



# Micah Challenge - UK



**to act justly**

**to love mercy**

**to walk humbly with your God**

(Micah 6:8 NIV)



# The Challenge

>> The basis of the challenge to us is drawn from the Old Testament prophet Micah :-

**“And what does the Lord require of you?**

**To act justly,**

**to love mercy**

**and to walk humbly with your God”**

(Micah 6:8 NIV)



## Micah Challenge - UK

- >> A new movement to galvanise Christians to uphold our covenant with the poor
- >> Calling for the Millennium Development Goals - to halve poverty by 2015
- >> Participating in a global movement including “poor” as well as “rich” countries.



## Vision

- >> To ignite and fuel a **passion in Christians** to bring about the alleviation of poverty and to speak out, with a common voice, **against the injustice of poverty.**



## Two Aims

- >> To galvanise Christians in the UK towards greater **practical and political engagement** with the issues and injustice of poverty.
- >> To **unite Christians** to ensure the UK **honours its commitments** to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.



## The dream

- >> **One million people** committed to the aims of the movement.
- >> **One hundred thousand** people having taken some active step towards the alleviation of poverty and its injustice.
- >> **One single** united voice to government and to our civil society that cries out for justice for the poor.



## Core Values

are commitments: -

- >> to working with the poor;
- >> to pursue justice;
- >> to serve Jesus;
- >> to be obedient to the teaching of the bible;
- >> to prayer;
- >> to integrity of good relationships

and

- >> affirm God's concern for the spiritual physical, mental, social, economic and emotional well being of all people.



## What to expect?

- >> Hear about issues of poverty and injustice preached from the front of church and spoken about at events.
- >> Participation opportunities in campaigns
- >> Access to education and information resources
- >> A website that will allow people to
  - >> Pray/Do/Say/Go/Give/Learn



## What are the key messages?

1. Issues of poverty have not gone away since the end of Make Poverty History.
2. Micah Challenge is an **ecumenical movement** to ignite and fuel Christians' passion to address the issues and injustice of poverty.
3. Micah Challenge seeks to **unite Christians to speak out** against these issues with a common voice.



## What are the key messages?

4. Each of us has a **responsibility**.
5. Micah Challenge will be leading a “**Blow the Whistle**” campaign to highlight what can and must be done about achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
6. Micah Challenge **is united with other Micah Challenges around the world** in seeking governments fulfilment of their public promises to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and so halve absolute global poverty by 2015.



# Blow the Whistle

- >> Half time scores for MDGs
- >> Global symbol, global challenge to governments
- >> Challenging government to uphold their covenant with the poor
- >> How we will take steps to fulfil this covenant



# Micah Sunday

- >> 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006
- >> Annual event
- >> Reminder of our covenant with the poor

This year :-

- >> Bridging the gap between Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge
- >> Small step towards campaigning
  - “Take a Stand”
- >> Forthcoming campaign
  - “Blow the Whistle”



## Why do this?

Through Micah Challenge, individuals, churches and organisations will be better able to:-

- >> Hold the government to account and to **influence policy** in matters of UK and international poverty;
- >> Have an **impact at a global level** as it speaks to the G8 and UN;
- >> **Unite Christians** across denominational divides through its ecumenical and inclusive approach;



- >> Be sensitised to issues of poverty, its injustices, and how this impacts our society in a constructive, biblically informed manner;
- >> Direct people to resources, opportunities and activities so that they can do something about the way their heart and conscience leads them;
- >> Channel the energy generated in the MakePovertyHistory campaign before it dissipates



## What is the Micah Call ?

- >> An initial expression of **support** for the principles of Micah Challenge.
- >> A demonstration of your willingness to be **informed** of what's going on.
- >> The number of individuals that sign up for the Micah Call may be used to support lobbying campaigns.
- >> Must not become an “action alibi”:-  
“I have signed the call so I have done my bit”



# Who has signed up to date?





## Today

### Sign the Micah Call

- >> duplicated sheets available in church
- >> on-line

## Contacting us

[www.micahchallenge.org.uk](http://www.micahchallenge.org.uk)

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