





DAY 4 (Sep 18th): MDG 4 – Reduce Child Mortality


 1 in 7 children in the world's poorest countries will die before their 5th birthday


 For adequate healthcare to be available to all children around the world

 Luke 4:18-19. How can I be good news to the poor in my daily life?


DAY 5 (Sep 19th): MDG 5 – Improve Maternal Health


 Every year over 500,000 women die due to pregnancy or childbirth – 99% of them live in the world's least developed countries


 For an increase in trained midwives where there are shortages, to make such vital health care available to all women

 Psalm 103:6. How can my life reflect and point to God's heart for justice?


DAY 6 (Sep 20th): MDG 6 – Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases


 Just 1 in 5 people in sub-Saharan Africa at risk of HIV and AIDS have access to the information and tools needed for prevention


 That commitments made by leaders to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, care, treatment and support by 2010 will be met

 John 10:10. How can I live life in its fullness and share this with others, including those who are ill?


DAY 7 (Sept 21st): MDG 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability


 One child every 15 seconds dies due to water and sanitation related diseases


 That everyone, on an individual and collective level, would meet their responsibility to live sustainably

 Psalm 24:1. How can I be a better steward of God's creation?


DAY 8 (Sep 22nd): MDG 8 – Develop A Global Partnership For Development


 The world's poorest countries pay \$100m to the rich world every day


 Pray for world leaders to cancel all unjust poor country debt, and for trade justice

 Leviticus 25:17. How are we in rich countries exploiting the poor and how can I campaign to reverse this practise?


DAY 9 (Sep 23rd): Pray For The UN Meeting


 In two days' time, the world leaders will be gathering to discuss the MDGs


 Pray that God will prepare their hearts and minds to be alert to the urgent need to act, and for them to give a clear and bold timetable for achieving MDGs by 2015

 Proverbs 25:15. How can I help political leaders to see God's purposes?

DAY 10 (Sep 24th) – Fasting

 Over 1/3 of the population of the world's poorest countries are malnourished

 For churches to be passionate in speaking out against injustice, worldwide

 Micah 6:8. Consider those for whom hunger is not an option, but a daily reality. How can I make an ongoing commitment to pray and/or act towards seeing the MDGs achieved?

(Please note: food fasting may not be advisable for certain people, and when fasting it is important always to drink plenty of water. Please seek professional advice if you are unsure.)

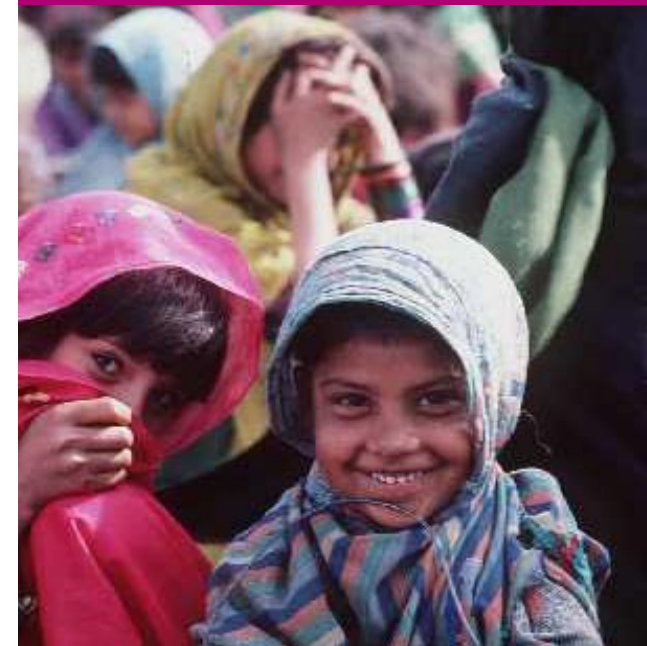
For ideas on staying involved in the effort to see the MDGs achieved see www.micahchallenge.org.uk

For statistic sources see www.london.anglican.org/Think-Fast-Facts



THINK : FAST

Be hungry for change for the world's poorest people



15TH – 24TH SEPTEMBER 2008

commencing with a service at St. Paul's Cathedral on 14th September

Make your response to the UN emergency meeting on the Millennium Development Goals

“...that the chains of hunger, disease and inequality may be broken; and that all humanity may know life in all its fullness.”

