



# GO AND DO SOMETHING

Mobilising  
everyone to  
seek justice  
together -  
now!



**THE WHOLE WORLD MOBILISING  
GO FORWARD!**



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**'SALVATIONISTS UNDERSTAND THAT SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE HIS WORLD.'**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Version 2

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# GO AND DO SOMETHING



**L**ate one night - it was in the early morning hours - in the year 1888 William Booth returned to London from a campaign in the south of England, and slept exceedingly ill when he arrived at his home.

Bramwell Booth, living near by, was early in attendance next morning, and scarcely had he entered the dressing-room, quick, alert, and cheerful, when his father, who was walking to and fro with hanging braces and stormy hair, burst out at him, "Here, Bramwell! Do you know that fellows are sleeping out at night on the bridges? Sleeping out all night on the stone?"

Bramwell, thus checked in his greeting, exclaimed, "Yes, General; why, didn't you know that?"

The General appeared to be thunderstruck. He had seen those tragic huddled forms benched on stone for the first time on the previous night, and his own sleep in a warm bed had been robbed in consequence. "You knew that," he said, "and you haven't done anything!"

To this attack the Chief of the Staff made answer - first, that the

Salvation Army could not at present undertake to do everything that ought to be done in the world; and, second - he admits now that he spoke like a copybook - that one must be careful about the dangers of indiscriminate charity.

The General broke in angrily on this exordium. "Oh, I don't care about all that stuff," he said; "I've heard it before. But go and do something. Do something, Bramwell, do something!" And he walked about the room, running his fingers through his long beard and speaking with a loving rage and pity of the homeless wretches forced to sleep in the recesses of the London bridges.

"Get a shed for them," he ordered; "anything will be better than nothing; a roof over their heads, walls round their bodies"; and then he added, with characteristic caution, "you needn't pamper them."<sup>1</sup>

**T**his conversation, between the founder of The Salvation Army and his eldest son, resulted in the birth of The Salvation Army's social ministry which is recognised and appreciated around the world

today. Two years after this exchange, William Booth's book, *In Darkest England and the Way Out* was published laying out a plan for the Army's social work. The plan was implemented and made a significant impact in the lives of millions of people. Its effects are evidenced today in the work of The Salvation Army in more than 125 countries around the world.

Booth's plan was not just to meet needs - he wanted to change the world. He understood that required addressing the causes of misery as well as its effects. This was not simply a humanitarian initiative. It was social work and social justice motivated by the gospel of Jesus Christ. It encompassed emergency relief as well as personal and community development as well as advocacy. Salvationists understand that social work and social justice are an essential part of God's plan to save his world.

The first chapters of Genesis lay out God's unmatched creativity and one cannot ignore the truth that God invites humans into the process of his work. He entrusts his creation to people to cultivate and grow. Genesis 1:26 states, 'Then

God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” The Bible is full of references to God’s care for his interdependent creation.

Interdependence is at the heart of all creation and it reflects the very nature of our Triune God - Father, Son and Spirit. We were created to be mutually reliant on God’s creation around us. The privilege of caring for the world is unique to human beings and God invites us into an active partnership with him. We are privileged people! Not only are we called to love and care for our fellow human beings but we are also entrusted to do the same for the rest of God’s creation.

## “GO AND DO SOMETHING. DO SOMETHING, BRAMWELL, DO SOMETHING!”

The Bible speaks specifically of human beings as the ones made in God’s image and are to rule over creation. The words, ‘rule’ and ‘image’, are used intentionally in the first chapters of Genesis to convey the idea of the ancient world where rulers’ images were set up as a reminder of their power.<sup>2</sup> As people created in God’s image, we represent him on earth.

The question is how well are we representing him?

It is easy to be overwhelmed by

the injustices in the world. It is tempting to throw our hands up and say: ‘What difference does it make what I do?’ It is more convenient to ignore the pressing matters or to expect someone else to do the job.

While we cannot fight every issue that threatens the well-being of the world on our own, the words of William Booth are still relevant today. William Booth’s plan to change the world in 1890 is similar to the Sustainable Development Goals to change the world by 2030. Both are bold, comprehensive and integrated plans. But we must always remember that humans cannot save the world by our own efforts. We must rely on God - Father, Son and Spirit.

We are called to be 21<sup>st</sup> century Bramwells. ‘Go and do something. Do something, Bramwell, do something!’<sup>1</sup>

1 Entire extract from: Begbie, Harold, *The History of The Salvation Army*, Volume 2, 1920, London.

2 Keller, Timothy, *Every Good Endeavour*, 2014, New York.

## WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION?



The International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) is the primary international advocate and advisor to the General on social, economic and political issues which lead to the perpetuation of human injustice in the world. Based in New York with staff working in Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna, the ISJC serves The Salvation Army as a strategic voice to advocate for human dignity and social justice in all parts of the world.

The ISJC exercises leadership in determining The Salvation Army’s policies and practices in the international social justice arena. The ISJC seeks to find ways to resource the worldwide Salvation Army to combat injustice, including linking and working with like-minded organisations and other world forums to advance the cause of global social justice.

In pursuit of its stated purpose, the ISJC has five goals:

1. Raise strategic voices to advocate with people particularly those who are poor and oppressed.
2. Be a recognised centre of research and critical thinking on issues of global social justice.
3. Collaborate with like-minded organisations to advance the global cause of social justice.
4. Exercise leadership in determining social justice policies and practices in The Salvation Army.
5. Live the principles of justice and compassion and inspire others to do so.

### TARGETS

The UN provides various targets and indicators to give specific detail on the scope and aims of each Sustainable Development Goal. For each one of the double-page spreads in *Go and Do Something*, we have provided a selection of these targets at the top of the page. The purpose of this is to create a variety of reflection and talking points for a general audience.

No inference should be made about the importance or priority of the targets for each goal based on which ones we have reproduced; we have made our selection within the limits on the space available in this publication. We encourage you to find the full detail on the UN’s Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform at [sustainabledevelopment.un.org](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org).



## HOW DO WE USE *GO AND DO SOMETHING*?



Dr. Laurelle Smith

*Go and Do Something* is for people of all ages who want to make the world a better place today, full of practical ideas for action, prayer points and facts. There are 17 topics - one for each of the SDGs. There are many ways to use this book:

- Make time to read and reflect on one of the SDGs each day for the next 17 days and commit to 17 new ways you will change the way you act or think.
- Discuss one of the chapters each week with other people. This could be in a Sunday School class, women's meeting, during a music group practice, or in a Bible Study group.
- Teachers can use this material in schools, particularly in a setting of group discussion or for project ideas.
- Preachers can use this resource to inspire a sermon series on how people should live faithfully in the world today.

## WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?



Major Victoria Edmonds

The SDGs apply to every person, of every age, in every community and every country on Earth and were endorsed by all 193 member states of the United Nations in September 2015. Although every country starts from a different point for each goal, all nations have committed to work towards them. The SDGs are based on a shared vision of what world leaders want the world to be like in the future - a future that is secure, sustainable and based on equality of all peoples both between nations and within nations.

The SDGs are based on a belief that no-one should be left behind. It will not be enough that the average person has had their life improved. The poorest and most vulnerable people must also experience improvement in their lives with a reduction of the disparity between the richest and the poorest people.

## WHY SHOULD WE GET INVOLVED WITH THE SDGs?



Lt-Colonel Dean Pallant

The fact that world leaders agreed on a set of goals reflecting values which The Salvation Army has promoted for 125 years is something to be welcomed - especially as it can result in positive change for the poorest and most vulnerable people. The goals identify issues and promote values very familiar to Salvationists: equality of all people with no discrimination; the well-being of all people with all people able to flourish; being good stewards of the earth and its resources; seeking peace and security for all people.

These are values that shine through the Bible and have inspired Christians for more than 2000 years. All people, without exception, are made in the image of God and are equally precious to him (Genesis 1:27-31). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared: 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God' (Matthew 5:9). Jesus declared that he came that we might 'have life and life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

The SDGs recognise a lesson The Salvation Army learnt many years ago - people and communities need to participate in their own development. In addition, The Salvation Army recognises the importance of integration. Just as God created people as integrated persons with body and soul so those seeking to participate in God's mission to save the world should not fragment services or treat only the body while trying to ignore the soul and spiritual healing. General André Cox is encouraging The Salvation Army to focus attention on the SDGs in every programme. This does not mean only in the developing world. The goals are universal, for every nation, for all people, everywhere.

## CAN WE PRAY FOR THE SDGs?



Lt-Colonel Eirwen Pallant

Prayer acknowledges the role of the creator in the governance of the affairs of the world, and of thanking him for success when this is realised. One of contributions of the ISJC has been to call Salvationists to pray about the SDGs. Prayer asks the creator to intervene in the affairs of humankind. We believe he can. We pray for those involved in work closely related to the SDGs. Basic information is followed by a call to reflection. Such reflection inevitably leads to asking, how this goal affects me? Do I contribute to the problems? Can I contribute to the success of these goals?

Such reflection can lead to real change of mind and attitude, with resultant action. As Jesus taught us to pray: 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10).

# END POVERTY

SDG 1

## END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

- Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.
- Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
- Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
- Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
- Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources.



**Captain Swetha Vincent**

International Ministries Co-ordinator, Greater New York Division, USA Eastern Territory

**A** UNICEF video made its rounds on the internet, an experiment that was meant to expose people's apathy and prejudice against the poor.<sup>1</sup> In the first part of the video was a young girl with a cute, dressy coat and adorable hat, waiting by herself in a very busy public square. In just a few moments passers-by realised that she was alone and they were overcome with the need to help. In the next scene, the same young girl entered a restaurant and a couple of other public places and again onlookers felt compelled to help her find her guardians and care for her so that she would not become a victim of the evils of society.

