

INTERCHANGE

news from the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

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www.episcopal-dso.org



Southern Ohio edition

“Today the top three killers in most poor countries are maternal death ... and pediatric respiratory and intestinal infections.”

Laurie Garrett, *The Challenge of Global Health*



Above: A health promoter talks with a woman in the Dominican Republic. Southern Ohio missionaries Anita and Michael Dohn train volunteer health promoters as part of their work through the South American Mission Society (SAMS). **Top:** A mother and child in the Dominican Republic. Health promoters are working to decrease the high mortality rates for women in childbirth and for young children.

Goal(s): to change the world

BY RICHELLE THOMPSON
INTERCHANGE EDITOR

In the course of an hour-long Eucharist, 1,200 children from around the world die. That's one child, dead from extreme poverty, every three seconds.

In the time it takes most Episcopal congregations to move from opening hymn to final blessing, 60 women die in childbirth.

Those stunning statistics compelled Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, to restructure its 2007 budget and frame the entire budgeting process in terms of the Millennium Development Goals, which includes ending extreme poverty.

The church's budget committee examined current outreach ministries and determined whether they fit within the eight goals established by the United Nations. Good Shepherd used the recommended percent of its budget – 0.7 percent – as a touchstone and ultimately allocated \$3,000 in new outreach spending, including support of missionaries in Honduras.

“This year, we're thinking of trying to double our outreach commitment,” says the Rev. Bill Carroll, rector of Good Shepherd, which averages about 100 on Sunday mornings. “It's going to be a stretch, but given how many people are dying, it's worth trying... This is something we should be doing as the body of Christ.”

From ensuring environmental sustainability to promoting gender equality and protecting women, to achieving universal education to combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, the Millennium Development Goals set a course to change the world. These goals were affirmed as a top priority in 2006 by the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of Southern Ohio pledged at its convention in November to make the goals a priority of every individual

PLEASE SEE MDGS, PAGE D

Volunteers share health, hygiene information

BY DR. MICHAEL DOHN
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Training volunteer health promoters is part of the effort of missionaries Anita and Michael Dohn, a physician couple from Southern Ohio, who work with the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic. After a series of workshops on the major causes of childhood deaths, the promoters regularly visit their assigned families.

One health promoter was visiting a family in which everyone had a cold. As she sat in their two-room shack, she saw a two-year-old girl with respiratory distress lying quietly on a bed. “This is more than just a cold,” she told the parents. She

got the child to a hospital where bilateral pneumonia was diagnosed. The girl received antibiotics and oxygen therapy and recovered completely.

The family had failed to recognize the seriousness of the respiratory illness of their child. For children who die of acute respiratory infections in developing countries, 85% die without having seen a physician or visiting a health center; the families simply do not recognize that the child is seriously ill.

Another health promoter was visiting a young couple with three children under five years of age. All three children had diarrhea. They usually had diarrhea, according to the mother. The promoter

PLEASE SEE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PAGE B

'Love your neighbor' means everyone, around the world

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This issue of *Interchange* joins forces with *Episcopal Life* to put flesh on the Millennium Development Goals. Here are first-hand accounts of the work already underway around the world, as Episcopalians commit themselves to raising the whole human family to minimal standards in education, housing, safe natural resources and freedom from abuse.

I urge you to read these accounts carefully and prayerfully. They provide concrete models for us as we prepare as a diocese to shape our own contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. What are we already doing that needs to be celebrated and further supported? What connections do you have that might help us establish new partnerships and ministries in under-advantaged areas of the world? Email or write me with your answers to these questions, and I assure you they will be received and taken seriously. The MDG effort will go nowhere if we are not all in it together.

Some people have asked me why we should be devoting so much attention to problems abroad when we have so many problems right here in southern Ohio. That's a fair question. The poverty and environmental devastation we see in the poorest parts of the world can be found in Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and the hill country of our eastern counties. So why look beyond our own borders at all?

Paul exhorts us "to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). On the face of it, Paul is reminding us to care for the people we worship with, Sunday after Sunday. That's a challenge all on its own, and one we should not lose sight of. We must certainly fulfill our obligations to those who are closest

BISHOP TOM BREIDENTHAL



to us. Indeed, we must do more than that: we must shoulder the obligations of others and, if necessary, fulfill them for them. Those who have more must help those who have less.

This is crucial to our life as a diocese, and in many ways defines our existence as a diocese. We are a community of congregations bound by a common commitment to bear one another's burdens. If we are blessed with material goods, we offer our bounty to those who

can't afford to replace the roof or the boiler. If we are poor in worldly goods but rich in faith, we offer that bounty with a generous and open heart.

