



## Ideas for Children for the Global Prayer and Big Promise

Join 100 million Christians on 10.10.10 to remember the poor and call for action to halve global poverty by 2015. Read on for lots of ideas to make 10.10.10 a day of spiritual and political impact.

You will find guides and resources at:  
[www.micah.org](http://www.micah.org)



### The Global Prayer

Imagine millions of children from all backgrounds - city and country, rich and poor, Spanish speaking and Korean, Hindi and English - praying together on one day for God's justice and goodness to reign in the nations.

We want to affirm the importance of listening to God, seeking his wisdom and relying on his strength and guidance. The global children's prayer for Micah 2010 echoes the themes of Nehemiah who fasted and prayed day and night before he embarked on the mighty task of restoring Jerusalem.

The prayer will be used in churches around the globe on 10.10.10. An adult's prayer is also available.

The prayer (in English, Spanish, Portuguese and German) is set out in a separate document in this kit, for you to print off.

Ways to use the Global Children's Prayer at a Micah 2010 event or service on 10.10.10

- Say the prayer aloud together. Put it up on powerpoint for everyone to join in or read it out line by line for everyone to repeat

- Add your own specific prayers after the global prayer e.g. praying for your area to have free education, praying for children's workers in your church, praying for the leader of your country, praying for children in your community who do not have a loving, stable home
- Use the Millennium Development Goals Prayers (download at [www.micah2010.org](http://www.micah2010.org)) which shows how each MDG affects children, gives some prayer points and has an activity for children
- Ask some children to lead the children's prayer at an adult/family event
- Use the children's prayer and the MDG prayers in schools, kids clubs and at children's prayer events
- Set up a prayer wall in a prominent place and get children to add their prayers for the poor

We encourage everyone who prays to get involved in the BIG Promise so that, like Nehemiah, we translate our prayers into action.



### Summary

- Print the prayer or display it for everyone to say
- Pray the prayer together on 10.10.10
- Take part in the BIG Promise



## Prayer

Leader: This prayer is based on a famous prayer in the Bible by a man called Nehemiah. When he heard about how people were suffering, he prayed day and night, then he worked to end suffering.

Whatever age we are and wherever we live, we can pray and do things to help children in need. Let us pray.

*O Lord, our awesome God,  
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for children who live in poverty,  
who go to bed hungry and who do not have a  
safe home.*

*Help us provide food to children who are  
hungry.*

*Help us share what we have with children in  
need.*

*Help us show love to children in fear.*

*Help us bring peace to children who live  
with violence.*

*Dear God, millions of children around the  
world depend on you and hope in you. You  
care for all children and you want us to care  
too.*

*May our prayers and actions today show that  
children in poverty are not forgotten.*

*May we make a difference, so that  
goodness, kindness and fairness spread  
around the world.*

*Amen*



## The Big Promise

2010 marks 10 years since nations of the world promised to meet the Millennium Development Goals - we have only 5 years to go to make the eight goals a reality. We encourage all children to take part in the Promise.

The Promise is simple to organise: the words are given in the box below and the action asks people to raise their hands in promise, then make a special handprint. This is a great action for children.

Hands mean worship, hands pledge support and we use our hands to demonstrate God's love. The five fingers on our hand represent 5 years to go till 2015 and remind us that the task is urgent.

The handprints are also a visible message to pass on to our leaders so that our promise to halve global poverty cannot be forgotten.

## Ways children can use the Promise action

- All children read out the Promise or a children's leader reads it for everyone. As you all say the Promise, lift up your hands as a sign of commitment.
- Ways to make the handprints can vary - dip hands in washable paint or dye, then make a print (this is a good way as it reminds us that every hand print is unique - we are all special to God and have a special contribution to make). A simpler way would be to draw round the hands to make an outline.
- You will need paint or ink, fabric or paper for a banner. Make a heading for the banner. Remember that children will need to clean their hands afterwards so provide some bowls of water!
- Print the hands onto a giant piece of cloth so it can be displayed. The outlines could be put straight on to a giant banner or cut out. Children can add their name or age or add a prayer to the banners.





- The banner could have a heading of “All Children are precious” or “All Children Should Survive Past 5”.
- Have a celebration to go with the Promise action. Take the time to celebrate the ways all children are special to God.



- Take photos of children making and holding the banner which you can give to a local politician asking for education for all children, clean water for all children and immunizations for all children.
- Count the number of handprints you all make and then follow the instructions for maximum impact in the main Big Promise guide:  
Download at [www.micah2010.org](http://www.micah2010.org)
- Although October 10th (10.10.10) is the focus for Micah 2010, you could encourage the organisers of youth camps, summer festivals and conferences earlier in the year to take part. Schools could take part on Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> and take the handprints to their local church on Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Plan something practical to help the poor as families or as a class eg bringing food for a family in need, bringing a favourite toy for a toy sale where all the money goes to a children’s project, visit the children’s ward at your local hospital to take a small gift and pray with children.

### Summary

- Print the promise or display it for everyone to say
- Gather together the materials you need for people to make a handprint
- Use the Prayer and Promise together on 10.10.10
- Make a display
- Use the handprints to take part in the Big Hand-Over

### Promise

The Leader says:

As children loved by God we want to remember the poor.

We want all children to have enough to eat, we want all children to be able to complete primary school and we want all children to have clean water to drink.

We ask our leaders to protect the children in our community and around the world so that by 2015, 500 million children are given hope.

Everyone joins in the Promise:

We promise to remember the poor.

We promise to remind our leaders to keep their promise to poor children.

As a sign of our promise, we make this handprint.





## The Big Handover

To make sure your Prayers and Promises have maximum impact, think how children can be involved in handing over their Promise handprints to a political leader. This is a great opportunity for children to learn about the importance of their voice in prayer and advocacy.

- Children could add their handprints to the church total. A church could invite their local politician to an event at the church and present the handprints or deliver their handprints to their politician. It would be good to have a child or children involved in the handover. They may have a simple message, “Remember the poor” or they may have been trained in the messages of the national campaign. The more specific the message is, the more impact it will have.
- A church which is not able to make contact with their local politician will send its handprints to the Micah Challenge office so they can arrange a handover with an appropriate Minister to talk about the 2 or 3 asks of the national campaign.
- There could be a special time for young people to present their concerns to political leaders in your nation. Eg a Youth Forum. Please check with your national campaign. OR a school or college could arrange their own Forum and invite a local leader to receive the hands that have been made and to publicly commit to action. Politicians like to meet young people! Make sure you take photos for the local newspaper and the web.



For further ideas see the resources for churches at

[www.micah2010.org](http://www.micah2010.org)