The experiment took an interesting turn in the second half of the video. The same young girl was now dressed as a poor girl with torn clothing, dirty and again waiting in a public square. For the next hour, people simply passed by her as though she was invisible. The young girl then entered the same restaurant as before. Only this time she was met with uninviting glares and a customer called the restaurant staff to escort her out. The experiment had to be cut short because the

young girl was distraught and her sorrow uncontrollable; even though she knew it was an experiment, the pain was still unbearable.

While viewers' hearts melt with compassion, the temptation is to shake our heads at the insensitive people in the video. There is a nagging question: how many times do we walk by the poor without a second glance?

Does the question 'what can I do?' ever surface as we step past those who are in need? The misguided thought that the poor belong on the street - that they are used to or choose to be in poverty - can easily lead us to justify our lack of action or response. Too often, it is the poor who crumble under the weight of injustice and are pushed into the periphery. Here are some statistics:<sup>2</sup>

- More than 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty and live on less than \$1.25 a day.
- About 75% of the world's poor populations live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for livelihood.
- In developing countries, the poor spend 60-80% of their income on food. Americans, to use one example, spend less than 10%.

Christians can play a significant role in addressing and fighting the issue of extreme poverty because of the God who lives in us! Time and again, the Bible speaks of a Christian's social responsibility in light of the Gospel. Jesus did not just address humanity's spiritual need but also the material, physical and emotional needs. He is the same God who became a man and in his humanity, identified with the poor by becoming poor himself. Jesus said, 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' (Luke 4:18-19). His heart was always tender and moved with compassion that led to action.

As followers of Christ, the expectation for us is clear! Christians are called to take up the cause of the poor because it reflects the heart of the God we worship and serve. We are invited to become co-labourers with Christ and become his eyes, ears, mouth, hands and feet in this world.

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQcN5DtMT-0>

2 <http://www.finca.org/campaign/world-poverty/>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- Proverbs 31:8-9 reads: ‘Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.’
- In Jeremiah 22:3 we find the following: ‘This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.’
- Micah 6:8 says: ‘He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.’
- 1 John 3:17 contains the question: ‘If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?’

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- Patience and understanding between those experiencing poverty and those who are not. May we be better able to imagine ourselves living the lives of those around us and then use these experiences to inform our words and actions.
- That governments will do more for those living in poverty - poverties of food, finance and shelter. May they instigate and improve policies, encouraging accountability and addressing corruption. Pray that the world will see the poor as people and not as a problem or a project.
- That those living in or close to poverty are able to gain the skills required to improve their situation. May people be willing to spend time and energy teaching these skills and may the necessary people - for example, potential employers - be able to see past current circumstances and offer relevant opportunities.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- In parts of Africa and Asia, corps have fields where they grow food to give to people in need. Volunteers are always needed. Elsewhere, homeless shelters, food banks or pantries and employment assistance centres constantly require donations and volunteers.
- Raise awareness of poverty. You could use social media, conversations, letter-writing, emails, telephoning and many other methods to increase understanding of poverty and its effects in everyday life. This enables people to spot it around them and do something about it.
- Reducing poverty requires actions from everyone - including those living in poverty. Microfinance projects, entrepreneurship and skill-development are all ways in which this process can move forward.
- Watch the video mentioned on the previous page with a small, youth or study group and ask them to reflect on it. How does it make them feel? How do you respond?

# END HUNGER

SDG 2

## END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



- End hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age.
- Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters.



Lieut-Colonel (Dr.) Dean Pallant  
Director of the ISJC



Contributions from Caitlin Hallett  
Intern at the ISJC, 2015-2016; now living in Australia

**H**ave you ever been hungry? Really hungry? Not the pangs in the stomach when dinner is 30 minutes late but the energy sapping, mind numbing pain that comes when there is not enough food for days, weeks or months at a time. It is not something those of us who have grown up in relatively wealthy societies know about but the UN estimates that in 2014, 795 million people were chronically undernourished ‘often as a direct consequence of environmental degradation, drought and loss of biodiversity.’

SDG 2 is therefore critically important. Zero hunger aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture in all countries by the year 2030.

The facts<sup>1</sup> paint a bleak picture:

- The vast majority of the world’s hungry people live in developing countries, where 12.9 per cent of the population is undernourished.
- Southern Asia faces the greatest hunger burden, with around 281 million undernourished people.
- Poor nutrition causes nearly

half (45 per cent) of deaths in children under five - 3.1 million children each year.

But there is some good news! Over the past 15 years the fight against hunger has advanced with the prevalence of hunger falling from 15 per cent in 2002 to 11 per cent in 2016. However, more than 790 million people worldwide still lack access to adequate amounts of food and even if this rate of decrease continues for the next 15 years, the goal of zero hunger by 2030 will be missed greatly.

It is often said that there is enough food in the world to feed everyone, we just need to distribute it fairly. Yet ending hunger and malnutrition is not only about providing easy access to food for all people, it is also essential that this access is to nutritious food. More than 34 million children around the world are considered to suffer from malnutrition<sup>2</sup>, a completely preventable and treatable disease, which when not treated leads to death. In areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, most families cannot afford a balanced diet more than twice a week

resulting in the region having one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world.<sup>3</sup>

Ending hunger and malnutrition also relies heavily on sustainable food production systems and agricultural practices. Agriculture is the world’s number one source of livelihood, with more than 40 per cent of the world’s population relying on it and more than 80 per cent of food consumed in developing countries originating from small farms. Recent trends in industrialisation, globalisation and commercialisation, however, are having profound effects on these small farms and ultimately reducing the availability of nutritious, easily accessible food in developing countries.

We may not be able to imagine what true hunger feels like but for much of the population this is their reality, every day. So next time your tummy rumbles use it as a reminder to cry out to God in prayer for those who are hungry and ask yourself ‘what can I do in the fight to end hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture?’

1 <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

2 <http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/hunger-facts?gclid=CKXA0euVqdlCFYKEswod1q8BAQ>

3 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- Deuteronomy 10:17-18 says: 'For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.'
- In Isaiah 58:6-7 we find: 'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?'
- Isaiah 65:17, 19-22 says: 'Behold I will create new heavens and a new earth...The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people.'
- John 15:5 contains the words of Jesus: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- That a spirit of gratitude will be in those who have plentiful and nutritious food to eat; we thank God for a sufficient food supply in many areas of the world.
- Vision, optimism and wisdom for those with the power and influence to make the distribution of food fairer. May we see an end to hunger. May those working to improve people's lives experience a sense of hope and a determination to continue.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Make an effort to buy food that has been produced locally or through sustainable food systems.
- Minimise food waste by making an effort not to throw out food and only buying what you need.
- Look out for those around you: cook for people in your community who you know can not afford food; donate food to shelters and food banks; set up or volunteer at a community garden; start a feeding programme in your local school and community group.
- If you are in a position to do so, sponsor a child or community in a developing country.

# HEALTHY LIVES AND WELL-BEING

SDG 3

## ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

- Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age.
- End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.
- Achieve universal health coverage, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines for all.



**Captain (Dr.) Kathy Crombie**  
Senior Policy Research Analyst at the ISJC, 2014-2016

**E**nsuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all (at all ages) is essential to sustainable development. The UN reports that, over the past 15 years, significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality. Progress has been made in increasing access to clean water and sanitation, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, polio and the spread of HIV/AIDS. However, more effort is needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many persistent and emerging health issues.

Moreover, major disparity in the health status of the world's population in developing and developed areas still remains. The following examples provide a glimpse of the health status of people around the world:<sup>1</sup>

- More than six million children still die before their fifth birthday each year. Four out of every five deaths of children under five occur in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia.
- Children born into poverty are almost twice as likely to die before the age of five as those from wealthier families.

- The proportion of mothers who do not survive childbirth compared to those who do is still 14 times higher in developing regions than in developed regions.
- Only half of women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of health care they need.
- At the end of 2013, there were an estimated 35 million people living with HIV (2.1 million adolescents).
- Globally, adolescent girls and young women continue to face gender-based inequalities, exclusion, discrimination and violence, which put them at increased risk of acquiring HIV.
- A prevalence of tuberculosis and malaria still exists in the world.

Obesity now presents as a major public health epidemic in both the developed and the developing world, doubling globally between 1980 and 2014. The following examples provide a glimpse of the prevalence of obesity:<sup>2</sup>

- 2.1 billion people - nearly 30 per cent of the world's population - are either obese or overweight.
- 39 per cent of adults aged 18 years and over were overweight in 2014, and 13 per cent were

obese.

- 42 million children under the age of five were overweight or obese in 2013.

The health and wellness of the entire person was central to the message and ministry of Jesus. It continued through the Early Church and is still central today. This message remains unchanged. God loves us and cares about our spirit, soul and body. He desires that we love others as we love ourselves. This includes caring for ourselves and our bodies - the temple of the Holy Spirit.

As we journey through life, we can ask ourselves a number of questions to help move us to the right perspective. How does ignoring health and wellness, either spiritual or physical or mental, impact our ability to be a good witness to others; our ability to glorify, minister and serve God? One of the ways we can glorify God is by following a lifestyle and behaviour as far as possible that produces health and wellness rather than choosing to walk down a path leading to disease and sickness. Practically speaking, as we care for our bodies, we are more likely to remain active in serving God and others. Maybe we need a health plan!

1 <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

2 <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs311/en/>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

- The Bible rates health as being very important. John, in his third letter, writes to Gaius: ‘Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well’ (3 John 2:2). As humans, our mind, spiritual nature and body are all interrelated and interdependent. What affects one affects the other. If our bodies are misused, our minds and spiritual natures cannot become what God ordained they should.
- Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome, writes about placing our lives before God: ‘So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you’ (Romans 12:1-2 *The Message*).
- The Bible tells us that our bodies belong to God. Paul writes: ‘Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.’ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

- Those people who are suffering through poor health. May God bring physical healing, mental strength and the right support. May we be people who believe in the power of God to work through all circumstances.
- Compassion for the people around us. May we be aware of health issues both physical and mental. When we can provide assistance, may we do so, and may we always be concerned with the health and wellness of others. May hearts be softened so solutions can be generated and health and other resources can be shared.
- That facilities and resources may be developed, particularly in places where they are currently lacking. May there be a willingness to implement the best care possible in all communities.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Consider your own health. How is your diet and exercise? Do you live a healthy lifestyle? Make small improvements - walk more, eat more fruit and vegetables, eat fewer unhealthy ‘treat’ foods - or big ones - lose weight or take up a new sport.
- How do you care for your spiritual health? Do you spend enough time studying the Bible and in prayer?
- Support initiatives taking place that work to improve health around the world. Many territories of The Salvation Army, and other organisations, work in developing countries on health projects - can you volunteer time or donate money to help this?

