



**“Stand Up,
take your mat
and walk.”**

Jesus

Fair Trade helps people stand on their feet

Christian World Service invites parishes to focus on the advantages of fair trade to the farmers and producers as well as consumers this Fair Trade Fortnight. The farmers and producers receive a decent return and consumers know that no one has been exploited in the process. It improves prospects for their family and community and be in control of their future in the same way as Jesus healed the sick man by the Bethzatha pool in the reading from John. We encourage you to host **A Fair Cuppa** after your morning service and to focus attention on the farmers and producers that we depend on for our morning refreshments. 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.

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) or from CWS.

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.





Sorting cocoa beans at Kuapa Kokoo.

**“Fairtrade is good to the farmer
and makes us happy.”
Comfort Kwaasibea**

The Kuapa Kokoo Cooperative has nearly 50,000 members in Ghana. Most farmers grow the cocoa beans on small farms about the size of six football fields. On the land they grow other crops like cassava, yam, coconut and plantains to feed their families. Most are in small remote villages without running water, electricity or healthcare. Roughly one in every three farmers is a women. Selling their cocoa through the Cooperative has made a huge difference in their lives.

Children’s Talk

Invite the children to the front to take part in a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party (or you could modify the idea to a Teddy Bear’s Picnic). You will need to organise a selection of hats (or soft toys), cups and saucers and hot chocolate beforehand—perhaps in a thermos.

Invite the children to come forward for a special treat. A picnic basket would be a useful receptacle for the necessary tea party equipment. Ask them to choose a hat to wear or a special friend from the selection available while you lay out a pretty tablecloth. If they are older you might also like to talk about the mad hatter’s tea party in Alice in Wonderland.

Once everyone has settled, talk to them about Fair trade and how that it is a way for us to know that children have had to work as slaves or in unfair conditions to grow the cocoa beans that is used to make chocolate. Invite them to be part of The Big Swap. You might like to point out that most of it comes from West Africa. Then show them the fairtrade or Trade Aid logo on the packet of hot chocolate and tell them that this is the guarantee that the people receive a fair price for their cocoa and that children are not sold to work on the cocoa farms. They are also paid a special premium which the farmers have used to build wells, public toilets and a mobile clinic.

Biblical Reflection

Acts 16: 9 –15: Paul responds to a vision of a Macedonian man telling him to go to Philippi. He sailed to Neapolis on the Macedonian coast and travelled inland to Philippi, a Roman colony. Paul and his friends leave the city wall, looking for a place to pray by the river. There they meet Lydia, a successful business woman. Obviously impressed by Paul’s teachings, she and her household were baptized. She insisted that they come stay at her home.

Being open to the Holy Spirit is a core part of this story but so is the role of Lydia as business women. There is an obvious match with the many women who depend on fairtrade to earn valuable income for their families.

Psalms 67: This psalm is a call to praise and a recognition that this is something shared across the many nations of the world. (v4a)

Rev 21: 10, 22 –22: 5 : John sees a vision of a new Jerusalem from his vantage point on the mountain (compare with Martin Luther King’s famous “I have a dream speech”). Instead of a temple, God is at its centre, the source of light.. Beside God is the Lamb. The river of the water of life flows from the throne (22:1) and the Tree of Life grows beside it. The Tree of Life is an ancient Mesopotamian symbol adopted by the Israelites. The image is one of the new sky and new earth, that is, God’s new creation.

Life is a central image in this passage. The water of life and the Tree make this very visual. In God’s new creation no one will starve or thirst. The decay in the global economy has become increasingly apparent in recent years, but the fair trading system points to a more life-giving model.

John 5:1-9: This well known story tells of Jesus healing the sick man. Like the others seeking healing at the side of the pool he was a beggar, one of the “throwaway people” of the age. Scholars suggest that these may have been up to 10 percent of the total population and that they lived in appalling conditions. There is no indication that he had been at the pool for 38 years—rather he has been sick for that long. The man had no family or friends to help him into the healing waters so when he encounters Jesus he asks for help (v7).

How Jesus knew he had been at the pool for a long time is not explained but rather than helping him into the pool, Jesus offers healing and hope. To stand up and walk is a clear indication of new life given. It is not the healing that causes the later problems, rather the ‘work’ involved. We do not know what the nature of the man’s illness was, but it is clear that Jesus’ action improved his outlook. In the same way, participants in the fair trade system, also offer hope.



Opening Prayer

Leader:

Creator God

Your light shines in our world,
It offers a promise of hope and a new direction,
It offers life and a place for everyone,
It offers us the chance to live with more care in
your creation.

Response:

We come seeking light and the life that has no end.
We come seeking hope that we may share it with
all whom we meet.

We come seeking love that we may build our world
anew.

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.

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Prayer for others

Leader:

God of Life, we pray for those who are in need, for
the many people who like the sick man in Jesus'
time struggled to live each day. We pray for those
with no home or place to rest their head. We pray
for those whose hunger is never satisfied and those
who thirst for clean water. We pray for those who
live in constant fear of attack.

Response: Gracious God, help us to share more
generously.

We pray for those who are responsible for trade and
for those seeking to build a better trade system
through fair trade. Give them the courage to stand
up for those who grow the food we consume so that
they get a fair deal and can live with dignity. Give
them the means to argue for a just world economy
where every person has what they need to live.
Give those who negotiate international trade deals
compassion and wise judgment.

Response: Gracious God, help us to support those
working for change.

We pray for the church and our families—for those
we know are in need of your strength and healing...
for those who work with children, with young people,
with those with mental illnesses and those who are
sick.

Response: Gracious God, help us to live with hope
and compassion.

In Jesus' name

Amen



Closing Prayer

May God who gives life accompany you in all that
you do.

May God who gives life guide you into the day,
shining hope on your path.

May God who gives life help us live more
intentionally in the new creation of love.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen





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

Christian World Service worship resources:
<http://www.cws.org.nz/resources/church>

Trade Aid:

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

(Note: Trade Aid now has an on-line shop that includes craft products)

Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand:

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

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 a speaker to your parish or have a discussion about fair trade and ethical shopping.
- Hold a special morning tea for **A Fair Cuppa** on May 9 or other suitable day. It can be as simple as serving tea and coffee or you may like to use fairtrade ingredients to make special food. Further resource materials (including posters) are available from CWS.
- Order "cafeteria" supplies from Trade Aid for your parish. See; <http://www.tradeaid.org.nz/index.php/page/fairtradeatwork>
- Ask people to contribute to a special collection. You may like to invite donations for the Haiti Appeal or for CWS campaign work to enable us to tell more people about fairtrade.
- Become a Fairtrade Church. For more information, including how to get a certificate, contact CWS or see: www.cws.org.nz/files/FT-Church.pdf
- Encourage other churches and groups using your facilities to use fair-trade products.
- Take part in The Big Swap. See: www.fairtrade.org.nz/thebigswap
- Nominate a local supermarket for the best fairtrade supermarket of 2010. See: www.checkoutfairtrade.org.nz/rate-your-supermarket.html



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