



Stand Up: Take Action Against Poverty

Micah Sunday – 18 October 2009

Prayer: Liberty to the Oppressed

From Be Our Freedom Lord, Terry Falla, Open Book Publishers, 2nd Ed 1994, p 204

*God is on the side of the poor, the oppressed,
the persecuted. When this faith is proclaimed
and lived in a situation of political conflict
between the rich and the poor,
and when the rich and the powerful reject
this faith and condemn it as heresy,
we can read the signs and discern
something more than a crisis.*

*We are faced with a kairos:
A moment of truth,
A time for decision,
A time of grace,
A God given opportunity
For conversion and hope.*

Damascus Document

- Let us pray now for people everywhere
for all entrapped in structures of injustice,
for all who struggle for liberation,
for all who look for a better world,
and for the leaders of the nations
and for the witness of the church
in every land
- Eternal God, we pray for people of every nation,
developed or developing, affluent or poor:
*For those whose poverty is spiritual
and for those whose poverty is material.*
For people who hunger for justice and freedom,
and those whose hunger is for food.
For people whose wealth is their poverty,

and those whose poverty robs them of their dignity.

- We pray that divisions in this one world may
be healed, and peace more actively pursued,
*That justice may be achieved for the oppressed,
and the voice of the victims listened to and heard.*
We pray that those who shape policies may learn
to balance conflicting claims more equitably,
*And that the apathy of the affluent may be
Transformed into compassion and care.*
- We pray for reforms in our economic system,
that people may matter more than profits,
*That the disadvantaged may get fair prices,
and the dignity and justice of fair wages.*
We pray for those who work in and control the media,
and who exert wide influence by what they write and say,
*That they may reverence truth, disarm prejudice,
dispel ignorance, and sharpen discernment.*
- We pray for those who are easily influenced
and aroused to hatred and partisan conflict,
*For those who too easily make peace with
the demands of social and political systems,*
For the young, that they may find all that makes
for a free spirit, and generous, courageous purpose,
*For those whose age is a barrier to action,
but whose wisdom can help to change the world.*
- We pray for men and women in their daily lives:
*For those who do too little and expect too much,
For those who earn too little and work too much,
For those who want to work and cannot.*
- We pray for people who are alone and lonely,
and have no-one to whom they can turn,
*For those who are in despair, finding
the burden of living too great to bear,*

We pray for people who suffer constant pain,
 or struggle with traumas of the mind,
*And for those who give their imagination and time,
 Energy and understanding, to others who are in need.*

- We pray for all who know themselves to be called to live under the lordship of Jesus Christ:
*For those who need encouragement and support as they struggle against prejudice and injustice,
 For those whose faith in action results in persecution of imprisonment, and brings sorrow to them and their loved ones,
 For ourselves, that despite the cost we will avoid false divisions between personal and social aspects of salvation.*
- Lord, we offer this prayer as a pledge of our love and loyalty, to you, to each other, and to all our fellow human beings.
With the gift of your Spirit, we commit ourselves to live in love, to bear your cross in our world, serving it with compassion, imagination and courage.
 In the name of our Saviour,
 Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

Amen.

The Micah Call

The Micah Call is a statement of our belief that now is a time when poverty can be challenged:

This is a moment in history of unique potential, when the stated intentions of world leaders echo something of the mind of the Biblical prophets and the teachings of Jesus concerning the poor, and when we have the means to dramatically reduce poverty.

We commit ourselves, as followers of Jesus, to work together for the holistic transformation of our communities, to pursue justice, be passionate about kindness and to walk humbly with God.

We call on international and national decision-makers of both rich and poor nations, to fulfil their public promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and so halve absolute global poverty by 2015.

We call on Christians everywhere to be agents of hope for and with the poor, and to work with others to hold our national and global leaders accountable in securing a more just and merciful world.

www.micahchallenge.org.nz



The Millennium Development Goals

Halve Global Poverty by 2015 by meeting these eight goals