Extract from Think:Fast collect

WHY IS ACTION NEEDED NOW?

“Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great,” said Nelson Mandela. “You can be that generation.” He was talking about the chance we have today to eradicate extreme poverty from our world.

In 2000, the leaders of the world's nations agreed to a set of targets – the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – to halve extreme poverty by 2015. But at current rates of progress most countries won't reach most of the targets, and the chance for change may slip from our grasp.

The UN Secretary General has convened an emergency meeting of the UN on 25th September 2008 in an effort to put the MDGs back on-track.

Now is the time to act. As Christians we have a duty to recognise the plight of the world's poorest by petitioning God for justice. Take action now through **THINK:FAST!**

WHAT IS THINK:FAST?

THINK:FAST is an initiative proposed by the Bishop of London, in partnership with Micah Challenge, to urge Christians – in London and beyond – to take action by praying and fasting in the 10 days leading up to the UN emergency meeting.

WHAT IS MICAH CHALLENGE?



Micah Challenge is a world-wide coalition of churches and Christian groups around the world, who want to take up the challenge laid down by the Old Testament prophet, Micah, and speak out against the injustice of global poverty.

Micah Challenge is active in 40 countries and is bringing the Church together in a united cry that the MDGs must be achieved.

For more information see www.micahchallenge.org.uk

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Be part of **THINK:FAST** yourself and encourage others to get involved!

I can be involved in **THINK:FAST** by...

1. Using the resources in this leaflet to pray through the MDGs in the 10 days leading up to the UN meeting;
2. Fasting, along with the Bishop of London, on the 24th, or at another point in this period;
3. Coming to the service at St. Paul's at the start of this period (see below).

I can get others involved by...

1. Getting my church or small group involved, asking my church leader how I might do this;
2. Sharing these resources with friends and colleagues;
3. Inviting my friends, family and colleagues to the service at St. Paul's (see below).

A TIME FOR GOD'S CREATION St. Paul's Cathedral – Sunday 14 September

The ten-day period of **THINK:FAST** will be launched at a special service at **St. Paul's Cathedral** on **14th September at 6:00pm**. The theme of the service is 'A Time for God's Creation' and will include an address by the Bishop of London on **THINK:FAST**. Come and be a part of a united gathering and get inspired for prayer in the following ten days. Everyone is welcome.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

We've provided something to take you through each of the 8 MDGs during the 10-day period. There's something to make you **THINK** and **PRAY** each day. Use the Bible verse to **REFLECT** further. Feel free to use them creatively! Similarly, do decide when and what to fast from according to your needs. For example, you might choose to fast from certain foods during the entire period, rather than for a single day, or to give up something different such as TV or radio.

DAY 1 (Sep 15th): MDG 1 – Eradicate Extreme Poverty



A child dies every 5 seconds from hunger



For lasting solutions to the food crisis



James 2:15-17. In what way could I speak out for, and not ignore, those who are hungry in our global community?

DAY 2 (Sep 16th): MDG 2 – Achieve Universal Primary Education



In Sub-Saharan Africa 30% of children are not in primary school



For governments to adopt clear strategies to ensure that all children world-wide have access to primary education



Luke 18:16. How are we stopping children coming to Jesus today?

DAY 3 (Sep 17th): MDG 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women



70% of the 1.3 bn people who live on less than \$1 a day, are women and girls



For women to be truly valued in all societies and to have equal access to healthcare, education and other services



Galatians 3:28. How can we work towards restoring Godly equal relationships?