# EDUCATION FOR ALL

SDG 4

## ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING



- Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
- Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.
- Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.
- Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access.



**Luke Cozens**

Intern at the ISJC, 2015-2016; now living in London, UK

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which shaped the international development agenda from 2000 to 2015 included the target to ‘Achieve Universal Primary Education’. The deadline for that goal passed and yet, according to the #UpForSchool campaign, in 2015 ‘59 million children [did not] go to primary school - and hundreds of millions more are not learning.’<sup>1</sup>

Building on the MDGs, Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims to finish the work of having all boys and girls complete primary education. However, it goes significantly beyond this target - it also aims to give universal secondary education to children, improve access to universities, educate adults, provide vocational training and educate in global citizenship.

This is an ambitious goal and it will require much change! UN data shows:<sup>2</sup>

- Enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91 per cent but 57 million children remain out of school.
- More than half of children that have not enrolled in school live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- An estimated 50 per cent of

out-of-school children of primary school age live in conflict-affected areas.

- 103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60 per cent of these are women.

God has created humankind with the ability to understand the world in which we have been placed. He has made some of himself and his plans for life discoverable by exercising our minds. In Genesis the first human is specifically tasked to give names to creation and to work it:

‘The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it ... Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.’ (Genesis 2:15 and 19).

It is our privilege and our duty to walk through the world with our eyes open. We are made not simply to be another animal within the body of nature but to shape creation in partnership with God. We are to learn how to tend gardens, how to make food, how to cook it, how to fix our bodies

with medicine and how to care for each other with love.

Not everyone needs to be a doctor or a farmer, but when we are unable to give our fellow human beings access to the full opportunities of education we deprive them of the ability to participate fully in God’s design for human life. More than that, we rob our communities of the insight these people can give us. According to the United Nations:

*‘[Education] contributes to fostering peace, democracy and economic growth as well as improving health and reducing poverty. Education beats poverty ... promotes gender equality ... reduces child mortality ... contributes to improved maternal health ... helps combat HIV, malaria and other preventable diseases ... encourages environmental sustainability ... [and] helps global development.’<sup>3</sup>*

This is not to say that education is going to save the world. We cannot learn much about creation while ignoring the creator and some knowledge is too wonderful for us to attain. Education is not to replace a trust in God. Still, when we learn about and explore our world with God we find that it all points to him.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.theirworld.org/causes>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/education/index.html>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- God is the source of all knowledge. Proverbs 1:7 begins: ‘The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge’. Proverbs 3:5 states: ‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding’.
- John 8:31-32 tells us of Jesus’ words: “‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”
- The Lord, speaking to Moses in Exodus 31:2-3 says: “‘See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills’”.

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- All educators, headteachers/principals, administrators, school caretakers, cooks and coaches and others who help us to gain education. Ask that God would give them strength, wisdom and rest as they work to increase our understanding.
- Those who do not have access to the education they need, whether that is basic primary education, vocational knowledge or academic work. May they get access to the opportunities they need in order to progress and to lead fulfilling lives.
- World leaders who decide and influence education policy, and for those working to improve access to education. May they have understanding of the benefits learning brings.
- That God would reveal areas in your life where you may seek greater understanding of his creation. Pray that he would give you wisdom.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Demonstrate a commitment to education in practice. Volunteer in mentoring, education and training programmes and help young people and adults looking to develop new skills.
- Donate books that you might have to your local school. This supports the community in a practical way and makes good use of old resources without spending any money.
- Help out at your local school, such as by joining the parent-teacher association (or local equivalent) or in the role of school governor. Supporting institutions in this way allows the community to give good guidance on policy, aims and objectives; to be invested in the education of local families; and to be part of helping to ensure the best education possible for all.
- Keep yourself educated - through reading, online research, courses, online learning, and by challenging yourself to learn new skills.

# GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 5

## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS



- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.



Lieut-Colonel (Dr.) Eirwen Pallant

Deputy Director of the ISJC; Chair of International Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

**G**ender equality means ensuring fairness for all people irrespective of their gender. Men and women, girls and boys should be treated with equal fairness at all times. How does that happen in reality? In many parts of the world, women and girls are not treated equally. Our attitudes and perceptions shape the way we think. So what shapes our perceptions of girls and women?

I was visiting Salvation Army officers in India a few years ago, who had limited English. Their 10-year-old daughter who spoke excellent English surprised me. She explained to me that she watched many English speaking programmes and her favourite was 'America's Next Top Model'. I wondered how the programme was shaping her mind, especially the way she saw herself, her place and function in this world.

The way women are portrayed in the media, and in our societies, is highly influential on both women's and men's attitudes toward women, not just on how they should look but also on how

they should be treated.

A report from the International Labour Organisation in 2015 explained the impact of gender discrimination. 'It's generally recognised that some of the main obstacles holding women back are gender stereotypes, corporate cultures, difficulties in reconciling work and family responsibilities as well as more subtle forms of gender biases which sometimes exist in educational systems and the workplace.'<sup>1</sup> This results in women being paid lower wages and under-represented in decision-making positions.

As a young medical graduate in the mid-1980s I faced gender discrimination in the workplace. For example, when I applied for posts as a junior doctor I was asked intrusive questions about my personal life that were never asked of men, and the answers affected my chance of being offered a position. However, that was nothing compared to the discrimination my mother and grandmothers faced when they were young women. One

grandmother left school when she was only 14 years old - and before then she had hardly attended school. She was the eldest daughter and so even at a very young age it was her role to look after all the other children. Her education had a low priority in the family.

I have always been thankful for the opportunities I have been given, not only in education but in many other spheres of life. However, I recognise that I am one of the privileged. Many women in the world are treated very differently, not just denied opportunities but used and abused by men, and other women, because they are seen as 'lesser' beings, and therefore not entitled to care or protection.

Statistics for violence against women, both physical and sexual, not to mention mental and psychological are horrifying. These statistics will only change if perceptions of women are changed. Only when perceptions change will gender equality become a reality.

1 ILO Report: Women In Business And Management: Gaining Momentum, 2015



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- At the beginning of the Bible we are told the story of creation and the place of people in the creation. ‘So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground”’ (Genesis 1:27-28).
- The gospels show us how Jesus treated women. Christ came into the world so that people could have life, and life in all its fullness, not dependent on gender, race, colour or power. ‘As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed - or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her”’ (Luke 10:38-42).

The place of women is often seen as being in the home and attending to all the chores involved, including cooking and looking after everyone in the home. Here Jesus very clearly demonstrates that women should be given the same opportunities as the men to learn. He did not join Martha in reprimanding Mary for not being in the kitchen, instead he praised Mary for choosing the better option, to join with the men to listen to his teaching.

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- Women and girls who are suffering, being treated as less than their true worth because of their gender.
- Attitudes to change, making it unacceptable to commodify women or men so that all people are recognised as being persons of value.
- Pray that all men and women, girls and boys in the Church will learn to respect one another, to appreciate their difference and recognise how together we can enhance one another, witnessing the world to the beauty of gender.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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Let us all stop and think about our culture - at home, at work, in The Salvation Army, in our communities. Do our attitudes and expectations encourage gender equality? What can we do differently? Here are a few ideas:

- Be aware of what we say when we talk about people who are different to us. We should be careful not to refer to people using derogatory terms about their gender.
- Encourage girls and women to take opportunities for personal development.
- Support women and girls who have been abused and lost their self-esteem. We should encourage and enable them to build up their confidence in who they are.

# CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SDG 6

## ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



- Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
- Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.
- Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
- Substantially increase water-use efficiency and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity.
- Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.



**Robert Docter**

Intern at the ISJC, 2015-2016; now living in Los Angeles, USA

Sanitation and water are two basic components that involve everyone on a daily basis. No matter what culture, religion or geographic region, all humans go to some form of bathroom and consume water. Both are necessary means of survival.

It is easy to take both for granted. Access to water and sanitation is quite a luxury in the light of these current global figures:<sup>1</sup>

- At least 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is faecally contaminated.
- Water scarcity affects more than 40 per cent of the global population and is projected to rise. More than 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water use exceeds recharge.
- 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines.

There is enough technology and sufficient water supply to

provide the world with clean water. However, economic and environmental factors prevent access to more than one billion people.<sup>1</sup> Access to wells, rivers, filtration and clean water storage prevents sustainable development. Droughts and other extreme weather particularly hurt the world's poorest countries, impacting the development of children who are most prone to the lack of clean water and sanitation.

According to the United Nations, 'each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrhoeal diseases.'<sup>1</sup>

Other factors directly link to sanitation and water: hunger because of poor farming, malnutrition, disease, poor economy and pollution.

In the cases where water access is miles away, many have to sacrifice time, effort and safety when travelling to collect water. This denies time in the classroom for children and

opportunities for paid work. Travelling also puts those who live in areas of conflict at danger.

The question remains: how can water access and technology reach those in need? SDG 6 provides targets and initiatives for the world to follow.

The UN's World Toilet Day works to educate the public on the lack of accessible water and sanitation throughout the world. This is a day for action and advocacy, and seeks to educate the public about the 2.4 billion people - particularly women and children - who do not have improved sanitation.

