

# Become a Fair Trade Church



Show your commitment to justice. Help support communities in developing countries and build a fairer international trade system that puts people at its centre.

In 2006 Christian World Service (CWS) and Trade Aid launched a new initiative for churches to give their support to Fair Trade. A number of churches already regularly use Trade Aid tea and coffee after services. Now we are inviting parishes to formalise this by declaring themselves a **Fair Trade Church**. As consumers, you can help create greater demand for fair trade goods.

## What is Fair Trade?

Fair trade is a movement of people working to develop an alternative trading system that benefits small producers and those who work with them, protecting traditional lifestyles and the environment. At the same time it challenges the dominant free trade model which has forced down the price paid to those who grow commodities like cocoa, tea and coffee and concentrated greater wealth in the hands of a few very large transnational corporations who control global trade.

Buying fair trade is an action your church can take to ensure an adequate income for the small producers and workers who depend on these crops for their families' livelihoods.

As well as guaranteeing a better price for commodities, the fair trade market provides a fairer deal for people producing handcrafts, household items and decorative arts. The movement, especially through organisations like Trade Aid, enables concerned consumers to pay a fair price for what they buy, benefiting 5 million farmers, workers and their families.

***“The message I have for New Zealand is to buy a lot of Fair Trade chocolate so that we farmers here will get premium to support our income. Through this we can send our children to school; through this we can live in good houses; through this we can take care of ourselves and our family; and through this we can contribute to the development of the world. This is the message I have for our friends in New Zealand.”***

Eli Santana, cocoa farmer, Ghana

One way of identifying fair trade goods is through a designated label. The Fairtrade (one word) label is regulated through the international Fairtrade Labelling Organization, which provides certification to small farmers working together in local associations. Farmers employing labour must meet standards that include the rights of workers to collective bargaining and prohibit the use of forced or child labour. Buyers in the Fairtrade system must pay producer organizations a minimum price that has been agreed for the specific commodity based on thorough research into the production and living costs of farmers. Furthermore they must agree to long-term contracts of 1 -10 years to provide the necessary security to farmers.

An extra premium is paid for certified organic crops. Most Fairtrade farmers do not use pesticides, relying on traditional techniques. Some of the extra money available to farmers has been used to train them in effective, sustainable and organic farming methods leading to increased production and a better return. However these farmers are still selling more of their crop without the Fairtrade label because there is not a big enough demand for all that they grow.

## The Fairtrade Label

The Fairtrade label has been introduced to provide an easily identifiable guarantee that producers receive a better deal through:



- A fair and stable price for their products
- Long term trading relations and advance payments
- Investment in local community development
- Environmentally sustainable farming methods
- Support in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to operate successfully in the global economy

## Fair trade Goods

Fairtrade labelled coffee, tea, sugar, and can be found on selected supermarket shelves as well as in Trade Aid shops. Trade Aid shops also sell chocolate, olive oil and spices

Handcrafts and household items sold at Trade Aid shops also meet internationally agreed criteria.



## What is a Fair Trade Church?

A **Fair Trade church** has made a formal agreement to support the Fair trade movement by purchasing Fairtrade certified tea and coffee, (hot chocolate and sugar are optional extras) and by promoting fair trade as part of its commitment to a more just world.

You can order Fairtrade supplies at wholesale rates direct from the Trade Aid Warehouse or check out your local supermarket, Trade Aid or organic store for Fairtrade branded products.

Promoting fair trade is easily done by participating in Fair Trade Fortnight, held in May each year. By signing up as a Fair Trade Church you will be automatically sent information about how to take part and on other fair trade promotions.

You may also like to:

- ➔ join Trade Aid at a cost of \$10. You will receive their quarterly publication Vital plus the bimonthly e-news.
- ➔ join FTAANZ and receive its newsletter by paying a \$33 annual fee
- ➔ receive regular information from CWS. Trade campaign mailings are free but donations for the campaign work are welcome.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, CWS and Trade Aid are members of the Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand (FTAANZ) which promotes fair trade and the Fairtrade Label. See [www.fta.org.nz](http://www.fta.org.nz) or write to P O Box 68285, Auckland 1032.

## How to become a Fair Trade Church

It's easy!

1: Introduce the topic of fair trade at a service or the appropriate congregational meeting.

2: Make the case for fair trade and suggest how to easily purchase supplies.

*We recommend ordering direct from the Trade Aid Warehouse. They have an on-line ordering system (follow the links on their website below or use the enclosed ordering form). CWS has a PowerPoint presentation available on coffee produced by FTAANZ and a number of DVDs as well as some display materials that may be useful. CWS and many Trade Aid shops provide speakers.*

3: Arrange a special morning tea for your congregation so they can taste the difference.

4: Once you have general agreement pass a resolution or make a formal agreement to become a Fair Trade Church. Suggested wording:

... Church agrees to become a Fair Trade church by serving fair trade tea and coffee [you might like to add hot chocolate and sugar] whenever possible at church events and promoting fair trade.

5: Then complete this form and return to CWS to receive a certificate confirming your Fair Trade Church status.

You might like to appoint a contact person with responsibility for keeping the parish informed on fair trade matters.

## For more information contact:

Christian World Service  
PO Box 22652  
Christchurch 8142  
Tel 03 366 9274  
Fax 03 365 2919  
E-mail [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz)

OR

Trade Aid  
P O Box 35049  
Christchurch  
Tel 03 3853535  
Fax 03 3853536  
[tradeaid@tradeaid.org.nz](mailto:tradeaid@tradeaid.org.nz)

[www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

[www.tradeaid.org.nz](http://www.tradeaid.org.nz)



# YES we want to become a Fair Trade Church

..... Church has decided to become a Fair Trade Church

Contact Person.....

Church name (as it should appear on the certificate) .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone .....

Fax .....

Email address .....

We would also like to:

Become a member of Trade Aid (\$10 enclosed) and receive Vital (cheques payable to Trade Aid)

Donate to the Fair Trade Campaign (cheques payable to CWS)

**CWS/Trade Aid will send you a Fair Trade Church certificate and add you to the database for regular news.**

Return this form to:

Christian World Service  
PO Box 22652  
Christchurch 8142

OR

Trade Aid  
P O Box 35049  
Christchurch

