



### Tackling Poverty Through Fair Trade

Christian World Service invites your congregation to draw attention to those many small producers who are struggling to make ends meet in these difficult economic times. Once again we are inviting you to host **A Fair Cuppa** after a morning service or incorporating it into the service Café style. Christian World Service has additional resources that are available on the website or by contacting the office. Fair trade supplies are available through Trade Aid.

One of the proven ways of making a difference is by supporting fair trade. In 2008, the value of fair trade sales in New Zealand grew 53%. This increase means that many more small producers are earning more for what they grow. New Zealand churches have played a significant role in expanding the demand - especially those who serve fairtrade tea and coffee after every service. However more can be done. This year CWS is supporting the Go Bananas campaign, asking supermarkets to stock fair trade bananas. More information is available from CWS or at [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

#### Why Fair Trade?

Small producers in developing countries are disadvantaged in the global market. Circumstances mean that they usually sell on the local market to a middleman for a very low price. The middleman transports the coffee and cocoa and sells it to the processor who will later export it. Such farming has become increasingly uneconomic especially when the small producer is competing on a global market with large scale agribusiness and unfair trade subsidies to Northern markets. Millions of people unable to make a living have moved to cities where many have ended up fighting for their daily survival. No one should be condemned to such poverty.

In recent decades the fair trade movement has grown rapidly, offering small producers greater control over their own futures and a decent livelihood. Small growers have founded cooperatives in order to maximize the benefits for their families. These cooperatives have strong relationships with groups like Trade Aid that ensure a fair exchange. Not only do they receive a better price for what they produce but the whole community benefits from the fair trade premium. It is estimated that some 5 million people - farmers, workers and their families - benefit from the fair-trade label. It could help many more. We need to share the message.

Fair trade ensures a better deal for impoverished producers in developing countries through:

- A fair and stable price for their products
- Long term trading relations and advance payments
- Investment in local community development
- Environmentally sustainable farming methods
- Support in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to operate successfully in the global economy

#### Preparing for Worship

CWS has additional resources including documentaries and PowerPoint presentations. You might also like to invite a speaker from your local Trade Aid shop ([www.tradeaid.org.nz](http://www.tradeaid.org.nz)) or from CWS. Consider playing appropriate music. Trade Aid and some music stores sell world music under the Putumayo label.

If you are planning to serve fair trade tea and coffee you will need to be well organized. Some churches have assembled tea pots and coffee plungers for each table while others have opted for drip fed coffee and traditional church teapots at a central distribution point. Choose what works for you.





## Children's Talk

Organise two shopping bags: one an ordinary plastic supermarket bag and another Trade Aid or reusable bag. Fill the plastic bag with imported and packaged goods plus a few bananas. Fill the other with some locally produced vegetables, food and fair trade items. (Note: chocolate is very popular!)

Ask them what the difference is between the two bags. Do accept any creative answers, but draw attention to the differences between the contents - one are things from overseas and the other from New Zealand or fair trade. Point out the fair trade logo or Trade Aid name as showing that these goods are sold with the guarantee that the people who produce them get paid a fair return for their efforts. Many of them are very small farmers who work together to get their goods to market and help each other improve their lives.

Ultimately draw their attention to the bananas. Point out that New Zealanders eat more bananas per person than anywhere else in the world. However the people that grow them do not get paid fairly. Many of the people who work on the huge banana plantations run by corporations like Dole and Chiquita earn less than \$3 a day, not enough to support their families. However there is an alternative. Invite them to join the campaign to get supermarkets stocking fair trade bananas. Show them a banana-shaped "demand card" and invite them to talk with their family to see if they want to fill one in to ask their local supermarket to stock fair trade bananas.



## Biblical Reflection

*Acts 8:26-40:* While Philip was appointed as a deacon (Acts 6: 5) he might be better considered an evangelist. Prior to his time in Jerusalem, Philip had been successfully proclaiming the Messiah in Samaria (v 4). Under the direction of an angel of the Lord (v 26) Philip finds himself on the busy road heading southwest towards Gaza, a city of the Philistines. On route he encounters the chief treasurer of the queen of Ethiopia, a eunuch. According to Jewish tradition a eunuch could not be admitted to a Jewish congregation (Deut 23:1) but he was obviously a student of the Jewish faith. Hearing the eunuch reading (in the ancient world people read aloud) and under the guidance of the spirit Philip runs over to join him. The eunuch is reading Isaiah 53: 7b-8a and Philip used this text as the basis for sharing the good news about Jesus (v35). Although considered by many a gentile and obviously a man of great wealth and influence, he responds to Philip's message and is baptised. This text shows how open Philip was to God's bidding and willing to extend the boundaries of his world by speaking with strangers.

*Psalms 22:25-31:* The psalm begins with words of despair and the sense that God has abandoned the psalmist to his enemies. In these verses his lament is turned into rejoicing as he testifies publicly to God's deliverance in words that speak to future generations (v30) and spread throughout the earth (v29).

*1 John 4:7-21:* This reading from the epistles is a great testament to the power of love and to God as the source of that love. When we love, we are close to God (v 16 b). Such love can be seen in our actions and concern for one another. It is drawn from our relationship with the source of love and is non discriminatory (v 20). There is a sense of humanity being bound in the embrace of God's love. The text suggests that to follow God invites us to love in an expansive manner.