But for Paul, this exhortation is part of a larger call. Just a little earlier in Galatians he says: "Serve one another in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarized in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:14). But Paul is perfectly well aware that the neighbor is absolutely everyone. After all, the whole thrust of Paul's teaching, in this letter as elsewhere, is that Jesus died on the cross for everyone, without exception. If Jesus died for everyone, then we are called, as followers of Jesus, to love everyone. Paul wants the members of the church in Galatia to bear each other's burdens, not because they are more neighbors to each other than they are to anyone else, but in order that they may begin to practice true love of neighbor with those that are closest to hand. But the ultimate goal is to practice this love with everyone, without exception.

Send your stories, ideas about how the diocese can engage in the Millennium Development Goals to Bishop Breidenthal at bishop_breidenthal@episcopal-dso.org or write to him at 412 Sycamore St., Cincinnati, 45202.

This means that Christian love always has a double focus. We must bear the burdens of those who are closest to us, but we must also strive to live out our call to extend the hand of friendship and help to those who are far away. These foci are mutually reinforcing. The more we pour out our love to those who are distant, the more we will find ourselves willing and able to recognize those who are closest to us as mysterious and unpredictable children of God. And that's a good thing, because the minute we begin to see one another in this way, we become alive to the ways Jesus encounters us in and through our encounters with one another. In just the same way, if we are truly open to Christ in one another, we will inevitably feel impelled to engage with those who are far off.

All of which is to say, the Millennium Development Goals are not an alternative to engagement with Jesus. They are a way to deepen our discipleship and to conform ourselves more completely to his image and pattern.

So, once again, I ask you to consider prayerfully where God is calling us to serve those who are far off. May God strengthen the ties that bind us, as we enter into this prayerful work.

Faithfully,
+Tom

Dominican Republic

FROM PAGE A

talked to the mother about preventing and managing diarrhea. She showed her how to use chlorine bleach in her one-room home to purify the water that she carried from the community waterhole.

The mother began using chlorine to treat their water. The diarrhea in the older children cleared-up; the baby was treated at the diocesan clinic. They all have been well since. Years of ill health were reversed virtually overnight for this family.

The major killers of little children in this neighborhood were diarrhea and dehydration, acute respiratory infections and vaccine-preventable diseases. After one year of the health promoter project, the number of children who had diarrhea every month decreased from 60% to 24%. The monthly respiratory illness rate dropped from 50% to 20% and the childhood vaccination rate rose from 18% to 91%.

And the neighborhood saw those good works, gave glory to God in heaven, and gave thanks for the social ministry programs of the Episcopal Church.

To learn more: Contact the Dohns at DohnsFamily@samsusa.org or visit http://www.samsusa.org/missionaries_madohn.html

How to help: Click the donate link on the website.

Grants awarded, more available

As part of its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Diocese of Southern Ohio set aside \$24,000 to be granted during 2007 to groups or individuals with a plan to achieve the MDGs in developing nations.

The National and World Missions Commission is overseeing the granting of funds to individuals or organizations for projects to significantly advance the achievement of the MDGs. About half of the grant money was awarded in May, the first of two grant awarding times (the second deadline is Nov. 1). Recipients of the grants are:

- Society for the Advancement of Culture and Welfare in Sierra Leone: \$1,500 grant to support the shipment of a sea container with medical and food supplies. (See page C)
- The SULE Foundation Inc.: \$2,100 grant to provide AIDS education in Kenya (To learn more, go to www.episcopal-dso.org, Programs/Ministries, then MDGs)
- Miami Valley Episcopal Russian Network: \$3,000 to support the Sablino Youth Education Center. To learn more, go to www.episcopal-dso.org, Programs/Ministries, then MVERN.
- South American Missionary Society: \$2,000 to support a vaccine unit in the Dominican Republic. (See front page)
- South American Missionary Society: \$1,500 to provide Papanicolaou tests for women within a larger 3-year project.

Requests may be submitted at any time. Please submit grant requests to the chair of the grants subcommittee, the Rev. Trevor R. Babb at St. Simon of Cyrene Episcopal Church, 810 Matthews Drive, Lincoln Heights 45215. Questions: Email him at stsimonsrector@aol.com or call at 513.771.4828.

Read more about the criterion and download the grant application at www.episcopal-dso.org, under Programs/Ministries, then MDGs.