It is important to note the significant work of The Salvation Army in water and sanitation programmes in countries including Angola, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Zambia. These, along with other programmes around the globe, serve as a model for further work and improvement for access to clean water and sanitation.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- In John 4:13-14, Jesus says: “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” Humans need water that is clean and pure: it cleanses; refreshes; is life-giving; is essential. Salvation with Jesus is the same. It gives eternal life.
- In John 4:10-15 we read: ‘Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”’
- Isaiah 12:3 says: ‘With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.’ The very use of this metaphor reminds us that water is deemed an essential part of life. Efforts should be made to provide it universally. May those who do not know the ‘joy’ of clean water come to have access to it.

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- Give thanks for the life-giving water that Jesus freely gives.
- The ongoing work of water and sanitation programmes - bringing growth, stability and further projects while ensuring safety, health, growth, development and salvation. Also for the finances of ongoing these projects in areas of need, drought, conflict and natural disaster relief.
- Those without access to clean water and sanitation around the world - that they may be replenished both spiritually and physically. May the Lord shine upon them.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Support The Salvation Army's Watershed project ([www.salvationarmy.org.uk/watershed](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/watershed)). Raise money - perhaps by taking the Tap Water Challenge - and find out more about the impact of this work across the world. You will find many resources on the website of The Salvation Army's International Development Service.
- Challenge world leaders to improve sanitation in areas where it is needed. Whether it be fresh water supply or better sewage works, urge governments and world leaders to make this issue a higher priority.

# AFFORDABLE, CLEAN ENERGY

SDG 7

## ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL



- Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.
- Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
- Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.
- Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.



Lieut-Colonel (Dr.) Dean Pallant  
Director of the ISJC

When did you last experience a loss of electricity supply? Most readers in Europe and North America will probably need a few moments to think - it is a rare occurrence. There was a major loss of power in London and the North East of the USA in 2003. It was such a surprise that people were completely unprepared and it dominated the news for days. Developed economies are so dependent on electricity that we cannot function without it - trains stop, there is no lighting, heating or cooling for offices and houses, electronic gadgets run out of battery power, and how can we cook food if the microwave oven stops working? Western 21<sup>st</sup> century society requires huge amounts of power to keep going.

However, if you live in Asia or Africa and have not had a power cut in the previous few months you will be fortunate. When serving with my wife, Eirwen, at Chikankata Hospital in rural Zambia in the 1990s we often had no power - sometimes for 48 hours at a time. It is a major problem running a hospital with no power and no water - electricity was needed to pump water from the

dam. Most of these power cuts were due to poor maintenance, lightning strikes or thieves stealing copper cables. The situation has not improved in recent years.

My parents live in Cape Town, South Africa, a very beautiful part of the world, but they have had to learn how to live with regular power cuts. This is not usually due to poor maintenance or theft, but because there is a lack of power on the national grid. There is not enough electricity to meet demand, so the power is switched off in areas on a rotation basis. This is called 'load shedding' and often happens at the most inconvenient time - between 6pm and 8pm at night - when many people need power to cook or heat their home.

Demand for power around the world is increasing rapidly. I have been travelling to Asia regularly during the past eight years and am continually struck by the number of people - many in their 20s and 30s - who are earning reasonable salaries and can now afford to have TVs, refrigerators, phones, computers and sometimes even air conditioning units. No one should deny people the opportunity to

acquire basic technology that western societies take for granted. However, generating enough power to meet these reasonable demands is a major challenge. Many countries have committed to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels (oil, coal, natural gas) due to environmental concerns. However, these fuels accounted for 87 per cent of global primary energy consumption in 2012. It is predicted by 2040 liquid fuels, natural gas, and coal will still account for more than 75 per cent of total world energy consumption.<sup>1</sup> Replacing fossil fuels with nuclear energy raises many safety concerns.

We can hope that scientists will discover ways to harness energy from the sun, wind and water - so called 'green energy' sources - but in reality it is likely to be a long time before cheap, sustainable energy sources can meet the world's demand for power.

This is a complex problem. There are no simple solutions, but that does not mean we can avoid the problem, close our eyes and hope it goes away.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/ieo/world.cfm>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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Most of the energy sources we use today had not been discovered in Bible times. There are no Scripture verses instructing us on whether we should build or close nuclear power stations, for example. However, the Bible does contain some principles which help us decide what to do. The International Positional Statement on Caring for the Environment ([www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips](http://www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips)) highlights three important principles:

- God is the creator, governor and preserver of all things. The Earth belongs to the Lord and everything in it (Psalm 24:1, Exodus 19:5). As people made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) we have been entrusted with the care of the Earth's resources (Genesis 2:15). God invites us to share responsibility for the care of Creation (Genesis 1:28-31; 2:15) and participate in the work of healing the world (Romans 8:19-22).
- The relationship of God to Creation is one of loving care and concern. Humanity's stewardship of the earth is a reflection of that care, as human beings are made in the image of God. The world was made to praise God and reveal his glory (Psalm 19:1-6); our stewardship of it furthers that end.
- The degradation of the earth is, in part, the result of human activity (Isaiah 24:5-6) and it is therefore our responsibility to work for its healing. The biblical command to humanity to 'subdue' and 'rule' should be interpreted as a requirement to be good stewards rather than understood as justifying abuse of the Earth's resources (Genesis 1:28). The disproportionate effect that climate change and environmental degradation has on the poorest parts of the world creates additional responsibilities to defend the cause of those who are vulnerable by restoring a sense of justice to the global community (Micah 6:8).

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- For people in the world who have access to energy - may we always be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. May we never be wasteful or arrogant by consuming more than needed.
- For those who are working to develop sustainable sources of energy - may they have insight and wisdom to develop solutions which benefit the poorest members of society.
- For those who cannot access enough power for their basic needs.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Turn off energy-using items like lights, televisions and heating when they are not being used. Reduce the 'air miles' (distance products have travelled) of your food and use cleaner transport.
- Support an organisation that brings renewable energy to the developing world. This brings huge benefit to the people in these areas, and renewable energy is easier to introduce where existing infrastructure does not need replacing.
- Urge politicians and leaders to move towards cleaner and more affordable energy sources, away from fossil fuel sources. Petitions, letter-writing and joining a campaign can all be effective means of doing this.

# GOOD WORK AND ECONOMIES

SDG 8

## PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



- Sustain economic growth in accordance with national circumstances. Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation.
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
- Eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and end child labour.
- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers and those in precarious employment.



**Robert Docter**

Intern at the ISJC, 2015-2016; now living in Los Angeles, USA

Income is essential for survival. At the most basic level, we work to earn income so we can afford the universal necessities of food, water and shelter. Money also provides the opportunity to save, invest, loan and trade. Most people have a legal obligation to pay the government a portion of their income in taxes. People of faith are also expected to give a portion of their income to God and charity.

However, almost everyone wants more. I was born and raised in the USA. I confess I was greedy from a young age. I always bothered my parents for the latest toy that my friends had. But it was not enough - there was always something else I wanted. One toy car isn't as good as two toy cars! Unfortunately, we do not easily grow out of our childish desires. It is easy to desire more and more - not for the good of all people, but because we are driven by selfishness. At its most extreme, this selfish ambition

results in corruption, illegal trading, trafficking of people, exploiting the environment and so on. Greed is aggressive, contagious and a catalyst for injustice.

The eighth SDG is a commitment by the leaders of 193 countries to ensure decent work and sustainable economic growth for all people. This is a goal that Christians should support. Work and economic growth are good and gifts from God.

Many of today's global injustices are rooted in unequal access to fair, inclusive employment and economic growth. This forces many into unsafe jobs that prohibit growth and safety, such as trafficking, criminal activity, illegal trade and forced labour.

Two statistics highlight this global problem:

- According to the International Labour Organization, more than 204 million people were unemployed in 2015.<sup>1</sup>
- Roughly half the world's

population still lives on the equivalent of approximately US\$2 a day. And in too many places, having a job does not guarantee the ability to escape from poverty.<sup>2</sup>

SDG 8 is a well-rounded goal that addresses many components, such as:

- Efforts towards quality job creation;
- Sustainable economic productivity and technological innovations;
- Lessening environmental impact;
- Encouraging fair practices in banking and investing;
- Creation of more small and medium enterprises;
- Instilling policies that eradicate forced labour, human trafficking, illegal trade and other criminal activities;
- Responsible money practices.

There are many issues crammed into this one SDG, but such an all-encompassing goal is required to tackle the power of greed in our world today.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sdgooverview/post-2015-development-agenda/goal-8.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- In Genesis 41:34-36 we see that God is pleased by working for a common purpose and the benefits of a good economy: “Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”
- Proverbs 22:16 reminds us of the importance of a well-structured, just economy: ‘One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and one who gives gifts to the rich - both come to poverty.’
- In the same book we also find advice on the right attitude towards our work. Proverbs 16:2-3 says: ‘All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord.’
- 1 Timothy 6:10 tells us to place the emphasis of our work and economies on God, not money: ‘For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.’

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- Give thanks for the innovations that allow our economies to develop and often for jobs to improve. We have made breakthroughs in industry through skills and talents that God has given.
- For an end to all forms of abuse in the workplace: exploitation, forced labour and unfair practices. May God work in the lives of the people who carry out the abuse. May those who have been abused find a way out - towards peace and decent work.
- For improvements in conditions and the quality of life of all people, to ensure that nobody is left behind.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Avoid buying products, including clothes and food, that have been produced using exploitative practices such as forced or badly-paid labour. Shop ethically where you can.
- Support The Salvation Army's 'Others' enterprise ([www.tradeforhope.com](http://www.tradeforhope.com)). It aims to create employment, putting the profits back into growing this business and creating further jobs - nurturing sustainability and independence.
- Look into The Salvation Army's Accountability Movement ([www.salvationarmy.org/accountability](http://www.salvationarmy.org/accountability)). Consider how accountable you are to God and your fellow human beings in your employment or the way you run your business.
- Get involved in programmes that develop skills training, mentoring and support. These things can help people to get good work and support themselves.

# INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATION

SDG 9

## BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

9



- Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.
- Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product.
- Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.



