



A Social Justice E-Publication

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# That Poverty Project



*Read About It . . . p. 12*

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Contact Information***



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***Blog  
Version***



# Change

*Written by Sean D. Krausert*

“Change.” Did I just say a dirty word? There are those who would rather that my mouth be washed out with soap.

Change involves learning, adapting, and integrating. Change brings about uncertainty, “growing pains”, and sometimes confusion. Change means work and something different . . . and that is why many people tense up when being presented with change.

However, we as a society would never progress without change. Without change, we would still be living in caves and scavenging for berries. Without change we are stagnant and dying. Change is the heartbeat of our lives together.

By definition, one cannot make a difference in the world without change. Albert Einstein is quoted as saying “Insanity is doing things the same way and expecting different results.” Without change one can only make . . . the same.

If we do not act together, and make changes, then there will continue to be hungry, homeless, sick, uneducated and/or fearful existences for billions of people on earth. Not only is change necessary . . . it can be incredibly healthy and good. Change should not be feared but rather embraced. We can only move closer to our ideal by making changes.

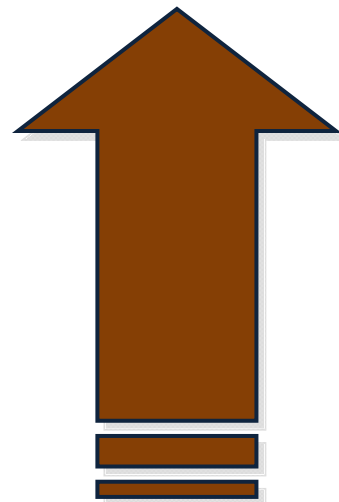
The format for this e-publication has changed in an effort to be more accessible and engaging to an increasing number of people. The changes include being produced in a blog format to allow for greater two-way discussion, less space devoted to promotional advertising, and most noticeably . . . a new name. “*Many Hands – Helping You Making a Difference*” is offered up to you to help provoke thought and create awareness about the needs in the world, and what you can do to help meet those needs. Of course, it will continue to evolve, as we all must, until we are best meeting the needs presented to us.

In the following pages, you will find articles that challenge you to change in order that our world may continue to evolve to the better. Some of these changes you will embrace, and others will be abhorrent to you. Incorporate what you can, and self-examine why something is not palatable to you. You don’t need to do everything, but step by step making whatever changes you can will make a world of difference for someone.

I’ll leave you with Ghandi’s famous challenge to us all . . . **“Be the change you most want to see in the world.”**



A Social Justice E-Publication



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# One Billion On-Line

**Editor's Note** – While somewhat dated in that it refers to a past event, the creative initiative by University of Bristol students described in this article is an excellent example of grassroots action that can be done to fight poverty.