Coming next month:

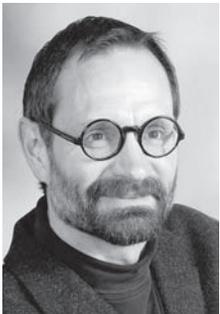
- Snapshots of local ministry, mission trips. Share your stories and pictures of outreach (local and international). Send them to dsocommunications@yahoo.com
- What it means to be a part of the Anglican Communion

Lay theologian: Cash therapy

I learned as a child that Graham crackers and milk almost made up for having to go to school. Ice cream could make most things feel better.

I had never heard of aromatherapy. I knew about psychotherapy, but in my little church in the 1960s, it had a stigma. You could treat diseases with medicines. But mental problems and addictions, well, you ought to just get a hold of yourself.

DR. DON REED



A friend of ours in seminary had a different idea. When you're feeling blue, don't eat something that will only make you feel worse about yourself later. When you're troubled, don't pay a shrink to dredge up anxieties. Go out and buy something!

Sylvia called this "cash therapy." You'll feel better and help the economy in the process.

After years of buying way more books than I needed or could read, I have gotten a hold of myself.

I do however have an iPod, a Palm T/X and a personal laptop computer that can do things I have no use for. Each one of these purchases made me feel better for a while.

There is a certain thrill in buying some new device that can make your life more manageable and enjoyable, even if you don't go to the trouble to figure out how it really works. At the moment you make your purchase, it feels good to hold such promise in your hands.

And none of this stuff makes me fat.

In a famous essay in 1972, the philosopher, Peter Singer, made a startling point about famine, affluence and morality. Imagine you are on your way to an appointment and you see a child drowning in a shallow pool. You can save the child, but you'll get wet and may ruin your shoes. And you'll be late for your appointment. What do you do?

Of course, you save the child.

Singer's point was that in this case you would endure an inconvenience that is relatively minor compared to the benefit you would do for the child. So why don't you now contribute to famine and poverty relief? By your contributions alone, you could save the lives of hundreds of children who die because they don't have drinkable water or cheap vaccinations for easily preventable diseases.

I grew up drinking whole milk from a dairy. The cream rose thick to the top of the glass gallon jugs. We picked up the jugs from an old refrigerator at the dairy farm and left our empties by the door.

The rule was, when we took the jug from our kitchen refrigerator, we were supposed to turn it over a couple of times to distribute the cream, so everyone got some. It was amazing on my Graham crackers, though, when my parents and brother weren't around.

Since that 1972 essay, Singer has sharpened his point. Because the need is so desperate, each one of us is morally obliged to contribute to poverty relief up to the point at which I would myself drop below subsistence.

A lot of people think that's pretty harsh. We're not talking about sharing the cream. We're talking skim milk.

The problem is: what is wrong with his argument? I would help the drowning child. I would give up the cream so that someone didn't starve. So why don't I?

At General Convention last summer, bishops and deputies pledged to give an additional 0.7% of our revenue toward supporting the Millennium Development Goals. That's 70¢ on every \$100 we take in – as households, congregations, dioceses.

This is not Singer's proposal. It is an alternative. Singer argues that we all ought to give whatever it takes, down to being just above poverty ourselves, assuming that few of us will – so the few better do a lot.

Our General Convention commitment to the MDGs is for everyone to do their share, or what would be our share if everyone did their share, which is not all that much – trying to get as many participating as we can.

The Sunday paper comes and I pull out the circulars from Best Buy and Circuit City. Those flat panel TVs look really good.

What would it take, I wonder, to have a world in which all children could have Graham crackers and milk after school? I could turn the milk jug over a couple of times for that.

Don Collins Reed is a member of Christ Church, Springfield, and is professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy, Wittenberg University. His e-mail address is dreed@wittenberg.edu.

Sierra Leone: Educating future leaders

BY BILL HEDLEY
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Sierra Leone is one of the very poorest countries in the whole world. Its six million citizens have an average annual income of only \$180. From 1992 to 1998, the land was ravaged by a brutal war fomented by outside interests who were seeking blood diamonds as a source of untraceable funds to support their deadly activities.

The Society for the Advancement of Culture and Welfare in Sierra Leone (SACSL) was founded in 1989 by Ade Ademu-John and other members of Christ Church, Dayton, to help this emerging country through a parish-to-parish partnership with St. George's Anglican Cathedral in the capital city of Freetown.