Dr. James Read

Senior Policy Analyst at the ISJC; Chair of the International Moral and Social Issues Council

The ninth goal uses some very big words: infrastructure, industrialisation and innovation. Behind the big words are big ideas and big ambitions.

While I don't find any of these big words in the Bible, the ideas behind them certainly are there. Christians are invited to pray for wisdom and courage so that the ambitious ideas are not just the ideas of mankind, but ideas that promote God's vision of social justice.

It is no mystery why the nations of the world have made industrialisation an objective. Industrialisation has created the unmatched material prosperity that is now experienced by people in the 'more developed' world. And until the 'less developed' nations experience growth in the industrialisation of their economies, they will lag further and further behind.

Conversely, industrialisation causes massive changes in work. For example, industrialised agriculture uses machinery for planting, irrigating and harvesting, and in the process forces farm labourers out of work. What are they to do instead? And where will they do it? The

'darkest England' in which William Booth ministered was in turmoil because masses of people had moved from the country to the city in search of work. And too often the work they found nourished neither their bodies nor their souls. The leaders of industry became phenomenally wealthy - the workers destitute. When William Blake wrote of England's 'dark satanic mills', he wrote about the impact of industrialisation. What happened in Blake and Booth's 19<sup>th</sup> century could happen in our 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need to pray and work intelligently to see that it doesn't.

Infrastructure refers to the roads, bridges, railway lines and airports that make the movement of people and goods possible. It refers to the supply of water and electricity and the safe disposal of waste that makes a country liveable. Nowadays it refers also to the 'information superhighway' (internet) and telecommunications systems.

I once heard an inspiring story that linked innovation with infrastructure. In 2001, famine had left Malawian William Kamkwamba's family eating only one meal a day. Without money for

school, William found books on science. The illustration of a windmill intrigued him. The words said that windmills could create electricity and pump water. With fortitude and ingenuity, William scrounged materials from the junkyard - a discarded tractor fan, old bicycle frame, shock absorber, melted plastic piping and a used dynamo. Eventually, his family extended their days with four small lights powered by the windmill-generator his labours had created. Then he built a second windmill that pulled water from a small well near his home to irrigate his family's farm. As a result, they began growing two crops of maize a year.<sup>1</sup>

The material conditions of human life impact the spiritual conditions; and the spiritual health of a people impacts its infrastructure. The interplay is not simple or always the same, but it is real. God has made people to be embodied souls and ensouled bodies. As we pray about SDG 9, and about resilient infrastructure, industrialisation and innovation, we need to pray that the economic and political leaders of the world will realise the connection.

1 Learn more at his TED talk ([https://www.ted.com/talks/william\\_kamkwamba\\_how\\_i\\_harnessed\\_the\\_wind](https://www.ted.com/talks/william_kamkwamba_how_i_harnessed_the_wind)) and the ISJC resource 'Think on These Things' ([https://issuu.com/isjc/docs/think\\_on\\_these\\_things](https://issuu.com/isjc/docs/think_on_these_things)).



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- The Bible doesn't talk about the internet or wind-generated electricity, but it actually speaks about the concept of infrastructure. One of the things that makes the picture we are given of the New Jerusalem a delight is that it is solidly built, well-watered and superbly lit; roads from north, south, east and west point towards it, and people from everywhere can travel them without fear. There is no better portrayal of 'resilient infrastructure' than this.
- The Bible also shows us infrastructure being used for unjust purposes. Ephesians 2 describes how Christ came to tear down and destroy the walls of hostility that had been erected for the purpose of keeping people apart. This reminds us that resilient infrastructures - such as iron curtains, bamboo curtains and razor-wired borders - are not necessarily good or just or in keeping with God's vision.
- When the apostle Paul described Jesus Christ as the 'cornerstone', he used material infrastructure as an analogy for spiritual infrastructure. But when the Book of Nehemiah describes the rebuilding of Jerusalem, it uses the language of infrastructure straightforwardly. It's an informative story of repairing walls and buildings and securing points of border-crossing after Jerusalem's fall to the Babylonians. One thing that makes it informative is the various ways in which it reminds us that being a 'Restorer of Streets' (Isaiah 58:12) matters materially and spiritually. The two are connected.

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- Give thanks to God, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things. 'For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything' (Hebrews 3:4).
- For all those who are engaged in the work of rebuilding what has been destroyed by war and animosity, thereby making it harder for people to experience the good things of life.
- For the persistent resolve of national leaders who have pledged to pursue SDG 9.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Take an active role in local planning. Find out about new developments and projects nearby and reflect on the impact. Should you support them? Can you offer suggestions to improve the plans? You might find some useful overlap with SDG 11.
- Encourage scientific development and research. Keep on top of the latest news and discuss the issues with those around you - this kind of conversation could inspire others. Choose new and sustainable technologies which could lead to far-reaching improvements in many of the areas mentioned in *Go and Do Something*.
- The Salvation Army has experience in a number of countries in offering training courses in managing personal debt and programmes to help people get back to work. Could you help with or establish one of these in your community?

# REDUCE INEQUALITY

SDG 10

## REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

- Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population.
- Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.
- Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.
- Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.
- Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making.
- Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.
- Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries.



**Major Victoria Edmonds**  
Senior United Nations Representative in New York, ISJC

Oxfam, a UK-based charity, reported in 2010 that 388 of the richest people owned the same wealth as half of the world's population - the poorest half. When Oxfam reported in 2014, the number of rich people had dropped to 80, and by 2015 the number was down to 62 who owned the same wealth as half the world's population.<sup>1</sup>

Income inequality is on the rise, with the richest 10 per cent earning up to 40 per cent of total global income. The poorest 10 per cent earn only between two and seven per cent of total global income. When taking into account the population growth in developing countries, inequality has increased by 11 per cent.

Increasing inequality needs urgent action. But what can be done to help those who earn so little? What policies will include all people regardless of sex, race or ethnicity? Income inequality is a complex global problem that requires complex global solutions. This involves improving

the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, as well as encouraging development assistance and direct foreign investment to regions where the need is greatest.

Most of the specific targets of SDG 10 - a selection of which are shown at the top of the page - use very complicated language. We might think this has nothing to do with us. Wrong! Every Christian needs to follow the example of Jesus and care particularly for the poor. While Jesus said, 'The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me' (Matthew 26:11), he was not giving us an excuse to do nothing about poverty.

We have the wonderful opportunity through The Salvation Army Self-Denial Fund (World Services programme) to help others who deal with inequity in many of the poorest places on earth. Every Salvationist - even those living in

the poorest countries - is asked to participate in this annual project to raise funds. That money enables people with few financial resources to help themselves.

Corruption and greed are usually the root cause of why there is inequality within and among countries. The human desire to look after oneself, rather than care about others, is caused by our sinful nature. Scripture addresses inequality, and in 1 John 2:16 we read: 'For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.'

As long as there is sin in this world, reducing inequities within and among countries will be a problem. But the words of Jesus remind us of a reality: 'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world' (John 16:33).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jan/18/richest-62-billionaires-wealthy-half-world-population-combined>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- Lust of the eyes is the temptation to look at things we shouldn't look at or to want things that we shouldn't have. In other words, it is to cast our eyes upon something with desire or pleasure, therefore potentially being a cause of inequality. Instead, Christians are told: 'fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.' (Hebrews 12:2).
- We live in a world that covets what others have - a potential cause of inequality among countries. Clear examples of this lust of the flesh are the many wars fought over the years - countries invading others for their resources, such as oil and minerals. In Exodus 20:17 we read: "You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbour."
- Pride of life is the temptation for greatness or power that takes over our ability to think and it is also evident in inequality of nations. We are reminded that pride can take over a person's life and, before long, destroy them unless they keep their heart constantly before the Lord. Our pride shows in several ways: from our desire to get the credit or glory for things that others (or God) have done to our desire for others to 'worship' us or hold us in high esteem. Sometimes we want to 'make a name for ourselves' or to feel valued or more important than others. Sometimes we desire to be in a position of power over others in such a way as to boost our ego or for the sake of 'bragging rights' (Jesus said that those who desire to be great should be the greatest servant - see Matthew 20:25-28). Proverbs 4:25-27 instructs us: 'Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.'

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- People who suffer as a result of inequality. Whether through limited opportunity, isolating conversations and attitudes or an unfulfilled quality of life, may they experience a sense of hope and purpose.
- Fellow Christians who experience inequality, injustice and poverty in their daily lives. May their faith in Christ remain strong despite their challenges. May those who do not currently know God discover their value in him.
- People across society and around the world who act unfairly as a result of prejudice and societal attitudes. May circumstances change and all people work together to achieve the best situations for each other.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Be an advocate for those who are disadvantaged because of inequalities. For instance, create or engage with conversations about pay gaps, challenge attitudes that promote inequalities and be intentional about having a positive approach to those who are different from you.
- Support initiatives designed to reduce inequalities and deliver practical support to the disadvantaged. For example, look into projects that support the homeless, the poor, minorities and other groups.

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

SDG 11

## MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

- Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services; upgrade slums.
- Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport.
- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.
- Support least developed countries in building sustainable and resilient buildings.



**Dr. Aimee Paterson**

Christian Ethics Consultant with The Salvation Army Ethics Centre in Winnipeg, Canada

If you read the final two chapters of the Bible (Revelation 21-22), you will see that the city operates like an ecosystem. It's a place where everything works together for good. The bounty and beauty of the environment are celebrated as nature is incorporated in the city's very design. A thirst-quenching river flows and trees yield nourishing fruit. Health and wholeness are sustained all year round. But there's no sunlight or moonlight, because God's glory extinguishes the darkness of night.

This holy city doesn't just celebrate nature. God's light shines both on nature and human culture and creativity: streets, walls, nations and tribes. The city gates never close - everyone lives in a safe neighbourhood. This is what the new Jerusalem is like. It is a place where God dwells among the people.