*Written by Ash Morris*

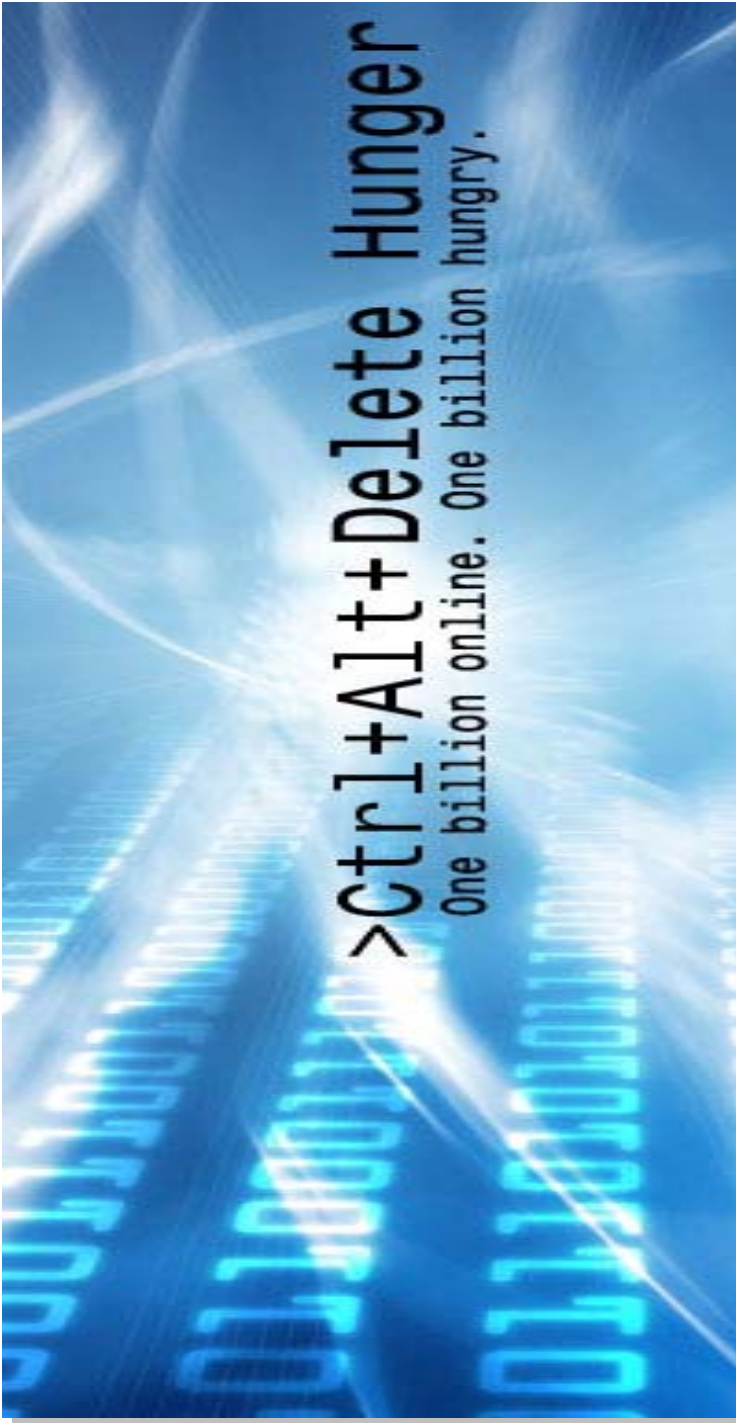
For over one billion of us, the internet is a major part of our lives. We use it to work, research and socialise. It has become integrated into our daily routine in such a way that it's hard to imagine a world without it. This is the reason why it is so striking to learn that the number of people online is the same as the number of people who are hungry.

We first learnt about this staggering statistic at a weekly meeting of our WFP (World Food Programme) society at the University of Bristol. "One billion online, one billion hungry". We all knew that the problem was serious, but for a generation where having computers and surfing the internet is second nature, the severity of the problem hit home. If we cannot imagine a world without the internet, then how hard must we try to imagine a world without enough food? The worrying thing is that this is not left to the imagination for over one billion people.

So we have decided to take action and have launched a bold and challenging fund-raising initiative. The principle is simple: can you go without the internet for a week? The campaign, named 'Control Alt Delete Hunger', challenges individuals to answer that question. "We felt 'Control Alt Delete Hunger' would be a fun and different way to raise money and awareness about such a serious, and quite often neglected, global issue", says Arun Malik, President of Bristol WFP Society. "It's a great opportunity to energise and engage the student community with the plight of the one billion people who go hungry every day".

The sponsored disconnect is taking place between the 13th and 20th March 2011, but each participant can choose the amount of time they give up the internet for. By leaving the exact timings flexible we hope to attract as many as possible to take up the challenge.

Ironically, we hope the momentum for this event will build online. Using internet communication and social networking we want to get as many people disconnecting for hunger as we can. The event is quick to set up and so we hope to involve other universities to grow the campaign and spread the word further. Spending a week without the internet is sure to be a challenge for individuals, but hopefully they can lessen the challenge of hunger faced by so many, and play a part in raising awareness of the enormity of the problem.



**Editor's Note** - To find out more information about this event, please visit [www.onebillionoffline.co.uk](http://www.onebillionoffline.co.uk).

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# DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

## THE INCOME GAP, EH.

The income gap between the rich and poor is growing in Canada.

Between 1976 and 2009 the earnings gap between the lowest 20 per cent and the top 20 per cent of earners grew from \$92,300 to \$117,500.

Source: [www.conferenceboard.ca](http://www.conferenceboard.ca) (July 13, 2011)

## SOMEBODY NEEDS A RAISE!!

The poorest 40% of people account for 5% of the world's income.

The richest 20% of the world's population account for 75% of the world's income.

Source: 2007 Human Development Report via [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org)

## WANNA BUY A COUNTRY?

As of 2008, the Gross Domestic Product of the 41 poorest countries (containing 567,000,000 people) is LESS than the combined wealth of the world's top 7 richest people.

