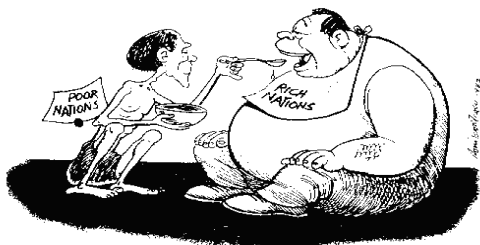


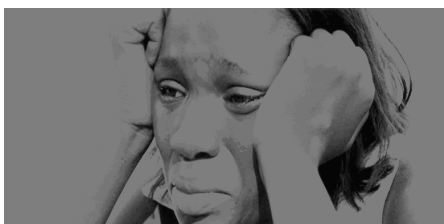
Campaign Update: March 2010

Jubilee Debt: Break the Chains



- Successful campaign to have Haiti's debt cancelled by the G7 countries-this will free up much needed funds for Haiti's poor people. Venezuela, one of Haiti's biggest creditors, last month forgave the country's \$295m oil-related debt.
- Christian Aid handed in a petition of 15,000 signatures in support of this
- IMF initially "loaned Haiti \$102 million but is now working with all donors to try to delete all the Haitian debt, including our new loan."
- 2 letters from the churches sent to Mike Penning asking him to support the bill to restrict the activity of "Vulture Funds" .In Zambia in 1979 a loan of \$15 million was initially taken , in 1999 a VF bought it for \$3.3 million and in 2007 they sued for \$55 million. They were paid \$15.5 million through the British Courts.
- The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill restricting the activities on "Vulture Funds" passed its second reading on 26th February but the Conservative Party prevented the bill from taking a further step towards becoming law by insisting it goes through full committee stage. Nick Dearden, Director of Jubilee Debt Campaign said: "We are delighted that the vultures bill attracted cross-party support, and we understand the desire of MPs to scrutinise the bill to make sure it is as effective as possible. But we are also concerned that the bill may now fail to become law through lack of time. We call on all political parties to ensure that this bill progresses as fast as possible through Parliament, and that all parties commit to introducing legislation if they form a government in a few months time." I have written to Mike Penning asking for his wholehearted support to see the Bill through to becoming law before the election.

Christian Aid: Support for the poor people of Haiti



- Christian Aid and its partners are helping more than 16,500 people in nine communities. They are distributing: food parcels and daily meals plastic sheeting, hygiene kits and baby kits, blankets, cash, medical supplies, clothes.
 - Their partners' expertise and in-depth knowledge of the communities where they work has allowed them to organise distributions that target those in most need.
- CA is targeting areas that are getting little help from other agencies and distributions are well underway.

- CA's partners in the Dominican Republic are also involved in the response as members of the Help Haiti coalition. This is a group of 23 agencies that have come together to channel aid overland to Haiti.
- The coalition has so far delivered food and medical supplies, reaching more than 52,000 people.
- Nationally raised £3.8m, CA will also get additional £3.7m from DEC. Locally the Churches raised over £3000-thank you so much.

Traidcraft and Fair Trade



"Life has changed since the co-operative started and we began selling to Fairtrade... the premium helps us a lot with the costs families face and improves the lives of all our members in some way. It means that children who weren't able to study before because of costs can now go to school and get the education they need to make progress in life. Things are improving for us because we're learning about production and costs; we're working with other co-operatives, which strengthens our values and self-esteem." (Elvira Camilla Yatto Deviscara (Nut Co-operative, Brazil)

- Fair trade works by paying a "fair" price to the producers and sustains this even if market prices drop. On top of this a fair trade premium (mentioned above) is given to the local community for a specific project. As a result schools have been built or refurbished, and teachers have been employed. Sanitation has been improved; mobile clinics set up, and clean water wells dug
- Fairtrade fortnight was 22 February to 7th March. Supported by major Supermarkets and Tracey sent produce to Carey Baptist and Bovington Baptist in addition to normal outlets.
- Fair trade products can be bought from most supermarkets, the Bookshop (profits here go to Christian Aid-£1000 last year). Look out for the symbol. Buy fairly, buy Fair trade

Recent Correspondence

- Mike Penning and Alastair Darling on debt relief for Haiti
- Mike Penning urging him to support the Vulture Funds Bill
- Mike Penning with two letters from the Churches urging him to support the Vulture Funds Bill
- Mike Penning: Final e-mail requesting his support for the bill and answering questions about its affect on secondary markets
- Borough Councillor Alan Anderson to request that DBC include Tetra Pak recycling in their bi weekly collections.
- Mike Penning to continue to support the Vulture Funds Bill through the Committee stage so that it becomes law before the election.

For your diary

- Christian Aid Week: House to House Collection (8th to 15th May), Plant and Produce Stall (8th May), Car Wash and Coffee Morning (15th May), United Service (16th May) at Christ Church. Last year we raised nearly £6000!