

Helps to Guide our Discussions¹

We as people of God have never had all of the answers to life's questions, but we are committed to trusting in God and depending on each other for care and comfort as we discern God's will for us in complex situations.

Some things to keep in mind as we proceed:

- We are guided by a concept of shared wisdom. No one of us has all of the wisdom. Each of us, however, has a piece of the wisdom. Therefore, we encourage all participants to work hard to share ideas and to begin to think in new ways. No one, however, will be forced to share or to speak.
- We listen carefully to each other, not to win arguments but so that we can better understand other people and the issue at hand.
- We can agree or disagree. Everyone's opinion is respected, and every person's dignity is affirmed.
- We observe the common courtesies of discussion. We don't interrupt others or dominate the discussion. We acknowledge our own feelings and avoid judgmental language. We give feedback and speak only for ourselves and not for others.
- We remember what binds us together: our unity in Christ and our care and concern for each other as a community of believers.

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The Millennium Development Goals

In September, 2000, 189 nations, including the United States, affirmed a set of international development goals in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. These have come to be known as the Millennium Development Goals. They reflect an understanding of the devastation caused by global hunger and poverty, and aim for a world that is free of such misery. They are achievable. Most of them are very specific, and the UN has indicators by which progress can be monitored.

Many countries have made significant strides in fighting poverty despite major obstacles, such as scant resources. Few additional resources, however, have been contributed since the goals were adopted. If additional new funding is not put forth, at the current rate, none of the Millennium Development Goals will be met by their target dates.

By 2015, all UN member states pledged to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Reduce by half the proportion of people who live on less than one dollar a day.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate the gender discrepancy in primary and secondary education by increasing opportunities for girls to attend school preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

4. Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two-thirds the percentage of children who die before age five.

5. Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three-quarters the percentage of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Sustainable development means reducing hunger and poverty in environmentally sound ways, by: meeting basic human needs, expanding economic opportunities, protecting and enhancing the environment, and promoting democratic participation.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.
- Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

8. Develop a global partnership for development

- Reform the trading system (i.e., the World Trade Organization) and the financial system (e.g., private capital flows and international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund) so that poor countries can more easily sell their products to developed countries at fair prices and obtain the financial resources needed to create stable, growing economies that lift people out of poverty.
- Focus special attention on how to help the poorest countries mobilize the resources needed to reduce hunger and poverty and become self-reliant.
- Focus special attention on how landlocked and small island developing countries can promote economic development and poverty reduction.
- Make an all-out effort to resolve the problem of unpayable debt for the world's poorest countries.
- Develop decent and productive work for youth.
- Provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries.
- Make available the benefits of new technologies.

Activities, Games and Ideas for Children, Youth and Adults

On the The *Hunger No More* Web site, www.hungernomore.org, you will find:

- Activities for children, youth and adults – games and creative activities that can be downloaded to get people involved at age-appropriate levels.
- Web resources for children, youth and adults – valuable links to Web sites with games, ideas and activities, both secular and religious.
- Stories and story links – personal stories similar to those on the *Hunger No More* handouts. Click on links that lead to stories from the United States and abroad. True stories, whether of suffering or successful change efforts, help link our lives with those of other people.
- Policies of religious groups – Web links to hunger and poverty policies of many Christian and Jewish groups. Look up the policies of the national expression of your congregation. Compare the ways different groups address policy issues.
- Policy updates – links to current domestic and international policy information and campaigns on hunger and poverty issues. Helps you stay current, so you can get involved in the action in a timely manner.
- Data updates – links to current data. Printed data quickly become outdated. These links will help you find up-to-date sources.
- Lists and links – of *Hunger No More* sponsors and their Web sites.
- Definitions – and explanations of terms.

The Web site helps you find materials and activities that can be used:

- To engage people in fun, interactive, learning games and activities.
- To expand a one-hour session to fit a longer period.
- To expand the number of sessions.
- For weekend retreats.
- For individual research, study and meditation.
- By families for study, prayer and shared activities at home.
- By schoolteachers for classroom materials and activities.