Human beings have long built cities seeking to provide people with safety, community and the promise of a better future. We want to be able to meet our own needs, also doing our best to ensure that our children can meet theirs. This is sometimes called 'sustainable development'. On our own, we have never succeeded; yet Christians are told not to despair but to be hopeful. The prophets call us to concern ourselves with the welfare

of human communities and seek justice in our cities.<sup>1</sup> Glen Stassen, in *Just Peacemaking: Transforming Initiatives for Justice and Peace*, observes that sustainable development is, in part, the result of welfare and justice. What might welfare and justice in a city look like today?

First think about what injustice and a lack of welfare look like. In a nation like Brazil, they might look like the favelas on the outskirts of major cities. Favelas were originally considered temporary residences for immigrants moving from the outlying country to the cities to build a better life. But making a new start requires money and opportunity, and many immigrants were pushed out of the urban centres. For the most part, favelas failed to receive public services, with some still having no sanitation, electricity, medical care, education, public transit or city planning. With no viable economy, drug trafficking and violence run rampant. Residents often live in inadequate housing. Many favelas have been wiped away in mudslides or floods because of their geographic locations.

The Salvation Army has a serving presence in favelas,<sup>2</sup> but Salvationists are also encouraged to learn from people who are disenfranchised. What lessons do

residents of favelas have to teach us?

In recent years, a number of favelas have been building communities of resilience by working hand in hand with the land and with each other. They govern themselves creatively and sustainably. Informal waste collection systems are organised. Bicycles are commonly used for transit. Houses are constructed on stronger foundations, providing protection from natural disaster. Vegetable gardens are grown for nutritional benefits. Forests and wildlife are seen as natural resources to be protected. People support one another when there is need. A number of residents claim that they live in a favela not because they have to but because they choose to.<sup>3</sup> One non-governmental service worker observes: 'Everyone knows everyone. There aren't walls around the houses, everything is open.' Sounds a little bit like the city of God, doesn't it?

However, it will be challenging for favelas to develop some other components of SDG 11 if they continue to be neglected by their municipal governments. Let's continue to live in hope that increasing support will be given to disenfranchised communities and that welfare and justice will be achieved for everyone.

1 Jeremiah 29:7; Amos 5:15

2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5BShmE0KLc>

3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsT8rhhbCUA>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- God is in the midst of cities and communities because he cares about them. Genesis 28:16-17 we read: ‘When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”’ See also Psalm 46.
- We are encouraged to pray for the most vulnerable, and work for and with them - see Exodus 22:21-24 and Psalm 68:5.
- Along the way, we can be inspired by the vision of a transformed city - the new Jerusalem! - see Hebrews 13:14, Galatians 4:26 and Revelation 21-22.

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- In thankfulness to God for the gift of healthy human communities and the relationships we enjoy within our cities (Hebrews 10:24-25; Psalm 133:1; Isaiah 45:18).
- Pray for Salvation Army ministry in areas of urban poverty. The Salvation Army was born in the urban slums of Victorian England and still there are many Salvationists around the world seeking to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. May God’s will be done in our own cities today just as it is in Heaven (Matthew 6:10).
- Pray for those who are part of Salvation Army ministries across the world, that they will not grow weary of doing good (Galatians 6:9).
- For government authorities in developing countries. Pray that they will be moved by the cries of those living in poor conditions and that they will respond in just and compassionate ways (Matthew 14:14).
- Pray for governments around the world that have signed up to the SDGs, that they will continue to show commitment to the just transformation of cities and city life (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Find out what is happening in your local area in terms of development and governance. Think about what helps and what does not help your community. With this knowledge, look out for and support the initiatives that will be beneficial - such as new buildings, programmes and organisations.
- Become an active member of your community. Join local associations of residents and get to know your neighbours. Take part in local events. In this way, you will take greater ownership of your town or city and have a greater say in its running and development.
- Go for a prayer walk, either alone or with friends. As you journey through your community - or a part of it - pray for the people who live and work in the streets and buildings you pass.

# RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

SDG 12

## ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

- Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
- Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.
- Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.
- Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.
- Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.
- Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.



**Sharlene Lucero**

The Salvation Army's Girl Delegate to the United Nations; living in New York City, USA

**F**ood, energy, and water are necessary for us to survive. In our daily routine, we constantly use sustainable products for everything such as cooking, showering, electrical purposes, and for our health. Unfortunately, we tend to use it all carelessly without realising the consequences to God's beautiful world that was entrusted to us.

I was born in New York City where everything from our food to energy is supplied at a moment's notice. In the developed world, a significant portion of the population does not understand that the excess amount of energy, food, and water we use is wasteful and it affects the people in the developing countries who are in desperate need. Even when it comes to food, we do not realise how much we have until we are in a place of struggle where we are trying hard to keep our bills low and making food last for a longer period. At one point in my life, my family had a hard time

when my father lost his job of 15 years. We had to make sure that energy, food, and water would last us for a good amount of time. We struggled but we continued having faith in God that my father would have a job as soon as possible since we depended on my father for everything. We had some hope that life would return to normal. This is not always true of those who live in the developing world. Every resource is precious!

SDG 12 is a goal set by the leaders of 193 countries to make a greener world by having resource efficiency, decent jobs for all, and maintaining a lifestyle that results in keeping our waters, lands and lives 'greener' and safer. As Christians, this is an SDG that we should support fully. Irresponsible consumption on our part results in unjust working conditions on the part of those who are working to supply the demand and nature itself. We are responsible for taking care of

God's creation and each other.

Three statistics that highlight this global problem are:<sup>1</sup>

- Each year, an estimated one third of all food produced - equivalent to 1.3 billion tons worth around \$1 trillion - ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices.
- Humanity is polluting water faster than nature can recycle and purify water in rivers and lakes.
- Households consume 29 per cent of global energy and consequently contribute to 21 per cent of resultant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In the Bible we learn that from the beginning God has created the world and it is our responsibility to care for what God has created. Responsible consumption and production play a significant role in this process. As Salvationists, we should not only give a hand to others but to our world as well.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

- In Genesis 1 we see how God created the Earth and everything in it, each thing interdependent and humans charged with taking care of it. “... fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground ... I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food.” Further reflection on this passage is given in the introduction to this booklet.
- In Proverbs 27:23 we find the following advice: ‘Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds.’ Though referring to livestock, we see an important principle here. God wants us to have a good understanding and stewardship of our resources, not to abuse or waste them. Taking care of them glorifies the Lord.
- In The Salvation Army's International Positional Statement entitled ‘Caring for the Environment’ ([www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips](http://www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips)), we read the following: ‘The relationship of God to his creation is one of loving care and concern. Humanity’s stewardship of the Earth is a reflection of that care, as human beings are made in the image of God. The world was made to praise God and reveal his glory (Psalm 19:1-6); our stewardship of it furthers that end.’

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

- The countries of the developing world that deal with famine, drought and lack of electricity.
- The work of those across the world who are advocating for the care of our environment.
- Leaders of industry, government and organisations who have influence on production and consumption. May they be aware of their impact and so act responsibly, constantly leading the way for a better planet.
- An attitude amongst people that is considerate of the environment. May we see lifestyle changes to keep our environment healthy and clean.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Make responsible management of waste key in your lifestyle. Recycle as much as possible, reuse where you can, and ensure you only use what you need. Avoid the disposable culture prevalent in society.
- Switch to methods and devices that are better for the environment - things such as unplugging equipment, limiting the length of showers and avoiding environmentally harmful chemicals can make a big difference.
- Encourage your church, communities and local businesses to adopt these principles of limiting our impact on the planet.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

SDG 13

## TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning .
- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
- Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States.



**Kayla Calvo**

The Salvation Army's Girl Delegate to the United Nations; living in New York City, USA

The current carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere shows an increase of 100 parts per million since 1950, when the previously maintained level began to rise.<sup>1</sup> The global temperature has increased tremendously in the past decade; in India in May 2015, temperatures reached 51°C killing thousands of people and destroying crops. Since the 1980s hurricanes have increased, becoming stronger and much more dangerous, ranging between the 4 and 5 categories. Since 1993, the sea height level has increased 88mm.<sup>2</sup>

All of these facts demonstrate that the world we live in is in danger of falling apart. Droughts are making it impossible for farmers to grow crops in many areas of the world. Floods have destroyed the homes of families, leaving them vulnerable and homeless. Hurricanes have misplaced family members and have destroyed cities and villages. As the sea level rises, many cities and islands are in danger of being flooded and disappearing into the depths of the seas.

SDG 13 commits to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. It is imperative

that we do our part in combatting climate change and to reduce unstable weather patterns. However, we must first come to the conclusion that there is a problem! The facts from reputable scientific bodies like NASA state the problem of global warming is right on our heels, gaining speed. After we acknowledge it, then we must do our best to:

- Adapt to the change. Once we understand the weather patterns we are to prepare ourselves for the inclement weather and its effects.
- Aid countries that have a higher percentage of poverty. One of the main reasons why certain countries have a higher level of poverty is due to climate change.
- Develop informed climate change strategies in every country. The United Nations Development Programme has assisted over 100 countries and 20 Small Island Developing States with identifying climate change. This helps to prepare their country to grow better crops, different safety tactics, and most importantly to be aware of their surroundings.<sup>3</sup>

We must educate our world about

climate change and its impact. It affects not only humans but animals too. Acidification has increased causing sea life to die and thereby decreasing the food supply for humans. Snow caps, glaciers and ice sheets continue to shrink, decreasing our fresh water source. Climate change also affects our health. Research states that with the increase of climate change, it has brought on the effects of pollen earlier, causing severe allergies in people, increasing health and medical insurance costs and leaving people even more vulnerable and financially distressed. It is important to tackle this problem, to educate people and make it our responsibility to help stop climate change from overcoming us and destroying our world.

As God's children, it is our responsibility to watch over the land, sea and animals, to take care of his creation and to help sustain it. As Salvationists, we need to take this responsibility seriously. When we declare that we love God and others, we need to show this through our actions. Showing our love to God includes being responsible for the earth that he created.

