

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

October 2009



UN Millennium Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
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
8. Develop a global partnership for development

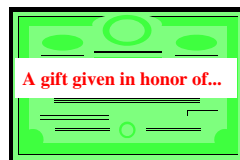
Alternative Gift Giving Gifts That Make a Difference

Although it may seem early to begin to think of Christmas and gift giving, our first opportunity to plan alternative gift giving is coming soon. As we gather for our November Process and Celebration of Foundation Day, we will also, again, have an opportunity to shop for gifts that will go to support our efforts against the modern day slavery – human trafficking.



What is alternative giving?

It is a nontraditional way of giving. It can be buying a gift from a source where the profit from that gift goes to support a cause or it can be a donation given in a person's name as a life-sustaining gift to help abolish global poverty or to renew our planet's environment. I am sure we all have people in our life in which we really would like to give them a tangible gift, and the first alternative meets that need. We also know people



who really do not want or need another "thing" and the second option is a wonderful way to help us simplify our lives, honor a person, and make a difference in our world.

Most charitable organizations you might choose give a certificate giving an example of how the donation will be used (such as one day's worth of food for a hungry person) or a certificate of "adoption" such as an animal or a tree, or a gift card that shares something about the issue addressed. Most organizations offer a wide range of denominations.



Organizations

There are as many organizations that support ways to address the goals of the Earth Charter, the Millennium Development Goals, the ending of poverty, and anti-trafficking as there are persons who wish to consider alternative gift giving. We are familiar with some such as the Heifer Project. Some organizations with a global outreach are:

- ♦ Heifer International
- ♦ Church World Service
- ♦ Susila Dharma USA
- ♦ Nonviolent Peaceforce
- ♦ SEVA Foundation.



Another option is to consider your own local charitable organizations such as emergency shelters or food pantries.

Besides purchasing a gift that goes to support our stance against human trafficking, another option for those “tangible” gifts that give is: Alternative Gifts International: www.alternativegifts.org The entire catalog incorporates ideas that relate to the Millennium Development



Goals. Catholic Relief Services and Made By Survivors also have items for alternative gifts.



Be creative and think about an organization that says something about you or the person you are honoring.

*If we have the opportunity to be generous with our hearts,
ourselves,
we have no idea of the depth and breadth of love's reach.*

Margaret Cho



Prepared by the Peace and Justice Committee