

Episcopal Resource Center News

Are you looking for Lenten and springtime programs? Here are a few suggestions—

Experiencing the Heart of Christianity, Marcus Borg. 12 sessions look at topics such as God, sin and how to live in a multi-faith society. Participant resource sheets are included in the book and on the DVD. Also available- *Living the Heart of Christianity* and *The Heart of Christianity*.

Lenten Stewardship Curriculum, Diocese of California. Enables participants to enter more deeply into the theology of stewardship through experiencing and reflecting in community on some key images from the Holy Week Gospels. Designed for 5 weeks in Lent. Class project includes making a large cross, journaling, and art activity.

Psalm Study, Diocese of Missouri. Explores and strengthens a relationship with God by studying 4 Psalms (10, 100, 102, 121) dealing with anger, joy, grief and trust.

Victory and Peace or Justice and Peace? A new study for progressive Christians. DVD. John Dominic Crossan. Explores the juxtaposition of Roman imperial theology and the Kingdom of God. Can be used over 4-12 weeks.

Millennium Development Goals ideas- We have the following:

Eradicating global poverty: a Christian study guide on the millennium development goals by the National Council of Churches. Divided into 6 sessions of less than 60 minutes each. Designed for adults but perfect for high school and college groups. Also useful for a book club group.

For the peace of the world: a Christian curriculum on international relations by the National Council of Churches. Six sessions, 1 hour each. 1. Is America #1? 2. Fear, security, love. 3. Is America God's favorite nation? 4. Poverty in a rich world. 5. Self-interest and world citizenship. 6. Preventing war with peace.

God's mission in the world: an ecumenical Christian study guide on global poverty and the millennium development goals by Episcopal Church. To be used as 6 study sessions. 1. Focuses on a Christian understanding of social justice. 2. Builds on #1 with an intro to global poverty. The final 4 use the 8 goals as a framework to explore global poverty in greater depth and deepen Christian involvement in the movement to eradicate it.

Silent Killer: the unfinished campaign against hunger. DVD. John deGraaf. Shows the faces and causes of hunger around the world. Focuses on Kenya, South Africa, Mexico and Brazil. Highlights the "fome zero" project in Brazil that is taking massive steps to alleviate the hunger conditions there.

Through a child's eyes: views of global poverty by Films Media Group. DVD. Documentary which focuses on underprivileged 9 year olds in India, Egypt, New York City, Romania, Cambodia, Rwanda and Brazil. Each child is interviewed, visits to schools and some homes. Each child is asked "what would you do if you had a lot of money?" A good introduction to a MDG program.

What can one person do? Faith to heal a broken world by Sabina Alkire. Offers practical steps to create lasting change in a poverty-stricken world and examines the eight Millennium Development Goals agreed to by the international community at the Millennium Summit.

When did I see you hungry? DVD. San Damiano Foundation. A photographic and textual meditation on the plight of the poor in the US, Canada, Mexico, Italy, India, Jamaica, the Philippines and Kenya. A good introduction to a MDG program.

Yearly Theme: Our Church. Rotation: Learning the MDG's: Kids in Mission. Workshop: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty, Cornerstones Publishing. Theme is Feeding the 5000. Useful for grades K-6. Through various exercises and discussions, children will become familiar with the meaning of Goal #1 and recognize their part in helping to fulfill Goal #1. If you are interested in this program, send an email to: ResourceCenterECR@sbcglobal.net

Others available. Check the online catalog: <http://66.80.1.30> Try a search for peace, poverty, or hunger.

Useful websites:

Start here: <http://e4gr.org/index.html>. There's a ton of teaching materials in the "Resources for Congregations and Gatherings" and "Resources for Children and Youth" sections (red menu on the left).

Sharon Pearson, formerly of the Diocese of CT has done a wonderful job giving us websites and resources.

<http://www.ctdiocese.org/newsletters/WhatONECongregationCanDo.pdf>

<http://www.ctdiocese.org/newsletters/MDGResourcesforLearning.pdf>

New books -

Healthy disclosure: solving communication quandaries in congregations by Kibbie S. Ruth. Alban, 2007.

Welcome!: tools & techniques for new member ministry by Andrew Weeks. Alban, 1992. He will be leading the "Magnetic Church Conference" in May for the Diocese of El Camino. We have several copies available.

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