SACSL's first activity was to sponsor scholarships for the cathedral's school for children who could not otherwise afford an education. SACSL then raised enough money to rebuild and radically expand the school from its former 500 student per day capacity to accommodate 1,600 students per

day. Through SACSL, donors provide \$65 per year scholarships to needy students in order to help educate the nation's future leaders. One of Sierra Leone's past presidents, Valentine Strasser, was a graduate of St. George's Cathedral School.

SACSL's cathedral contacts have identified other needs for facilities in Freetown, including medical and school supplies, clothing, comput-

ers, prostheses and Braille equipment.

SACSL then selects these items from the Matthew 25 warehouse in Cincinnati and pays about \$8,000 to have them shipped in 40-foot long sea containers to Freetown for distribution there by the cathedral contacts. These containers each hold approximately 20,000 pounds of goods and on the average have an approximate delivered value of

\$250,000. Since the value of the goods received is approximately 30 times the cost to provide them, a gift of only \$6 provides as much goods as an average Sierra Leonean makes in one year. SACSL has already sent 42 of these sea containers filled with goods and is planning to send another one later this year.



Supporters load a sea container full of supplies for Sierra Leone.

To learn more: call Ade Ademu-John at 937.274.9241 or e-mail him at wademujohn@earthlink.net.
To help: Mail a check (a tax-deductible contribution) made out to "SACSL" and send it to Dorothea Sammur, Treasurer – SACSL, P.O.Box 752, Dayton, 45401.

MDGs: Sacrificial giving

BY JON BOSS
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

When our granddaughter Reily was born 8 years ago to our son Ralph, a confirmed Episcopalian, and her mother, Amy, a Jew, I told our friends that Reily was neither a Christian, nor a Jew. She was both.

And when I explain what the 75th General Convention meant when it adopted two resolutions in support of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and our diocese endorsed that action with a resolution last November, I explain that the purpose is to increase our giving in support of the MDGs, not to just reallocate our current stewardship. Further, that support is to be "both" for those programs and organizations that are working on similar efforts here at home – within our diocese and the USA – "and" abroad. For example, in our diocese, it means supporting the work of the Episcopal Community Services Foundation, the United Thank Offering, and your local United Way, as well as contributing to organizations such as Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) that work on behalf of the MDGs beyond our borders. Such a focus is a major reason why the offering at Bishop Tom Breidenthal's ordination and consecration on April 28 was designated to ERD's clean water initiative in Nicaragua. This year, ERD and its partner in Nicaragua, El

Porvenir, will support the building of five new wells, 173 latrines, one communal washing station, six tree nurseries for reforestation and 20 smokeless stoves.

In my lifetime as an Episcopalian, this is the first specific example I have received of what is meant by "sacrificial giving," that is, giving over and above what you have already given or committed. It does not mean reallocating your current giving, or reducing your pledge to your congregation, but agreeing to go the next step.

And it means getting involved in the work of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation (EGR). This independent organization provides resources and support for the movement of spiritual transformation emerging around the MDGs and The Episcopal Church's ONE Episcopalian Campaign, the grassroots partnership between The Episcopal Church and the ONE Campaign to rally Episcopalians – ONE by ONE – to the cause of ending extreme poverty in our world and achieving the MDGs.

And, yes, we have been asked to increase our giving – individually and collectively as congregations and the Diocese of Southern Ohio – by 0.7% annually through the year 2015.

Jon B. Boss is the ERD Fund Coordinator for the Diocese of Southern Ohio and deputy to the 75th (2006) General Convention. Contact him at jboss@fuse.net.

Honduras: Education key to future success

BY PAUL RANK
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

El Hogar Projects was established in 1979 when five homeless boys were brought in from the streets of Honduras and given a home in which to live. Over the years, this project, a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras, has grown and thrived. This ministry has saved the lives of hundreds of the poorest, most desperate children of Honduras by providing them with shelter, food, clothing, education and the knowledge of God in a loving, Christian environment. The mission of El Hogar Projects is to restore the physical, mental and spiritual well being of Honduran children who would otherwise face lives of extreme poverty. Not only are the children assisted, but also all Hondurans are helped when they re-enter into the community.

Currently 210 boys and six girls are located at El Hogar's three centers of education. (This past February, El Hogar began a pilot program for girls with six first-graders living in a separate rented home and attending class with the boys). These centers are:

- El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza - Located in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, it provides elementary education for children in grades 1-7.
- Saint Mary's Technical School of El Hogar - Located in a suburb of Tegucigalpa, this school provides academic education, and training in the trades of carpentry, metalworking and electricity for boys above grade 7.
- The El Hogar Farm and Agricultural School - Located 50 kilometers outside of Tegucigalpa, this school provides academic education, and training in animal husbandry and agriculture for boys above grade 7. The farm provides garden vegetables, milk, cheese, eggs, chickens, pork and beef to all three centers.

