

Social Justice: Hiding behind the numbers

Australian politicians quite rightly claim that we give very generously in our overseas aid. And they are right! The problem is that we are still not giving our fair share as a global citizen to overcome the chronic, severe poverty that more than 3 billion people endure every day of their lives.

The problem is that we are so wealthy. Imagine you are earning \$40,000 a year. It is not too difficult to tithe \$4000 a year. That's only \$333 a month. A manageable amount. But if you earn \$140,000 a year, it is much harder to watch \$11,667 a year walk out the door. That's \$972 a month!

And that's our problem. We, as a global citizen, are hiding behind the numbers.

For more information, go to <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/>

Social Justice: Being a good global citizen – what's our fair share?

The Millennium Declaration that every country including Australia signed in 2000 set out a series of goals. We all declared that, "We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty."

The only way this will work is if we all give our fair share. We have all agreed repeatedly that this is 0.5% of each country's Gross National Income (all earnings made by companies and individuals in that country) by 2010, and 0.7% of GNI by 2015. If every rich country gave that percentage of their income, it would be enough to provide the additional resources poor countries need to end their extreme poverty.

For more information, go to <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/> and also look at <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/mv/index.htm>

Social Justice: Opportunity to be involved

7 July 2007 is the half way mark in the 15 year commitment we made to the Millennium Development Goals. Australia needs to give approx \$1 billion extra each year by 2010 (0.35% of GNI to 0.5%) to meet our fair share. A lot to us, but not so much to a Government which collected about \$231 billion in taxes this year, and still has \$10 billion left over after the latest Budget. On 8 July, most of us signed a Half Time postcard. Cards are available from the Resource Centre or from <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/>.

Of course, we can't ask our government to give more if we aren't giving generously ourselves. If you are not giving money regularly through one of the many great Non Government Organisations working in developing countries, please give it serious consideration.

Check out: <http://www.tear.org.au/advocacy/>, <http://www.worldvision.com.au/getinvolved/faithinaction/?isource=9>, and <http://www.shareanopportunity.org/default.asp?contentID=1001387>.