

What is youth topics?

Topical issues to get young people thinking >>> fun – games, discussion starters, quizzes... >>> for people working with young people >>> sent to you twice a year >>> putting faith into action
youth topics is recommended to be used with young people aged 12-17 >>> feel free to adapt the content to suit the particular age and needs of your group.

How to use



- 1 Read it through once to get a feel for the programme.
- 2 Choose what is appropriate for your group.
- 3 Gather up what you will need.
- 4 Give yourself at least 30mins preparation time.
- 5 JUSTice – do it!

youthtopics
numberseventeen

Give us a chance

In adopting the Millennium Declaration in the year 2000 the international community pledged to “spare no effort to free our fellow men, women, and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty”.

BAN KI-MOON Secretary-General, United Nations

Our world enjoys more widespread prosperity than ever before. Technology is bringing amazing changes to those living in developing countries. But more needs to be done to make real improvements to the lives of people still trapped in poverty. In an effort to eradicate poverty at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, 147 national leaders signed the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration sets specific targets and milestones for the elimination of poverty worldwide, called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They include universally accepted human values and rights such as freedom from hunger, the right to basic education, the right to health, and responsibility for future generations. The goals are measured regularly and are to be met in 2015.

Perhaps the most important fact to stress about the MDGs is the global set of benchmarks they provide for measuring and monitoring progress on specific areas of extreme poverty.

For those living in extreme poverty the MDGs are a life-and-death issue.

This issue of youth topics checks out the MDGs and what is needed to eradicate poverty. It goes ‘behind the scenes’ and helps young people learn more about how the MDGs can only be achieved by concerted action from us all. It challenges us to understand the MDGs as a global roadmap to eradicate poverty.

Activity 1 NO ONE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANOTHER!

Everyone must play

Aim To become familiar with the eight Millennium Development Goals as people-centred goals, each one important in making poverty history.

Resources Four copies of the MDGs. Download from CWS website.

Action Cut up copies of the goals and place each individual goal face downward in the middle of the room all mixed up. Have each team in a corner of the room. On the count of eight the first runner from each team will race into the middle of the room and pick up one card. Without looking at the card they return to the group and place the goal down. Another runner from the team goes to get another goal. By the second and third turn you may have runners picking up goals that they already have. If this happens the runner has to go back to the middle of the room and return the goal that is the same. They do not choose another as it is the next person in their team's turn. There should only be one runner per team going to get a goal at a time. If you have four teams there will be a maximum of four runners collecting a goal. After the eight different goals are collected the team that calls out 2015 and sits down first is declared the winner.



Activity 2 GETTING ON

Aim To emphasise that MDGs will be reached through togetherness and holding on to one another.

Resources Chairs and music.

Action Chairs are set up in a row back to back. Players walk around the chairs in a circle to music. When the music stops players must jump up on a chair. In a twist from musical chairs more than one player can be on a chair. After each round a chair is taken away and the whole group has to find room on the remaining chairs. The goal is to try and keep as many people in the game as long as possible. The game is over as soon as a player cannot find a spot on a chair.

Discuss The MDGs have unprecedented political support, embraced at the highest level by developed countries, civil society and major development institutions alike.

Brainstorm what difference this cooperation could make to eradicating poverty.

What responsibility does this mean for the New Zealand government?

What does it mean for us as New Zealanders?

What does it mean for those in developing countries?

Christian World Service (CWS)

CWS works worldwide in 22 countries providing funds for local community projects to tackle poverty and build self-reliance. CWS responds quickly to humanitarian crises like that caused by the Indonesian Earthquake or Pacific Tsunami by providing emergency supplies like food, shelter, medicines, and clean water through the global network ACT International (Action by Churches Together). CWS also campaigns on the root causes of global poverty and injustice, such as discrimination, the lack of food and water, and helps communities achieve their own priorities.

What we affirm

CWS affirms the Millennium Development Goals as important indicators of the world's progress towards ensuring that every person on the planet can achieve their right to a decent life. CWS believes that good community development is crucial to this process. Partner groups play an active part in helping communities define and meet goals, targets, activities, and indicators to eradicate poverty at the local level.

Injustice is at the root of poverty, but it can be overcome by dedicated action over time. The MDGs are a roadmap to eradicating poverty and are a promise to poor people that their poverty is no longer acceptable. A promise has been made and accountability to that promise needs to be kept. By supporting CWS partners you enable people to work together for a better future and make real a vision of a society that guarantees a decent life for all. Listening to the stories of people living with poverty can help us understand what needs to be fixed in the world to make this happen.

yt direct

If you wish to receive Youth Topics twice a year, tel 0800 74 73 72 (Youth Team) or email us at youth@cws.org.nz Just say what you want and give us your details.



Activity 3 THE FIRST RUNG

Aim To understand that the MDGs are achievable as long as each country stays committed to what they have promised in the international agreements.

Action Choose a cake recipe and make a list of the needed ingredients. Cut the named ingredients up and place them in a hat or bowl. Each person has to choose an ingredient from the hat. They are not to tell anyone what they have. Choose a leader to call out a person's name asking them to bring one of the ingredients in the recipe. The person has to answer 'yes' or 'no' depending on whether or not they have the necessary ingredient. For example, if they get asked to bring an egg and they have milk as their ingredient they have to answer 'no'. The leader continues or gives another person a go until all the ingredients have been added to the hat. The leader then shakes the hat or bowl and declares the cake baked! You might like to make another cake and invite the group to contribute the ingredients people need to survive (start with the MDGs).