*John 15: 1-8:* This passage begins with the familiar passages about the vine which beautifully illustrates the interrelatedness of life in God's vineyard. John speaks of God as the vine grower and Jesus the vine (v1). In the Hebrew scriptures the vine was often used as a symbol of Israel but in the modern world has become a symbol of life. For John it is Jesus who is the true vine. Throughout this passage John uses the word 'abide' or in Greek *meno*. Exploring the word more closely opens up some new ways of understanding the word that helps the reader understand more deeply what it means to 'abide in me' (repeated in v4,5,6,7). *Meno* means to stand one's ground, to tarry, to linger, to remain, to continue and to stand by, await steadfastly. We can connect with this deep source of strength by living as the community that God loves. It is a promise of hope in a world that is marked by greed and strife.



## Opening Prayer

Leader:

Creator God

We greet you, the One who has formed the earth  
and breathes life into the universe,  
Who comforts us in our troubles and challenges us  
to travel into new places,  
The One who longs for justice and yearns for  
peace.

Response:

Abide with us, living God, strengthen our  
community and enlarge our faith.  
In Jesus' name  
Amen.

## Fair Trade hymn

Tune: ST DENIO

(Special thanks to Shirley Murray)

Good neighbours, forgive us –  
we do not play fair;  
those marketplace forces  
determine our share,  
in trading, in aiding  
economy's role  
we've had to exchange  
dollar notes for our soul.

Good neighbours, remind us  
of just how you toil –  
the long hours of labour,  
the working of soil,  
the profit from harvests  
that you never see,  
so we can keep drinking  
your coffee and tea.

Our own trade agreements  
leave no time to heed  
the cost of your labour,  
your hunger and need,  
your children who swelter  
in poverty's lap,  
your people's enslavement  
in poverty's trap.

Good neighbours, allow us  
deep feelings of shame,  
with ways to recapture  
our country's good name –  
consumers with conscience,  
respecting your role,  
are brokers of justice  
to save our own soul.

## Prayer for others

Leader:

God who loves and sustains us  
We pray for the world our home:  
where people who work hard may not have enough  
to eat and children cannot go to school,  
where people struggle for fair wages and a decent  
return for their efforts,  
where huge companies control how food is grown  
and poor people face rising food prices.

Response: Give us all this day our daily bread.

We pray for the earth that is our home:  
That we live more wisely, sharing the rich resources  
that you have given us with everyone,  
Caring for the soil, the air, the oceans and water-  
ways,  
Shopping more thoughtfully.

Response: Give us all this day our daily bread.

We pray for the church and our families -  
Open our eyes to those who are in need,  
Heal those who are in need of wholeness and new  
energy,  
Help us to let go of the things that can be shared  
And act together to make trade more fair.

Response: Give us all this day our daily bread.

We pray in the name of the vine grower  
Who tends and cares for the plant.  
Amen



## Closing Prayer

The blessing of the God of Sarah and Hagar,  
as of Abraham  
The blessing of the Son, born of the woman Mary  
The blessing of the Holy Spirit  
Who broods over us as a mother, her children  
Be with you all.  
Amen

*written by Lois Wilson, Canada*

© NZ Shirley Murray 2003





### Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God

Today we celebrate our mothers:

The women who gave us birth, who cared and admonished us,  
for what they have done for us and for what they have left undone.

The women who have nurtured us in our faith,  
who challenged and inspired us,  
for what they have shown us and for what they have left us to find for ourselves.

We pray for all mothers who have helped us in our journey,  
Bless them with an abiding sense of your love.

Today we celebrate your motherly love:

The love that looks out for us no matter what we do,

The love that encircles us like the air that surrounds us,

The love that leads us in new directions.

We give thanks for your compassion and patience as we struggle to abide in your love.

Today we pray for mother earth:

The land on which we make our lives together,  
The water that sustains all that we have,  
The air that connects us in an unbreakable chain.

We ask your blessing on this planet that we share.

In Jesus' name, Amen

### For further information

Trade Aid:

<http://www.tradeaid.co.nz/Home>

Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.nz/>

From the Fairtrade Foundation, UK

Ideas for churches:

[http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get\\_involved\\_ideas\\_for\\_churches.htm](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_ideas_for_churches.htm)

[http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get\\_involved\\_faiths.htm](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_faiths.htm)

[http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get\\_involved\\_faiths.htm](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_faiths.htm)

Global Exchange, USA

<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/>

### Take Action

- Pray for the millions of small farmers and workers struggling to make ends meet and for those supporting the Fair trade movement.
- Invite some one to speak to your parish or have a discussion about fair trade and ethical shopping.
- Hold a special morning tea for **A Fair Cuppa** on May 10 or other suitable day. It can be as simple as serving tea and coffee or you may like to use other good fair-trade ingredients to make special food. Further resource materials (including posters) are available from CWS.
- Become a Fairtrade Church, by serving fair-trade tea and coffee after services. For more information, including how to get a certificate, contact CWS.
- Order supplies from Trade Aid for your parish. You might like to work as a cooperative, with one person taking orders for the congregation or hold a sales table using the proceeds for a fundraiser. CWS partners all work with poor people and through the Good Neighbours programme you can support one partner and receive regular news of their work.
- Encourage other churches and groups using your facilities to use fair-trade products.
- Join the Go Bananas campaign to stock fair trade bananas. See: <http://www.checkoutfairtrade.org.nz/>
- Nominate a local supermarket for the best fairtrade supermarket of 2008.



PO Box 22652

Christchurch 8142

03 366 9274 [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz)

[www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