1 <http://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

2 <http://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/sea-level/>

3 <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/climate-and-disaster-resilience/climate-change.html>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- Psalm 104 says: 'Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty'. The Scripture describes God's handiwork, His love for His creation and His watchful eye over it all. He feeds the animals and His people, He replenishes the mountains with water, and provides the land with nutrients. God created all living creatures, and He created the Earth.
- According to Genesis 1 and 2, God extended this caretaking to humans. 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. ... The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.' It is our responsibility to help watch over it, take care of it, and to love it as God does.
- Read Isaiah 65:17-25. See how this new world will be God's work and that 'the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more' - it will not be destroyed.

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- Those around the world who are suffering and facing hardship due to environmental changes. May they experience a sense of hope, and be able to see real improvement.
- A sense of responsibility in the hearts of people to care for this planet. From individuals to companies to governments, may we all exercise our influence to do good, making small and profound changes. Governments to be responsible and to make a stronger commitment for a cleaner environment. May the impact of our actions and policies be kept in mind and be a key consideration in this process.
- Christians to understand that we are stewards of God's creation and to be an example for others. May we comprehend God's vision for our role in taking care of the planet and act upon it.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Change your energy usage. Small changes can have a big impact. For example, use energy-saving light bulbs, energy-efficient appliances and insulate your home. Use 'green' renewable energy sources when possible.
- Read The Salvation Army's International Positional Statement entitled 'Caring for the Environment' ([www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips](http://www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips)).
- Shop locally, travel efficiently and minimise waste. There are lots of hidden environmental costs in the average lifestyle - for instance, in 'air miles' (the distance products have travelled) and the disposal of used electricals. Reduce these as much as you can. See SDG 7 for other ideas.
- Campaign against climate change. Speak with politicians and businesses. Call for leadership to set an example. Consider joining with other like-minded individuals, perhaps through a charity or organisation.

# SUSTAINING OCEANS

SDG 14

## CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.
- Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy, productive oceans.
- Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans.
- Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.



**Commissioner Janine Donaldson**

Now living in the UK, serving as Zonal Secretary for Women's Ministries in the South Pacific and East Asia

**K**o ngā pae tawhiti whāia kia tata, ko ngā pae tata, whakamaua kia tina - the potential for tomorrow depends on what we do today.

This Māori saying reflects great truth for me - living in New Zealand, two small islands in the middle of a great ocean. The ocean is a part of who I am.

Each morning as I drive into my workplace the sea is ever in my view and always reminds me of the chorus to a song that never fails to bring a smile to my face:

*Joy to the world*

*All the boys and girls*

*Joy to the fishes in the deep  
blue sea*

*Joy to you and me*

Many New Zealanders like me value our coastal waters and oceans. Māori people have a special affinity with the oceans and this is recognised in the Treaty of Waitangi. Many of the country's industries depend on biological resources and healthy ecosystems, including its \$1.2 billion a year commercial fishing industry.

It doesn't matter whether you live near the sea or not, nor whether or not you enjoy what the seas produce; we all need healthy

oceans.

*'Oceans are the point at which planet, people, and prosperity come together. And that is what sustainable development is about. It is about all of us as shareholders of Earth, incorporated, acknowledging and acting on our responsibility to the planet, to the people, and to its bloodstream, the oceans.'*<sup>1</sup>

A total of 3.1 billion of the world's population live within 100 kilometres of the ocean or sea. Whether your country is landlocked or has a coastline we are all connected to the seas and oceans by lakes, streams and rivers.

We celebrate some great changes made through 'green' shipping, sustainable fishing, employment and empowerment (particularly of women in isolated and small communities who have been able to make use of their work in marine and aquaculture to strengthen their countries' economic status).

We are also very aware that those who make their homes in coastal areas are experiencing climate change in a variety of extremes. It is estimated that by 2050, 50 to 200 million people

around the world will be displaced due to the effects of climate change on our great oceans.

According to the US Committee on Biological Diversity in Marine Systems, the most serious threats to marine biodiversity are: fishing operations; chemical pollution and eutrophication; alteration of physical habitat invasions of exotic species; and global climate change.

In New Zealand in particular many of our activities impact on our marine biodiversity, including:

- fishing - recreational and commercial land use - through sediments and pollution
- exotic pests - introduced by shipping in ballast water and fouled hulls
- human-induced climate change - affects ocean temperature and levels

We should be concerned in how the ocean is looked after. The sea is part of our lives both for recreation and a source of food and income.

Let us each bring joy back to the fishes in the deep blue sea and enjoy the majesty and beauty of the seas around us that God has entrusted to our care.

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Thompson, Co-Executive Coordinator for the Rio+20 Conference, at Oceans Day at Rio+20, 16 June 2012



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- In Genesis 1 (ISV) we read: ‘So God made a canopy that separated the water beneath the canopy from the water above it. ... God called the canopy “sky.” The twilight and the dawn were the second day. Then God said, “Let the water beneath the sky come together into one area, and let dry ground appear!” ... God called the dry ground “land,” and he called the water that had come together “oceans”. And God saw how good it was’.
- Psalm 33:6 says: ‘By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.’

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- For the amazing diversity of the world God created. From dry, vast expanses of desert to beautiful rainforests and rivers and all that comes in between, we have so much to be awe-struck by.
- For mindfulness of our impact on the oceans and wildlife at all times. May we strive to choose the better, more sustainable option even if it requires more effort or expense.
- Give those with responsibility - leaders, businesses, communities - the foresight to care for the environment with actions and plans that look far into the future. May they look past the short-term, crowd-pleasing measures and do what is best for the planet.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Choose safe, sustainable seafood choices. When shopping or eating out, help reduce the demand for overexploited species by choosing seafood that is both healthy and sustainable.
- Reduce your use of plastic products. Many plastic items end up as ocean debris and contribute to habitat destruction, entangling and killing vast quantities of marine life every year. Carry a reusable water bottle, store food in non-disposable containers, and use your own reusable bags when shopping. Recycle when possible.
- Take care of your beaches. Whether you enjoy swimming, surfing, diving or relaxing on the beach, always clean up after yourself. Explore and value the ocean without interfering with wildlife or removing rocks and coral.
- Don't purchase items that exploit marine life. Certain products harm our fragile coral reefs and marine life. Avoid buying items such as coral jewellery, tortoiseshell hair accessories (made from hawksbill turtles), and shark products.
- Support organisations working to protect the ocean. Many organisations are engaged in protecting our ocean habitats and marine wildlife. Consider finding an organisation that you can invest in and support or volunteer your time.

# CONSERVING LAND ECOSYSTEMS

SDG 15

## PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS



- Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands.
- Promote sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
- Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
- Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats.



Lieut-Colonel Julius Mukonga  
United Nations Representative in Nairobi, Kenya

**F**orests are critical to life on Earth. Around 1.6 billion people rely on them directly for food, shelter, fuel and income.<sup>1</sup> Forests regulate our climate, remove harmful CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and can help slow the rate of climate change. I live in Nairobi, Kenya. Forests are vital for the welfare of millions of Africans - especially poor and marginalised people. Used wisely, they could improve livelihoods and people's quality of life. The following statistics (from the Centre for International Forestry Research)<sup>2</sup> reveal something of the importance of forests to my continent.

Over two-thirds of Africa's 600 million people rely directly or indirectly on forests for their livelihood, including food security.

- Wood is the primary energy source for at least 70 per cent of African households.
- Forest-related activities account for 10 per cent of GDP in at least 19 African countries, and more than 10 per cent of national trade in 10 others.
- Africa is home to 25 per cent

of the world's remaining tropical rainforests and contains 20 per cent of the world's biodiversity hotspots.<sup>1</sup>

According to the New York UN Declaration on Forests the world loses 13 million hectares of forests on average each year. This is caused by an ever-growing population placing unsustainable demands on our planet. Some people in Africa cut down trees and burn charcoal without replanting more trees. People need charcoal - because they do not have a reliable electricity supply - but it is damaging the environment. Trees protect us against natural disasters like floods and landslides, as well as giving us spaces for recreation and exercise. The destruction of forests in Africa is causing land degradation, reducing agricultural production and in some places resulting in deserts expanding. Very fertile soils are being lost. This is caused by many factors including droughts, over-grazing by animals and the loss of forests.

In short, we need our forests

and our forests need us. My wife and I travel around the Kenya East Territory preaching at Salvation Army corps and leading community meetings. We always urge people to plant trees during rainy seasons and protect the existing ones. In Kenya a government agency, the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), is trying to improve the situation. The government have put in a mechanism whereby if you want to cut down any tree - even from your own compound - you need a permit to do so.<sup>3</sup>

However, we should not care for the forests, ecosystems and soil just because the UN or governments think this is important. We do it because the Bible tells us it is important.

I commit myself to always urge communities to protect our forests to avoid desertification and reverse land degradation by working with Salvation Army leaders, divisions, corps and centres in Kenya East Territory. How can you help?

1 'Sustaining the World's Forests: Managing Competing Demands for a Vital Resource', World Bank Publication, 2006

2 <http://www.cifor.org/>

3 <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/lifestyle/article/2000086318/rapid-desertification-in-kenya-threatening-livelihood>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

The Salvation Army's International Positional Statement entitled 'Caring for the Environment' explains what God wants us to do in regards to this issue and why it is important ([www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips](http://www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips)):

- 'God is the creator, governor and preserver of all things. The Earth belongs to the Lord and everything in it (Psalm 24:1, Exodus 19:5). As people made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) we have been entrusted with the care of the Earth's resources (Genesis 2:15). God invites us to share responsibility for the care of Creation (Genesis 1:28-31; 2:15) and participate in the work of healing the world (Romans 8:19-22).
- The relationship of God to creation is one of loving care and concern. Humanity's stewardship of the earth is a reflection of that care, as human beings are made in the image of God. The world was made to praise God and reveal his glory (Psalm 19:1-6); our stewardship of it furthers that end.
- The degradation of the earth is, in part, the result of human activity (Isaiah 24:5-6) and it is therefore our responsibility to work for its healing. The biblical command to humanity to 'subdue' and 'rule' should be interpreted as a requirement to be good stewards rather than understood as justifying abuse of the Earth's resources (Genesis 1:28). The disproportionate effect that climate change and environmental degradation has on the poorest parts of the world creates additional responsibilities to defend the cause of those who are vulnerable by restoring a sense of justice to the global community (Micah 6:8).