Last spring, the Diocese of Southern Ohio was delighted to host the El Hogar Marimba Band as they performed at General Convention and at six of our congregations.

Beginning in 1999, El Hogar has had a significant impact on a number of our parishes. St. Timothy's, Calvary, and Church of the Redeemer have sent numerous work teams to El Hogar to do ongoing maintenance



To learn more: Visit www.elhogar.org.
To help: Click "You can help" on the homepage

Left: Work teams from several churches in the diocese have traveled to Honduras to support the El Hogar schools.

Below: Boys from the El Hogar school in Honduras.

work and to help in some major construction projects. The work-team members have not only provided much needed assistance but also have seen Christ's love manifesting itself in the work being carried out at the schools of El Hogar. From teenagers to retired parishioners, being at El Hogar has been a life-changing experience.

The people of the Diocese of Southern Ohio also have been generous in their support of El Hogar, donating about \$500,000 in support of capital campaigns and ongoing operating expenses. (This includes two \$25,000 grants from the William Cooper Procter Fund.) Literally tons of supplies have been shipped to Honduras and taken in suitcases by the missionaries. Three members of our diocese serve on the 16-member El Hogar Ministries Inc. board of directors, which is a non-profit organization that raises funds for El Hogar in North America.

El Hogar is a prime example of how our support can make the Millennium Development Goals a reality.



MDGs: to share, receive God's blessings

FROM PAGE A

and congregation, as well as the diocese.

"We have a responsibility to share the blessings God has given us in our lives with the rest of the world," says Judy Baird, program director of St. Matthew's, Westerville. "We are so blessed in this country, and there are so many places that are not blessed with the same prosperity."

In the mid-1980s, St. Matthew's began a relationship with Liberia, a small country on the west coast of Africa. Abeosah Flemister and her family had fled the civil war in their native Liberia and began attending St. Matthew's. Her stories of the war-torn country inspired the congregation.

Over the years, they've paid the tuition for hundreds of children to attend school. They collect medical and school supplies, and three years ago, they brought a young girl and her mother to the United States for much-needed medical treatment. In 2005, St. Matthew's established Partners in Ministry in Liberia, and today more than 60 different churches and individuals beyond St. Matthew's participate.

Seven-year-old Max Thesing, whose family attends St. Matthew's, understands what it means to give sacrificially. Instead of birthday presents, Max asked his guest to bring soccer balls. Thesing's mom Sonya says her sons Max and Garrett, 5, "cannot imagine that there may be villages that only have one ball for everyone to share....they probably can't grasp not having a basket full of 10 soccer balls!" Max collected 24 balls at his birthday



Max Thesing poses with the soccer balls he donated to Liberia.

party and added one of his own to send to the children of Liberia (deflated for shipping, of course).

"We say we carry Jesus to Liberia in a soccer ball," says Baird.

Building a personal relationship is central to the success of an international ministry, says Bill Hedley, a member of Christ Church, Dayton, and of the diocese's National and World Commission.

He serves on the boards of two groups involved in parish-to-parish ministry to Sierra Leone and to Kenya.

"This type of ministry is a way for us to be con-

nected," says Hedley. "No matter what happens (within the Anglican Communion) we will continue our ministry there. This is about relationships, and the people of Christ Church, Dayton, in partnership with the people in Sierra Leone and Kenya."

Paul Rank of St. Timothy's, Anderson Township, has been active in international ministry for seven years.

"There are two things I've come away with," says Rank, who chairs the National and World Commission and is a board member of El Hogar Ministries, which raises money for a school for needy children in Honduras. "When you see the abject poverty, when you see it, you smell it, you taste it, you understand for the first time what poverty really is. At the same time, I've seen a level of commitment, of love, of concern for others that I've never seen before. These are people who have virtually nothing yet you can just feel Christ's love emanating from them."

Rank dreams of a time when the people of the diocese will rise up together in support of the Millennium Development Goals. He expects his committee will submit a resolution to convention calling for a convocation in 2008 to talk about the Millennium Development Goals and how the diocese can best respond.

"For a church to be viable, whether it's an urban congregation or a suburban start-up, they need to be dealing outside of their walls," says Rank, a member of St. Timothy's, Anderson Township. "They need to be seeing and being Christ outside of their walls. If not, I believe they will collapse in upon themselves ... I strongly believe we have the resources of time, talent and treasure to do amazing things."