Source: [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org)

## INCOME OR ALLOWANCE??

80% of humanity (5.15 Billion people) lives on less than \$10 per day income.

Almost 50% of humanity (3.14 Billion People) lives on less than \$2.50 per day income.

Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2008 via [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org)

## . . . AND THE RICH GO SHOPPING

As of 2005 . . .

The world's poorest 10% accounted for 0.5% of the world's private consumption.

The world's richest 10% accounted for 59% of the world's private consumption.

Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2008 via [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org)

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# The Value of Gold

*Written by Ian Thomson, Kairos Canada*

I heard a surprising story the other day.

A pastor preaching his Sunday sermon on the topic of wealth illustrated his lesson with some stories about the toxic legacy of gold mining. He had traveled to the Philippines a year earlier and met people living downstream from a gold mining district. Hearing their experiences of poisoned rivers and abject poverty affected him emotionally and motivated him to share their story.

After the Sunday service was over, one of the elders of the congregation approached the pastor and held out his hand. In it, he held a pair of gold wedding bands. The elder had found them in the collection plate. The pastor was stunned and then realized that one of the married couples in his congregation must have taken his words to heart and decided that their gold rings could be put to better use. He was speechless.

Few of us are able to translate our learnings into action as quickly as this. We struggle with change, talking ourselves into comfortable complacency and turning away when we can't quite reconcile our beliefs and actions.

You may not have spent much time reflecting on the place of gold in our society. But gold continues to hold great power over people. We seem to accord it a special, almost religious, reverence. While the gold standard was abandoned decades ago as the underpinning of our currency, we continue to mine gold, trade it, invest with it and almost worship it. Most Canadians continue to exchange gold rings during wedding ceremonies. It appears in some of our religious symbols. Our top athletes are given gold when they beat out all their competition.

When we think about the harm done to the planet in the name of mining for gold, it's hard not to cringe. After all, there is enough previously mined gold above the Earth's surface to satisfy all the functional needs and industrial applications where gold is required today. Unlike oil, once gold has been extracted, it stays in circulation forever.

Yet humans continue to be entranced with gold. We still assign great value to it. Over \$1,400 (U.S.) per ounce, the last time I checked. Most of the world's gold is locked away in bank vaults and jewellery collections. Gold mining persists today but is driven primarily by the conspicuous consumption of those who display it, and as a "safe haven" in turbulent economic times for those who trade it.



Isn't it time that we re-examined the role of gold in our lives and our churches? This is not about being puritanical. I'm asking what we truly value in our lives, and whether we can create positive change in the world by reflecting our values in our decision-making.

Eschewing gold can be a deeply spiritual act.

We need to ask ourselves some tough questions about gold. Is it ethical to invest in gold mining activity? Should we continue to incorporate gold in our religious symbols? Is it ethical to exchange gold bands at weddings? These are questions we should struggle with as Christians.

I will be reflecting on the ways that gold is a part of my life, everything from the wedding band I wear to the investments in my church pension fund. This will involve some challenging conversations, both within my own family and within the broader church community. I hope that by examining my relationship with gold, I can begin to act in solidarity with communities who are opposing destructive gold mining projects in the developing world. Gold mining is unnecessary in this day and age. It will only end when enough of us stop buying into the golden dream.

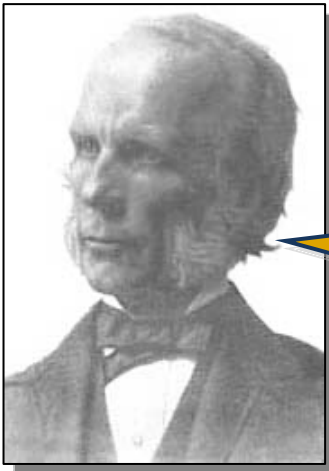
**Editor's Note** - Information about Kairos Canada can be found at [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org).

