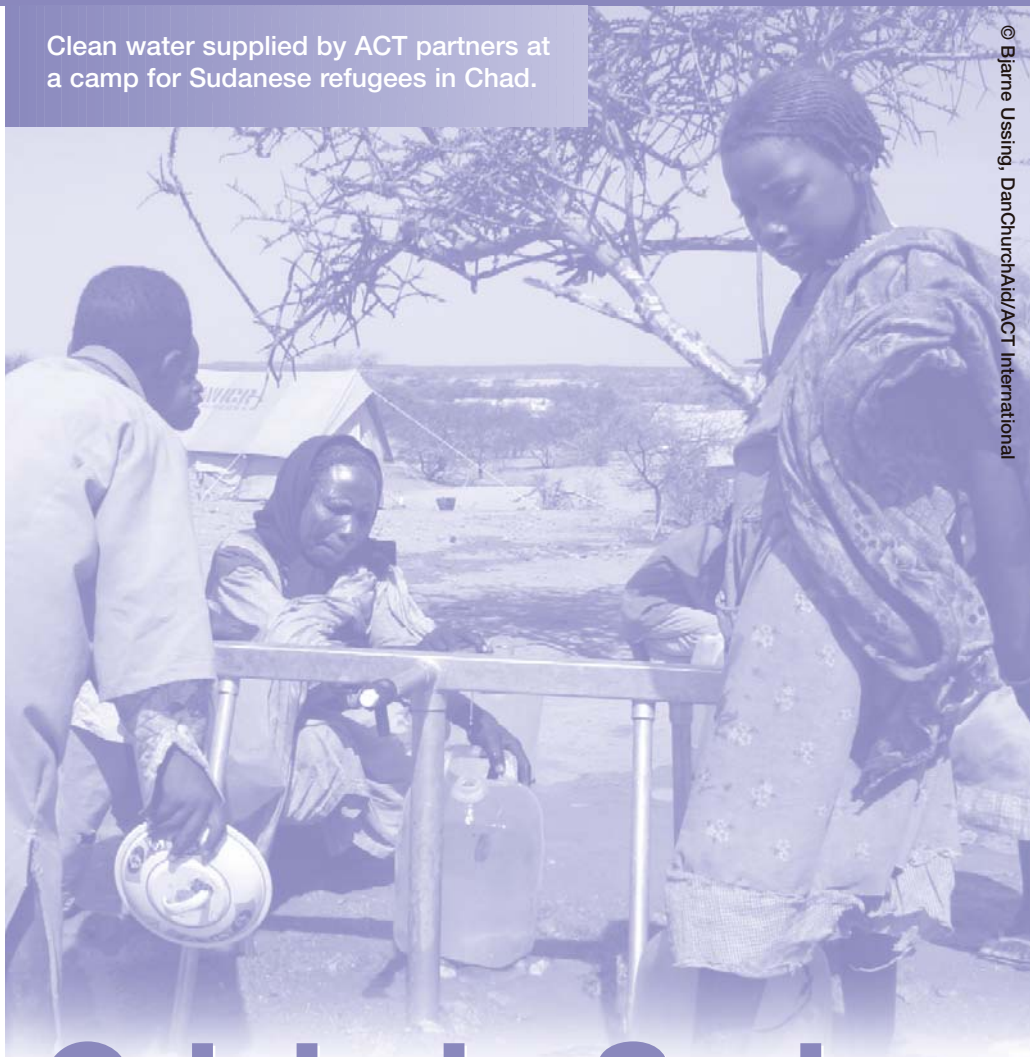
brings together many organisations and faith groups, including MRDF, to challenge world leaders to do more to address the causes of poverty. You can play your part! Start by reading about it here in Just Living and get in touch with us to find out more. You can use the Link mailing **poster** to raise awareness too.

This past year has seen income and interest in MRDF reach record levels. The Sudan appeal raised over £260,000 as our supporters have once again shown their tremendous generosity. Read here about how this money is being spent through MRDF partner Action by Churches Together (ACT).

There is still time to make use of MRDF's *Our Common Ground* worship resources and activities, with a new study pack available in time for Lent. See the **back page for details**.

Thank you!

Clean water supplied by ACT partners at a camp for Sudanese refugees in Chad.



© Blaine Usingsi, DanChurchAid/ACT International

Crisis in Sudan

Conflicts between settled farmers and nomads in Darfur have been going on for centuries. In recent months these have escalated and the war between the Government of Sudan, militia groups and anti-government resistance movements has led to increased fear and instability. Small arms have flooded in from neighbouring countries, increasing the levels of violence.

