



# STAND UP

**AGAINST POVERTY, **STAND UP** FOR THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**2007**

**WHEN?**

**Wednesday October 17<sup>\*</sup>**

**STAND UP, SPEAK OUT** is an exciting and innovative challenge to break last year's official Guinness World Record for the most number of people ever to STAND UP for a cause.

- Bread for the World is calling on people of faith and others to join our partners in similar campaigns around the world -- from both wealthy and low-income countries -- to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT against global poverty.
- To participate, get a group to literally STAND UP against poverty, and count how many people are standing.
- **We have just 24 hours to set this record. Every person counts!**

**STAND UP, SPEAK OUT** will raise awareness of global poverty and the Millennium Development Goals to address extreme poverty, hunger and disease. STAND UP will publicly demonstrate the growing global support for the achievement of these goals.

**STAND UP, SPEAK OUT** coincides with the International Day of Poverty Eradication (October 17), as well as World Food Day (October 16) and the White Band Day of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (October 17).

**STAND UP, SPEAK OUT VIDEO** – Click [here \[link\]](#) to see the video. You can download the video to show to your family, church, campus or group.

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\* For purposes of the Guinness Book of Records, this action will take place between Tuesday, Oct. 16, 9PM, GMT and Wednesday, Oct. 17, 9PM GMT. In the United States, this translates to Oct. 16, 4PM EDT and Oct. 17, 4PM EDT.

## WHERE COULD 'STAND UP' ACTIVITIES HAPPEN?

### Church/Campus Worship Service (5 minutes or whole service)

- Incorporate the **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT** commitment prayer into your worship or announcement time.
- Build a worship focused on justice, hunger and poverty, with the inclusion of **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT**.

### Adult Forum/Youth Group Meeting/Women's & Men's Fellowship Circle

- Focus the meeting on hunger and poverty, and incorporate the prayers.

### Church Soup Supper or Lunchtime Forum (incorporate a **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT** time within one of the following events)

- Invite a speaker on poverty/Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Have an event that focuses on a sister church/parish in a developing country.
- Plan a celebration for progress that has been made in overcoming poverty and achieving the MDGs, or celebrate what your church's relief and development agency is doing to help achieve the MDGs.

### Campus Mealtime

- Make an announcement and do a short **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT** time every half hour during mealtime in the cafeteria. Be sure to work this out with campus administration and food service people.

### Campus Activity (incorporate a **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT** time within one of the following types of events)

- Plan a panel discussion about poverty and the MDGs featuring international students and faculty.
- Invite a speaker on the MDGs.
- Plan a party to celebrate progress toward overcoming poverty and achieving the MDGs. Share stories or facts to show progress and serve international food.
- Show a video about AIDS, poverty, clean water, hunger, empowerment of women, developing world agriculture, debt relief, or another topic related to the MDGs.
- Be creative!

## LOGISTICS

### Before the event or activity

- Involve other important players from your church or campus in the planning process (i.e. church or campus pastor(s), staff, worship leaders, or others).
- Put together a team to plan the event. Find others who share an interest in global issues, hunger and justice for poor people, especially from a relevant committee or club at the church or campus. Identify the tasks that need to happen, create a timeline, and assign tasks to your planning group members.
- Designate readers/prayer leaders. Multiple readers make the activity more interesting.
- Make copies of the prayer or put it into Power Point or overhead projection.
- Designate "counters" (people stationed in different sections of the room who count and record the number of people in their assigned areas who STAND UP).
- Designate photographers if appropriate (this should not disrupt worship).
- Alert the media (if appropriate for your group or event).

### At the event/worship and during **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT**

- Watch for people who may not be able to physically STAND UP. Offer them an alternative action, such as raising a hand or wearing a white band, to symbolically demonstrate "taking a stand" against poverty.
- Read the commitment and say the prayer. Or use the **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT Pledge in secular settings** (attached). Make sure the counters have finished before allowing people to sit. Take pictures if appropriate.

### After the event or activity

- On October 17, report your number of **STAND UP** participants at [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org).
- Let Bread for the World know how things went! E-mail Larry Goodwin at [lgoodwin@bread.org](mailto:lgoodwin@bread.org).
- Put an article in your church or campus newspaper about the **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT** action.
- [Blog about it.](#)
- Send a press release (or letter to the editor) to your local newspaper or other media outlets.
- Watch [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org) for worldwide results of **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT**.



## STAND UP, SPEAK OUT COMMITMENT AND PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION AND COMMITMENT

**Leader:** The Spirit of God calls us together to commit ourselves as servants of justice and love.

- Today we have the opportunity to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT against poverty with our brothers and sisters around the world. Today, people from Angola to Australia, from Mexico to Mozambique, and from the United States to the United Kingdom, are physically standing up, to symbolize their willingness to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT against poverty. We can join with congregations and campuses in every continent to break a world record for the most people ever symbolically STANDING UP for a cause.
- Throughout the Bible, God's people are challenged to stand up for justice. If you are willing and able to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT to show your commitment to overcome extreme poverty in God's world, please join us. If you are physically unable to STAND UP, please rise in spirit.