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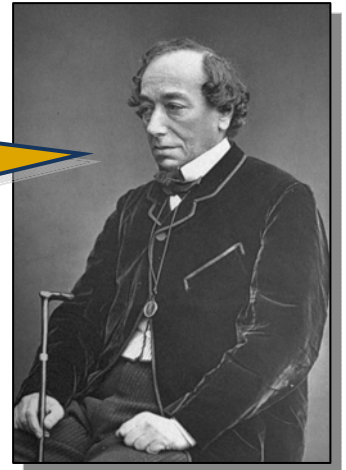
## QUOTABLE QUOTES

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*"Nurture your mind with great thoughts;  
to believe in the heroic makes heroes."*

**Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 1881)**  
British Prime Minister



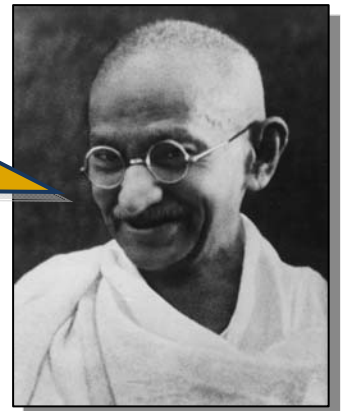
*"A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not  
what ships are built for."*

**William Shedd (1820 - 1894)**  
American Theologian



*"Earth provides enough to satisfy every  
man's need, but not every man's greed."*

**Mahatma Gandhi (1869 - 1948)**  
Indian Philosopher &  
Leader of Non-Violence Movement



*"Alone we can do so little; together we  
can do so much."*

**Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)**  
American Author & Activist



*"You can't shake hands with a clenched  
fist."*

**Indira Gandhi (1917 - 1984)**  
Prime Minister of India



*"We live very close together. So, our  
prime purpose in this life is to help  
others. And if you can't help them, at  
least don't hurt them."*

**The Dalai Lama (1935 - Present)**  
Head of State and Spiritual Leader of Tibet


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# A DONOR'S GUIDE TO GIVING AFTER A DISASTER


Written by *Sandra Schimmelpfennig*  
Founder of *The Charity Rater, LLC*

The following is a series of do's and don'ts to help you make the best donation decisions after a disaster.


 **Do determine if the country is accepting international assistance.** With all the photos and videos of destruction on the evening news, it may seem impossible that governments would not want outside assistance. However, just because there has been a disaster does not mean that the local government and local aid organizations are not capable of reaching and helping those in need. Before sending your donation find out what, if any, assistance the government is allowing. Check to see if the aid organization you're considering donating to is offering that same type of assistance.


 **Do look at a variety of nonprofits before giving.** There are hundreds of organizations that respond to most disasters. Take the time to evaluate a few before giving. Also, just because they have name recognition does not mean they're best able to respond to the disaster. Look for organizations that were operating in the country before the disaster, they will be able to respond quicker and know the local culture, politics, and needs better. Giving to local organizations is great. Unfortunately, local charities that operate in foreign countries can be difficult to find and may not have a Web site. If they do have Web sites, they are often not in English.


Places to find lists of organizations involved in the recovery efforts include: InterAction for many U.S. organizations, Reliefweb.int for organizations from many different countries, Dochas for Irish aid organizations

 **Do look for organizations with prior experience and expertise.** There is a great deal of money given by donors after well-publicized disasters. The ease of raising money makes it tempting to respond even if an organization does not have prior experience in that area. After the 2004 tsunami, many organizations with no prior experience built boats or houses. I attended one ceremony where the boats actually sank during the ceremony because they weren't properly sealed. There is a steep learning curve when nonprofits move out of their normal area of work. This may lead to mistakes and wasted money. Make sure the organization has prior experience in their proposed projects.

## DOs & DON'Ts

 **Don't donate to a project just because it's "sexy".** Recovery projects that are inherently attractive to donors – such as orphanages or boats – are easier to fund but may not be what is most needed. After the 2004 tsunami orphanages were built in excess of what was really needed, I had an orphanage approach me looking for orphans to house. So much money was given to orphanages in Indonesia that some families resorted to abandoning their children at the orphanages because they could not feed and clothe them. It would have been far better if the donations had supported families so they could care for their children themselves.

 **Don't earmark funds.** An organization on the ground has a far better idea of what is needed the most than someone who lives half the world away. Earmarking funds may force an organization to spend money where it's not needed and keep it from funding the projects that are needed the most. After the tsunami in Thailand, one organization had money earmarked for two truckloads of rice. By the time the group arrived in the area four months after the tsunami, shipments of rice were no longer needed. Because the money had been earmarked, the organization had to contact donors to get permission to use the money in different ways. If you trust the organization, allow it to make professional decisions on how to best use your donation, if you don't trust them then find another organization to donate to.