In Southern Darfur alone, the conflict has created more than 320,000 internally displaced people, according to UN estimates, as women, children and the elderly have fled on foot.

Although many have now reached safety in refugee camps, they are very weak, ill and traumatised by their experiences. Now, while day-to-day survival is vital, displaced people long to return to life as they once knew it: on their own land, not in a camp, without constant fear of attack.

MRDF partners ACT and Caritas aim to assist 500,000 people in the next 18 months in Darfur and in neighbouring Chad. They are supplying clean water and sanitation, medicine and health and nutritional advice, and ensuring that the most at risk receive the help they need.

To give to MRDF's emergency appeals or long term development work, call the MRDF Donations Hotline on 020 7224 4814. Or send a cheque (payable to MRDF) to: MRDF, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Thank you!



© MRDF/Isabelle Carboni

Young and old working together

AGENTS FOR CHANGE

How an MRDF partner in Cameroon is bridging the generation gap

(a longer version of this article first appeared this August in the Methodist Recorder)

Our world is getting younger; almost half the world's population is under 25. Yet people are also living longer, and by the middle of this century the old and the young will represent an equal share of the world's population. Solidarity between generations at all levels – families, communities and nations – is increasingly important. MRDF partners are working with all ages to make this a reality.

Mary McCormick runs MRDF partner, McHenry Rural Health Care, in Cameroon. She explains, "In Cameroon, there is a growing interdependence between generations. Many parents migrate to the cities for work, or have died of AIDS, leaving children in the care of their grandparents. So, the only way for us to develop socially and economically is to strengthen the ties between young and old."

To combat the increased poverty that this additional responsibility has brought, McHenry provides skills-training to the elderly, like goat-rearing, enabling them to make a living. Children visit those who have no relatives and help them with tasks such as fetching water and wood. They have learnt traditional skills, such as carving or weaving, from the elderly people who they help. By working together, young and old people learn to respect each other and their important roles in their communities.



© MRDF/Kevin Fray

MRDF and MAYC World Action supporters joined thousands of other campaigners in Brighton on 26th September 2004 to call for trade justice. The day started with a rally, music and celebrity speakers, and continued with a colourful, noisy procession along the seafront towards the Labour Party Conference centre. Chancellor Gordon Brown addressed campaigners and Conference delegates on trade, aid and debt in a special meeting, and an ecumenical church service closed the day.



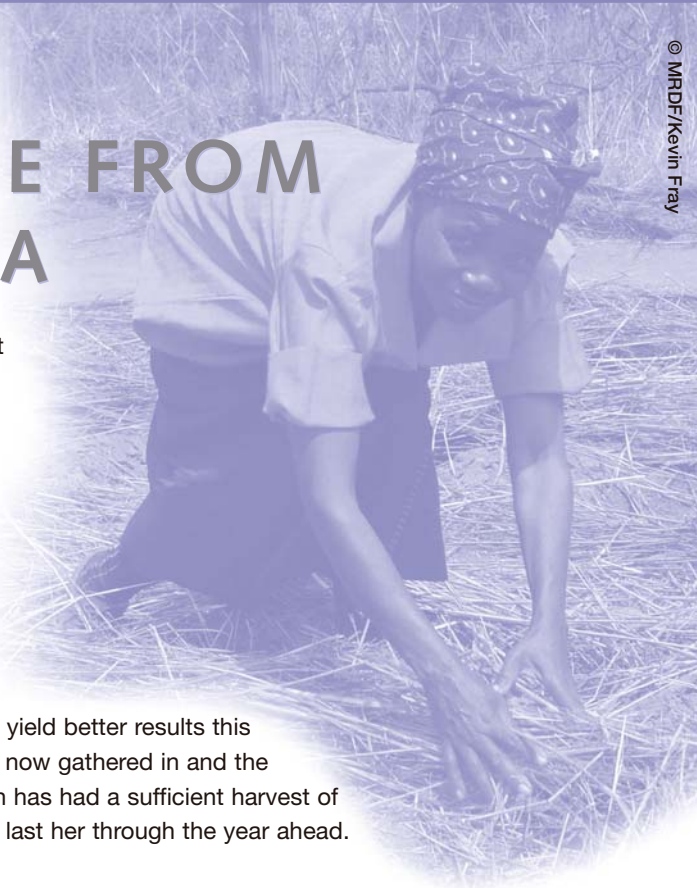
Join the campaign by casting your vote here, details overleaf.



(put a cross in the box and write your name overleaf)

UPDATE FROM ZAMBIA

In the last edition of Just Living, we featured the story of Doreen Peteni, a Zambian farmer, learning sustainable agriculture techniques from MRDF partner Harvest Help. Previous poor harvests had left Doreen and her family dependent on food aid and she hoped that her hard work would yield better results this year. The 2004 harvest is now gathered in and the good news is that Doreen has had a sufficient harvest of maize and groundnuts to last her through the year ahead.



