



The 175th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

will present a special Global Reconciliation Offering
to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori
for the MDG Inspiration Fund of



Who can participate?

Everyone in the diocese will have an opportunity to participate on
Sunday, October 28, 2007

a date designated by Bishop Thomas Ely for each congregation to take up an
ERD Global Reconciliation Offering.

How can you contribute?

Bring your contribution to church on October 28 (a check made out to ERD
or cash—ERD donation envelopes will be available). If you will not be in
church that day, mail your contribution in advance to your church with a
note that it is for the Diocesan Convention Global Reconciliation Offering.

How will the offering be presented?

At the Diocesan Convention Eucharist on Saturday, November 3, 8:30 a.m., a
representative of each congregation will be called forward at the Offertory to
present their congregation's offering to the Presiding Bishop.

Where will the money go?

The Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund is a new partnership
between Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), Jubilee Ministries, and
the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church to raise \$3 million to fight
malaria and other preventable diseases [see other side for more details]. An
initial \$1 million has been contributed by The Episcopal Church (\$924,000)
and other ERD donors as an inspiration to individuals, congregations
and dioceses to contribute an additional \$2 million by 2009. Though
established early this year, a formal kick-off for the MDG Inspiration Fund
will take place at the Executive Council meeting in October. The Diocese of
Vermont will be one of the first, if not *the* first diocese, to present a diocesan
contribution. The Convention loose offering will also go to the Fund.

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)

ERD (formerly The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief) is a non-profit
organization that responds to human suffering around the world, providing
emergency assistance after disasters, rebuilding communities, and helping
children and families climb out of poverty (www.er-d.org).

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

At the start of the new millennium, leaders from 191 nations, including the
United States, agreed on a plan to cut extreme global poverty in half by 2015.
Together, they created the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

- Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children
- Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality
- Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Goal 8: Create a Global Partnership for Development

At the 75th General Convention in 2006, the Episcopal Church voted to
make the MDGs a mission priority over the next triennium and endorsed a
partnership between the Episcopal Church and *ONE: The Campaign to Make
Poverty History*.

The MDG Inspiration Fund

The 2006 General Convention set aside 0.7% (\$924,000) of the 2007-2009
operating budget to be dedicated to programs aimed at achieving the
MDGs and charged the Executive Council with the task of deciding how it
should be allocated. The Council decided to partner with ERD and Jubilee
Ministries in a focus on MDG #6. Malaria is an easily treatable disease and
is a high priority for many of ERD's partners in the Anglican Communion.
Several additional MDGs are addressed through malaria prevention.

The Fund will assign \$2 million of the total \$3 million to be used in support
of ERD's *NetsforLife* program, a partnership for malaria prevention in 16
countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with a possible pilot program in Asia. ERD
is an implementing partner in *NetsforLife*. The program promotes an inte-
grated prevention model that focuses on delivering long-lasting insecticide-
treated nets, building community awareness about malaria and prevention,
training people on proper use of the nets and educating communities to
seek treatment while advocating for better access to drug therapies.

ERD will work in partnership with Jubilee Ministries to allocate the
remaining \$1 million for programs targeting global health issues, including,
but not limited to, malaria prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean.
All of ERD's international programs address the MDGs.