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

- Give thanks to God for all of nature - ecosystems that sustain life and beautify the planet.
- For those who are developing policies and programmes to protect God's creation. May they act with justice; prioritising the needs of poor and marginalised people and acting against those who seek to exploit the world's resources for selfish purposes.
- That people will become more aware of the problems of deforestation, and that legislation and projects will cause them to think again about the impacts of their actions.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Purchase products with sustainability certifications. Many food and other products contain a label that means their production has adhered to a specific standard, respecting the environment. Take the time to find out what these mean, and shop with this in mind.
- Avoid woods that come from unmanaged sources - mahogany and teak in particular. Rainforests can also be cleared to raise beef cattle used in many restaurant chains; remember the impact large companies can have.
- Respect the ecosystems around you. Animals and plants can be reliant on back gardens or yards, local parks and other 'wild' spaces.

# PEACE AND JUSTICE

SDG 16

## PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

16



- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
- Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.
- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
- Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.



**Major Christine Volet**  
United Nations Representative in Geneva, Switzerland

I am an avid reader and particularly enjoy detective novels. From the adventures of Gabriel Allon and his character, David Silva, I have discovered the world of terrorism, money laundering and shootings. Another favourite writer of mine, Donna Leon, uses every inquiry by Commissioner Brunetti to expose some form of social injustice.

However, in real life it is much more challenging to experience these issues. During my three years in Haiti, I listened many times to friends who had just lost relatives, shot in the streets because they had defended justice or refused corruption. One family that I was close to, was threatened with murder during the burglary of their home. Another family saw their father shot in front of them.

More subtle forms of violence are exerted on women and children in Haiti. Families send their children to work in the

fields rather than sending them to school. Parents place their children with other families without realising that they often become slaves. Sometimes, in their distress, they choose to marry a daughter off before adulthood or offer them up for prostitution. In every case, Haitian children's life chances are seriously damaged.

Closer to me, as I now live in Switzerland, is tax evasion. Wealthy people hide profits and assets in offshore accounts. The recent release of the 'Panama Papers' revealed the extent of this. The black (or grey) markets deprive our nations of valuable money to reduce inequality and injustice. Sadly, where there are weak and unjust governments, the gap between rich and poor people widens.

Greed, corruption and poverty are linked in a vicious circle. According to the UN, 'corruption, fraud, theft and tax evasion cost

some \$1.26 trillion per year for developing countries. This amount of money could be used to help those living on less than \$1.25 per day for at least six years.'<sup>1</sup>

A stable and fair government allows a country to develop, offers its residents safety and improves access for all to health services, education, and justice. Every act of corruption, each fraud and each extortion of money undermines the whole of humanity.

These issues affect every part of the world - including The Salvation Army. General André Cox is encouraging greater accountability across our organisation: 'In a world of shifting values, we need to be people of spiritual vitality and integrity, faithful and dynamic in mission.' Visit the website of the Accountability Movement at [www.salvationarmy.org/accountability](http://www.salvationarmy.org/accountability) for further information.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2015/November/eliminating-corruption-is-crucial-to-sustainable-development.html>



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

- Reading the Old Testament, we see that injustice and violence have always existed. ‘There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness into the ground’ we read in Amos 5:7. ‘There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts’ (Amos 5:12).
- Zechariah calls on us to act, by contrast, with wisdom and integrity: ‘This is what the Lord Almighty said: “Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other... These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts”’ (Zechariah 7:9-10; 8:16).
- Isaiah reminds us that God expects us to defend the most vulnerable - to ‘loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke’. His challenge continues: ‘ ... share your food with the hungry and ... provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, ... clothe them, and [do not] turn away from your own flesh and blood’ (Isaiah 58:6-7).

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

- Our authorities, nationally and internationally; for all forms of institutions, governmental, private, religious and financial - that God guides them and reprimands them if necessary so that they are honest, that the law is applied and that justice is done.
- Those who abuse, those that manipulate the weakest, those who enrich themselves through corruption, bribery and tax evasion. May God open their eyes to the consequences of their actions and create in them a spirit of repentance.
- Those who suffer injustice and violence: the weak, children, women, the marginalised, refugees and rejected populations - that God extends his healing and protective hand on them.
- Pray for the countries that, because of their history, have a culture of dependency and submission. May these countries recover, be strengthened and take responsibility for their future.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Keep yourself informed. Read and watch news and current affairs and be aware of how the governments in your country and in others are acting. This allows you to spot corruption and unjust practices, and be in a position to challenge these and to inform others about them. This is an important first step in having strong institutions.
- Be advocates for the oppressed and disadvantaged. Where governance (state governance or an organisation's) has failed a person, speak out and stand up for them. You can make a difference for the individual and in society.
- Read *Journey of Renewal* ([www.salvationarmy.org/accountability](http://www.salvationarmy.org/accountability)) and use the Mission Accountability Framework to help promote peace, justice and accountability.

# WORKING TOGETHER

SDG 17

## STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

17



- Improve domestic capacity for revenue collection.
- Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments.
- Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.
- Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability.
- Enhance international support for implementing capacity-building in developing countries.



**Commissioner Jane Paone**  
Senior International Social Justice Co-ordinator (Europe)

Finally, we reach the last SDG - number 17. The other 16 SDGs risk remaining simply hopes and dreams of a few unless the final goal is achieved.

I once attended a stimulating forum on the status of women in Geneva. Valuable ideas came out of the workshops and open discussions. However, at the end of the day, I remember hearing that not only the laws, signed agreements, funding and frameworks were important, but in order to make concrete transformation happen, the fundamental requirement was 'implementation, implementation, implementation!' This is still true today.

For real lasting impact, sustainable development requires inspired action. We cannot do it all ourselves. Partnerships change things. Also, remember, partnerships change us as individuals!

Sometimes the blockage to entering into any partnership is being willing to take risks. A partnership involves at least two parties. That means all parties are likely to change in the process of interacting with one another. For those fixed in their own way of reasoning and doing things, that can be seen as a threat, rather

than a beautiful opportunity to learn.

By pooling resources, partners become much richer than they were beforehand: a ripple effect takes place that tends to enthuse others, even outside the original partnership. Others desire to work for the same goal. We discover that the partners who we perhaps previously viewed as 'poor' have, in fact, great lessons to teach us. They bring a keen knowledge of the local environment and practical ideas on how to create a better and more just world, even without 'official' expertise. Good partnerships will strengthen the hope of reaching the goals - together. Good partnerships give new energy and remind each one of their value - a value that is not simply economic. Partnerships are at their best when there is an environment of mutual respect and where listening (more than expressing our own opinions) is valued. Our world is increasingly interconnected and we pray that we can make a valid contribution to accomplishing the SDGs by strengthening the means of implementing and revitalising our global partnerships. That may be with the public or private sectors of society, or it may also come about by collaborating with other

faith-based communities. May we have open eyes and hearts for the opportunities that present themselves to us.

God intended for humankind to be dependent on him as well as interdependent with our neighbours. The Bible places great emphasis on community rather than individualism, yet each person has a responsibility to work for the good of the world that God created. Together, we are stronger. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians states that we are 'God's co-workers' (2 Corinthians 6:1). This is a high calling to carry out on a daily basis. We receive our mandate from the Creator and sustainer of all life. He created us as social beings. His way of bringing about justice has been through partnerships: through people and individuals found at various levels of society, speaking out, becoming actors, often being counter-cultural. It is his world, and we are connected to others, responsible for one another's well-being.

Kathleen Darby Ray has suggested: 'We need to be motivated by empathy, not empire; mercy, not mastery; vulnerability, not violence. Humility comes from humus, the word for earth, becoming earth, becoming incarnate.'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An interview with Kathleen Darby Ray, American Academy of Religion annual conference, Chicago, Illinois, 19 November 2012. (Source: Salvatierra and Heltzel, 2014, p90)



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

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- Paul writes in Philippians 1:4-6: ‘In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.’
- In Philippians 2:5-8, this book continues: ‘In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!’
- When we begin working in partnership with others, we experience a strengthening of our talents and skills. Proverbs 18:16 teaches us: ‘A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.’

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

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- The success of individuals, NGOs and other organisations as they work towards the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals. May partnerships between these parties be strong and successful.
- The Salvation Army as it seeks to develop good partnerships with other agencies and groups around the world. May we be willing to work with others to achieve God’s purposes on earth. May we also be willing to say no to partnerships if they divert or distract us from participating in God’s mission on Earth.
- A sense of understanding on the part of all those who seek justice - that we may be willing to listen to those around us and to grow, and where we disagree to do so respectfully.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- Make an effort to understand somebody that you do not naturally get on with. Perhaps you disagree with them about an issue - but you can still respect their viewpoint and try to find some common ground. Read Luke 6:27-28. Jesus wants us to be willing to get along with others around us and value the contribution that others make to our lives and community. If this is not something that comes easily to you, perhaps you can set it as a personal goal.
- Work in partnership with others. It may seem that SDG 17 will play out internationally between high-level organisations, politicians and companies, but we all have a role to play. New initiatives will get off the ground through individuals partnering with friends, family and colleagues, as well as others in their church. Look around you for people with the skills to develop and advance your efforts in fund-raising, volunteering and other ways.



*Go and Do Something* is full of practical ideas for action, prayer points and facts, for people of all ages who want to 'go and do something' to make the world a better place today. There are 17 topics - one for each of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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