 **Don't evaluate an organization based on the amount spent on its administrative cost.** The amount an organization spends on administration offers no indication of its quality. The pressure to keep administrative costs low



may lead to organizations under staffing their projects or hiring unqualified staff that may not have the skills to do their job. They may give their staff the tools and resources needed to do their job well. Or they may focus on inherently cheaper programs even if they are not what is most needed. Additionally, project costs and administration costs are easy to manipulate.



**Do ensure that the agency is legitimate before giving.** Several fake charities were created after the 2004 tsunami. In Thailand a man took photos of houses under construction and then posted the pictures on his own Web site saying that it was his organization's work. Donors should verify that the non-profit is real before giving. Google the exact name of the organization—be careful that it hasn't used a name that is almost identical to a well-known charity. If the organization has been in operation for a while, there should be a history of information about it on the Web, including links to newspaper articles written about the group, or meeting minutes.

Donate only through the organization's Web site to ensure you aren't giving money to someone sending out a sham e-mail or creating a fake Facebook page.



**Don't expect the funds to be spent immediately.** After most disasters, the initial relief phase includes search and rescue, as well as providing immediate medical care, food, water, and shelter. After that, a much longer recovery and reconstruction phase begins. Organizations that feel pressure from donors to complete their work quickly may try to speed their work by cutting corners, leaving aid recipients out of the decision making process, avoiding coordinating with other organizations, or ending projects before they're able to survive on their own. In Thailand, there were numerous instances of houses being built before the land title was cleared requiring litigation, some families faced losing their houses a few years later. Allow the organizations adequate time to ensure they are providing help in the best way possible.



**Do consider holding off some of your donations until later in the rebuilding process.** Immediately after a disaster is prime fund raising time for nonprofits. As a result, appeals are issued before there's any clear idea of what is needed or how much they can actually help. If an organization receives more money than it can use for the type of help it provides it has one of four options. It can divert the excess funds to other programs in other countries, it can provide assistance in excess of what is actually needed, it can

move out of its area of expertise and do projects it's not skilled at, or it can subcontract other agencies to work in other areas. Rebuilding after a disaster takes years, waiting a few weeks or months before donating everything you plan to give will allow you to make additional funding decisions once the situation on the ground is clearer.



**Don't take up a collection of goods to send over.** After the tsunami, tons of used clothing were donated, much of it inappropriate to the climate and culture. There were winter hats, coats and gloves donated to southern Thailand and mountains of donated clothing dumped beside the road in India. Donated goods can clog ports and prevent more critical relief items from getting through. Ports can only hold and process so many goods and often the port authorities have difficulty sorting through everything arriving to get it processed. Please do not take

up collections of medicine, clothing, baby formula, or food for shipment, or show up on your own to hand out money or goods. Although well intentioned, this can actually make the situation worse as it adds to the confusion, diverts resources, and may lead to aid dependency.




**Don't go over individually to volunteer.** Many people want to volunteer, however unless you have a specific skill and speak the language, there is often very little you can contribute that local people could not do. Local people need the work as many of them lose their livelihoods in the disaster. Even if you have a specialized trade, your credentials may not be recognized in that country. In addition, you will likely not find an international charity able to take you on because of liability issues and the fact that you don't have prior disaster experience and training. Small local organizations may be willing to use volunteers, but their needs are for Web site developers or grant writers. Your chances of working in the villages are small unless you speak the language and understand the culture.




**Do consider donating an equal amount of money to disaster preparedness programs.** Programs that help communities prepare for and respond to large rescue operations after a disaster. This becomes even more important with the increasing rate of natural disasters. After each disaster, the first people to respond are neighbours, friends, family, and local disaster-response teams.




Consider donating to organizations in other countries — or even your own home town — that help communities prepare for and respond to future disasters.

 **Don't support any adoptions or evacuations of orphans.** After each disaster, there are attempts to adopt or evacuate orphans. However, many of these "orphans" have parents or other living relatives desperate to care for them. Priority should be placed on efforts to reunite children with their relatives. Evacuating the orphans from the country or putting them up for adoption may forever separate them from their family.

 **Don't assume there is a body overseeing and regulating the aid.** Most people assume that some entity, probably the United Nations, oversees international aid to ensure that it's well done and getting where it is most needed. In reality the UN has no direct control over nonprofits, which makes it difficult

to coordinate the relief efforts and ensure all the aid provided is appropriate and well done. Two attempts to create a regulatory body have failed. Without this, it is up to the government hit by the disaster to monitor and control the flood of assistance into their country. This can be impossible for many local governments. The best way to stop ineffectual or bad aid is to only donate to organizations that you are certain are competent and skilled at their work.