Now, I invite you all to rise.

*[Wait for people to STAND UP]*

**Leader:** As we work to create wholeness for our world, let us ask God to transform the hearts and minds of our leaders and the people of our nation and world. Let us pray.

### STAND UP PRAYER

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, we acknowledge with pain that millions of people are hungry and that more than a billion people live on less than a dollar a day. But we rejoice that global hunger and poverty are decreasing.

**Response:** Spirit of God, inspire us to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, we recognize that many millions of children are not able to attend primary school. But we rejoice in the fact that three million more children are now able to attend school in Tanzania since a portion of that country's debt was cancelled.

**Response:** Spirit of God, inspire us to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT for universal primary education.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, we know that many women in our world are illiterate, the majority unable to read, write or do basic math. However, we rejoice with women in Malawi who can now read medication dosages for their children, find the right bus, help their children with schoolwork, vote in elections and learn improved methods of preventing drought, thanks to literacy classes for women.

**Response:** Spirit of God, inspire us to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT for equality and the empowerment of women.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, we cry out to you for the millions of children who die each year before their fifth birthday from preventable illnesses. But we thank you for all the lives that have been saved through child survival programs.

**Response:** Spirit of God, inspire us to **STAND UP and SPEAK OUT** for the reduction of child mortality.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, we grieve for the many women dying in childbirth in the developing world. We thank you for the safe motherhood programs that now exist in most countries, which work to improve mothers' chances for survival.

**Response:** Spirit of God, inspire us to **STAND UP and SPEAK OUT** for improvements in maternal health.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, we know that the scourge of HIV and AIDS is immense, with millions of people infected and children orphaned. We understand that tuberculosis and malaria take huge tolls as well. We thank you, though, that the spread of HIV and AIDS can be stemmed, as we have seen in countries like Brazil, Thailand and Uganda, and that providing simple bed nets to families reduces malarial infections.

**Response:** Spirit of God, inspire us to **STAND UP and SPEAK OUT** for combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, we lament the fact that more than a billion people don't have access to safe drinking water. We rejoice that during the 1990s, nearly one billion people gained access to safe drinking water.

**Response:** Spirit of God, inspire us to **STAND UP and SPEAK OUT** for environmental sustainability, including clean water and sanitation.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, guide us all to a commitment to make poverty history by creating governments that are transparent and accountable, increasing and improving development aid from wealthy countries to poor countries, dealing comprehensively with poor country debts, and making trade fair.

**Response:** Holy Spirit, inspire us to **STAND UP and SPEAK OUT** for global partnerships to achieve development and for governments to act responsibly in the fight against poverty.

**All: AMEN**

**For Additional Resources:**

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

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



**Bread for the World**  
*Seeking Justice. Ending Hunger.*

### **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015**

The MDGs are a set of eight achievable goals agreed upon by 189 nations in September 2000, including the United States, which derive from the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

1. Dramatically reduce extreme poverty and hunger (cut each in half by 2015).
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability (including clean water and sanitation)
8. Develop a global partnership for development (including more and better aid from rich countries like the U.S.)

# **STAND UP, SPEAK OUT Pledge Against Poverty**

**(For use as an alternative to the prayer during the STAND UP action)**

We stand here proudly as members of the generation that intends to defeat extreme poverty, the greatest challenge of our times.

We stand up now because we do not wish, years from now, to stand in front of the next generation and say, "We knew that millions of people were dying unnecessarily every year – and we stood by, doing nothing."

We cannot stay seated when a child born in a poor country today will die 30 years earlier than a child born in a wealthy one. It is time to end all this heartbreak.

And we stand up because we are asking not for charity but justice. We know that in our names, world leaders have already made promises to bring this to an end. They are called the Millennium Development Goals.

What is needed is the political will to achieve and exceed these goals. So we, hundreds of thousands of concerned individuals from over 100 countries, are on our feet to say:

To the leaders of the wealthy countries – be great. Fight to keep your promises – debt cancellation, more and better aid, and trade rules that help fight poverty. You know what needs to be done. Do it.

We also stand before the leaders of poorer countries to say – be great. Make it your first responsibility to save the lives of your poorest citizens. We ask you to achieve real transparency and accountability in how money is spent, to tackle inequality, to root out corruption. You know what needs to be done. Do it.

Every generation has mighty battles to fight against evils such as slavery and apartheid, which seem as though they cannot be defeated. But history proves time and again they can, if enough people stand up against injustice.

We wish to break a record today for the number of people standing up to demand action on poverty. But the record we really want to break is the world's record of breaking promises and just ignoring the poor.

(Insert local message here)

We are six billion voices. We want justice now. No more excuses. We will not stand for them.

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