Create The MDGs represent a global partnership for development. Rich and poor countries have to take responsibility to make sure that many more people have what they need to survive. New Zealand is classed as a rich country and has signed up to give 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to overseas development assistance. However New Zealand is not honouring this commitment. We currently contribute 0.35% of GDP to overseas development assistance, well short of the 0.7% target. Create a picture that highlights the missing half of our giving and what it means for poor people.

Activity 4 A GUIDED CLIMB!

Aim To identify a successful way of reaching a goal.

Resources 16 pieces of large square card or carpet. 8 marked maps of the grid pattern.

Action Lay four pieces of card/carpet in a row on the floor then another four above the first four with space in between. Continue until you have four horizontal rows of square carpet/card and four vertical rows of carpet/card. Choose a person to be the guide. The guide holds the marked pattern which only he/she can see. The others have to get from A to B but without standing on a marked square. If the person places their foot on a marked square the guide shouts out 'lost' and they go back to the beginning and it is another person's turn. If it is safe, e.g. not marked, then they can continue through the pattern. The aim is to be guided through to the other side without standing on a marked square that sends you back again.

A start

X		X	
X	X		
	X	X	
X		X	X

Sample marked pattern

B finish

Each of the MDGs is attached to targets so they can be measured. For example,

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger is connected to target 1 which is to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one US dollar a day by 2015. Choose a developing country and a developed country and find out information on both countries. Research their strengths and weaknesses and then discuss how they could assist each other in achieving one of the MDGs.

Websites helpful to the task – www.un.org/millenniumgoals www.standagainstopoverty.org www.nzaid.govt.nz

Activity 5 UP AND AWAY!

Aim To recognise the work of Non Government Organisations (NGOs) as groups that help countries achieve the MDGs.

Resources Copies of the MDGs (can be downloaded from CWS website).

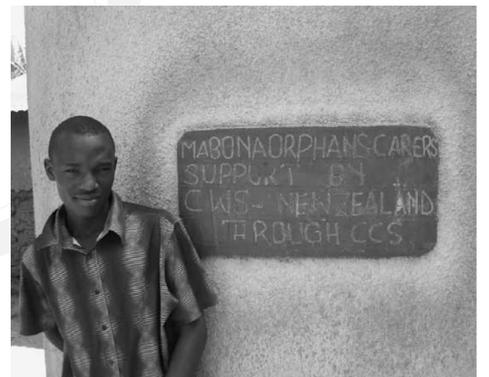
Action Read the story below and circle the MDGs that you think the partner (NGO) of CWS is working on.



Uganda is one of the least developed countries in the world. Over 80% of the population lives in poverty as defined by international standards. The long-term impact of HIV and AIDS continues to exact a heavy price on communities. A generation of working age adults has been lost, leaving many elderly people caring for orphans and other vulnerable children. Many areas lack access to safe water.

Clean water on tap offers hope in Uganda

In Uganda's south west the Centre for Community of Solidarity (CCS) is helping people out of poverty. CCS is working with 100 families caring for orphans and vulnerable children. They are training carer groups to build and maintain rainwater tanks and educating them on HIV and AIDS issues. The improved availability and quality of water will lead to better health, especially for young children vulnerable to common – and sometimes fatal – waterborne diseases like diarrhoea. Women and children are spared walks of up to 8km each day to collect river water and can use this time more productively. It also reduces the chance of attack and sexual abuse while collecting water. By having a home-based water supply, households can raise livestock and poultry at home, improving the family's nutrition. By selling surplus eggs and meat, families can afford to send their children to secondary school.



The work that CWS partner groups do to enable young people to escape poverty and find new hope in conflict situations reflects the possibilities when there is focus and co-operation. It is focus and co-operation that is required to achieve the MDGs.

Activity 6 A DIFFERENT VIEW!

Aim To read about a new form of community centered on a distribution and redistribution of 'enough'.

Resources Bible for each group.

Action Form yourselves into small groups and on your own read Acts 2: 43-46. Then someone reads aloud the following statement.

.... Poverty was not created by God but by you and me, because we have not learned to love our neighbours as ourselves. Gandhi put it well when he said "There is enough for everyone's need but there is not enough for everyone's greed".

Take a couple of minutes to think on the words. Then ask someone again to re-read aloud Acts 2: 43-46.

Brainstorm these two questions.

1. What were the marks of early Christian community?

2. In what ways do you think we can reflect the community of disciples that we read about in Acts?

Challenge yourself to think at the local and global level.

In small groups identify a group in your community that you know needs help. Think about the resources that could be offered to the group. Finish with a time of prayer.

What to do now

1 If you want to know more about CWS and development work check out the website: www.cws.org.nz.

2 Organise a sponsored event, maybe a cake baking stall with the money going to help CWS partners like CCS who are doing their part to reach the MDGs or ring CWS (0800 747372) and become a regular financial contributor.

3 Volunteer your time to a good cause.

4 Think about your youth group gatherings and who is responsible for providing food and resources. Ask the question - how as a group you all could contribute to these responsibilities?

5 Write to John Key asking how the New Zealand Government can meet their commitment to 0.7% for overseas development assistance.

6 Find out more about New Zealand commitment to allocate 0.7% and check out the website www.cws.org.nz