 **Do take the time to make informed decisions.** Take the time to understand the situation and make educated decisions. There are many resources here to help you do that.

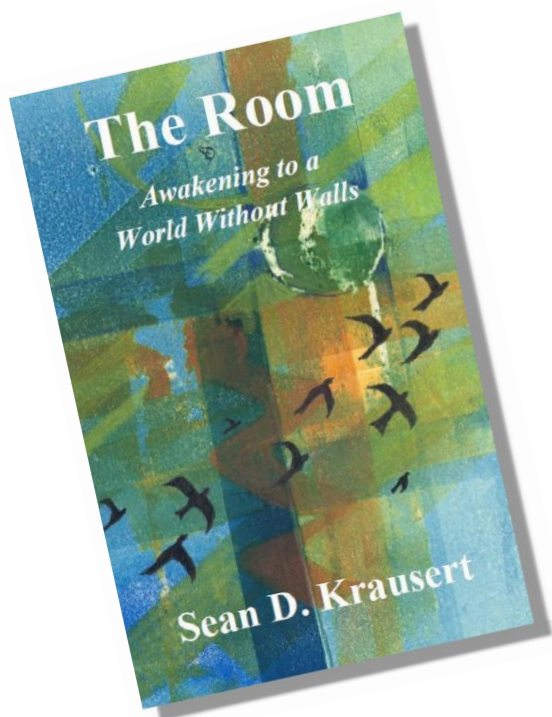
**Editor's Note** - Re-printed with permission. Readers can find out more information about Sandra's work by going to [thecharityrater.com](http://thecharityrater.com) or checking out her blog at [goodintents.org](http://goodintents.org).

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## WORLD'S GREATEST ONGOING HUMANITARIAN DISASTER REACHES A CRISIS POINT

13 July 2011 (Posted by Everett Rosenfeld) - With more than 60,000 starving and thirsty Somalis camped *outside* of the world's largest refugee camp, what some aid agencies deem the world's worst humanitarian crisis is facing its "critical days," according to a UNICEF spokesperson.

Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp, originally constructed to hold 90,000 people — making it the biggest camp in the world — is now home to approximately 400,000 people according to Bettina Schulte, Dadaab spokeswoman of the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR. Well beyond capacity, the camp is drawing thousands upon thousands of drought-fleeing Somalis, many of whom have no choice but to live in even more tenuous circumstances in the environs around the camp. Yearly dry seasons often send inhabitants of the worn-torn country fleeing into neighboring Kenya, but the Horn of Africa's worst drought in 60 years will provoke an even more desperate crisis should the current refugees in eastern Kenya and the 1,400 new ones arriving each day not receive sufficient aid.

"In a week's time we'll know whether we've turned a corner," said UNICEF spokesperson Patrick McCormick. "These are the critical days."

*Read more . . . <http://globalspin.blogs.time.com/2011/07/13/worlds-greatest-ongoing-humanitarian-disaster-reaches-a-crisis-point/#ixzz1S3D6AgS8>*

## RISING FOOD PRICES CAUSING YEMENI FAMILIES TO TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES - UN

12 July 2011 – Food insecurity is on the rise in parts of Yemen, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) reported today, adding that families are trying to cope by liquidating their assets, skipping meals and diverting funds from health care and education.

They were taking such desperate measures because the price of fuel in the black market has risen by 500 per cent since January 2011, WFP spokesperson Emilia Casella told a news briefing in Geneva.

She added that the price of bread has increased by 50 per cent, the prices of flour, sugar and milk have risen between 40 and 60 per cent and water prices are also going up – all of which are contributing to a worsening situation for the general population and especially for the most vulnerable people.

*more . . . [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)*

## HEALTH – ANCIENT WISDOM, NEW KNOWLEDGE

DAKAR, 11 July 2011 (IRIN) - No one can tell 64-year-old Fatoumata Kané anything new about the plants and tree bark around her town of Banamba in western Mali, but the traditional healer recently learned how to measure a child's upper arm to detect malnutrition.

Scores of families bring ailing children to Kané each week. She is renowned in the region for her healing powers, but now refers suspected malnutrition cases to the public health centre. The collaboration, initiated by local health agent Oumou Sangaré of Helen Keller International (HKI), is an example of how NGOs are tapping into the influence of traditional healers and local elders to fight under-nutrition.