© MRDF/Kevin Fray

Vote for Trade Justice!

I believe everyone has the right to feed their families, make a decent living and protect the environment. But the rich and powerful are pursuing trade policies that put profit before the needs of people and the planet. I believe that to end poverty and protect the environment we need Trade Justice – not free trade.

I call on the UK government to:

- fight for rules that ensure governments, particularly in poor countries, are able to choose the best solutions to end poverty and protect the environment. These will not always be free trade policies;
- end export subsidies that damage the livelihoods of poor people around the world;
- make laws that stop big business profiting at the expense of people and the environment

Cut out or photocopy this slip and, when completed, send to: MRDF, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

Name

Address

.....

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E-mail

I would like to receive updates about the trade justice campaign from MRDF

Please send me _____ more ballot cards to distribute.

Shared Planet conference

6 November 2005

Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
The UK's largest and most inspirational student conference, run by People and Planet. Tickets £8/£10 Info: 01865 245 678 or from sharedplanet@peopleandplanet.org

Central American Women's Network (CAWN)

is organising a speakers' tour in November of labour rights campaigners from Nicaragua. Contact the MRDF office for more information and venue details.

To receive regular e-mail updates with the latest emergency, campaigning and partner news from MRDF, e-mail mrdf@methodistchurch.org.uk to subscribe to the Lifelines e-newsletter.

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

MRDF Annual Review 2003-04

A year in the life of MRDF. Stories, photos and financial information.
Available from December 2004, free

In All Its Fullness

Watch how MRDF partners are bringing 'life in all its fullness' to people in Uganda, Nepal and Kenya. This 15 minute introductory video, with accompanying booklet, is suitable for churches, small groups or individuals wanting to find out how MRDF makes a difference.

Available in VHS or DVD, £6 to buy, £3 to hire



Our Common Ground Study Pack



Bible studies, prayers, activities and stories from around the world, to help you dig deeper into the issues faced by people making a living from the land. Suitable for Lent or for any series of small group studies, and can be used alongside *In All Its Fullness*.

Available from December 2004, free

Also available from MRDF:

- Project sheets about MRDF partners
- Vote for Trade Justice resources
- Reflections newsletter

Los Alamos: "I don't like union. I will fight them."

This short film, which was made with support from MRDF, tells the story of what happened to banana workers on the Los Alamos plantation in Ecuador when workers decided to organise and go on strike to gain basic labour rights. Available in VHS or DVD in English/Spanish.

Order your copy from Banana Link on 01603 765670 or contact info@bananalink.org.uk

Have you always wished your local café served Fairtrade coffee? Or wondered why it's so secretive about its Fairtrade range?

To help cafes and restaurants to go fairtrade, the Fairtrade Foundation have produced *Order UP* cards. Hand a card in to a member of staff when paying your bill: it's got all the information they need to start Ordering UP on Fairtrade products.

Available from www.fairtrade.org.uk or 020 7440 7679

Campaigning works! Marks and Spencer now serve Fairtrade coffee in all of their Revive cafés. Thanks to all those who have taken part in lobbying for this change.

Mission Adventure 2005 Conference

4-6 February 2004

Swanick, Derbyshire

Practical help for circuit and church mission work, with Rev Dr Mvume Dandala, General Secretary, All Africa Conference of Churches; Hilary Faith Jones on storytelling, and workshops on communication, political affairs, caring for creation, and world development issues.

More details from Mission Education on 020 7467 5116 or missioneducation@methodistchurch.org.uk

Further Information

Please contact Debby Wakeham to order resources, Sarah Hagger about trade justice campaigning and Kevin Fray about marketing and fundraising.
MRDF, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR Tel: 020 7467 5132 Fax: 020 7467 5233
E-mail: mrdf@methodistchurch.org.uk Website: www.mrdf.org.uk

This insert is free. **Further copies** are available at £1.95 per 10 copies as a contribution towards the distribution cost from MPH (see address below)

This is part of *Methodist Connexions*, the Connexional Link pack provided for the Methodist Church in Britain. Methodist Churches and others in linked ecumenical projects may freely copy this resource for their own use.
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Who has also been sent copies direct?

District World Development Secretaries
We recognise that not every church has an 'official' world development representative. Maybe you'd like to consider becoming one!

Who else in your church might find this useful?

- Junior Church teachers
- Youth Group leaders
- World Church Officer

Please write their names and get them to tick the box when they have seen or received a copy.