Across sub-Saharan Africa health experts commonly train traditional healers to detect conditions needing something other than indigenous medicine; the fact is that when illness strikes many people's first move is to go to the local healer. "It is always people's first choice here," said a doctor in Sierra Leone who requested anonymity. "It's a custom people are addicted to."

It is custom, but often it is also the only health care people can afford or physically access. In some countries in Africa and Asia 80 percent of people depend on traditional medicine for their primary health care, according to the World Health Organization.

*Read more . . . [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)*

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# SO MANY GREAT ORGANIZATIONS HELPING OTHERS . . .

## HERE ARE A FEW:



**THE MUSTARD SEED**

*The Mustard Seed is a non-profit Christian humanitarian organization that has been caring for Calgary's homeless for over 25 years. Through its three ministry centres across Alberta, it cares for the essential needs of the less fortunate through food, clothing, and shelter provisions, along with education and employment programs, supported housing, health and wellness services, and personalized mentoring.*

[www.theseed.ca](http://www.theseed.ca)



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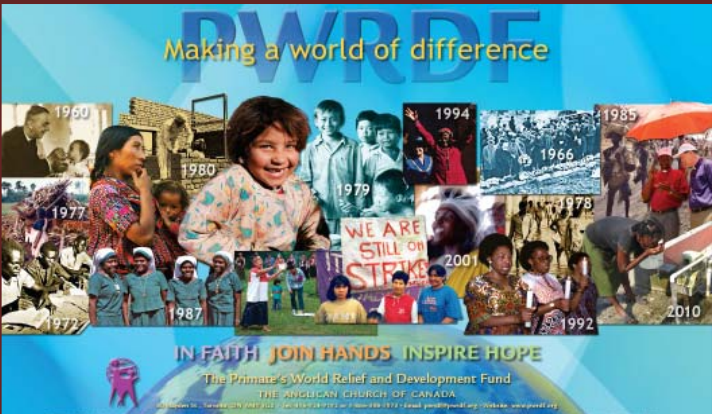
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# THAT POVERTY PROJECT

by Sean D. Krausert

Sometimes you just have to throw caution into the wind and walk the talk. Hence . . . *That Poverty Project*.

Even with a billion people hungry in the world (i.e. a population equivalent to about 29 Canadas), one could talk until blue in the face about it and all one would achieve is . . . well, getting blue in the face. Obviously something more than talking is needed to get people's attention.

For much of the next year, That Poverty Guy (*da da daaa! . . . my alter ego sort of sounds like a superhero name if you say it right*) will be engaged in acts of self-sacrifice in order to raise awareness about poverty. Poverty here, poverty there, poverty everywhere (. . . *now I'm sounding like O'Macdonald's Farm*).

Phase I of *That Poverty Project* sees That Poverty Guy living without the comforts of home for 3 months. Based out of a tent with

only sleeping gear and little more than the clothes on his back, he will share with his followers about what it is like to be without. To be homeless.

Phase II of the project focuses on the working poor. This aspect of the project reflects the reality of 1 in 10 Canadians who live below the poverty line as well as at least half the world's population who earn less than \$1700 per year. After



covering the cost of his home and utilities, That Poverty Guy will only have a paltry sum leftover to cover trivialities such as food, clothing, and transportation. And, to compound the problem, the amount he has each day through the first part of the project will fluctuate - perhaps \$2 one day and \$9 the next.

The third and final phase of *That Poverty Project* very well may be the toughest . . . hunger. As with the previous two phases, the length of the phase will be 3 months.

However, during this period That Poverty Guy will only eat barely enough to sustain himself. Each day he will eat rations equivalent to what is provided by the World Food Programme in a refugee camp. Undoubtedly, a few pounds will be shed!

Throughout these endeavours, the aim of the project is to connect with people through social and traditional media so that they can vicariously experience the journey from have to have not. It is hoped that greater empathy will be gained for those who live in need, and consequently greater willingness to do something about it.

As a final note, it is important to know that the project's message is a positive one. We live in a world of abundance and, with very little effort by those who are able to help, poverty *can* be alleviated. A world of difference can be made in many lives when we share even a small portion of our blessings.

**Editor's Note** - Information about That Poverty Project can be found at [www.thatpovertyproject.com](http://www.thatpovertyproject.com).



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