

Blackburn Diocese
The Bishop's Harvest Appeal 2005

Harvest for Justice



Ideas for Collective Worship

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All pictures in this document were found using Google and therefore have been taken from a variety of Internet Websites.

The Bishop's Harvest Appeal 2005

This year the Bishop's Harvest Appeal is supporting the Harvest in South Africa in the area around the Umzimvubu River and the Harvest in Senegal, West Africa.

This series of 4 ideas for acts of Collective Worship explores the issues faced by the people living in these areas and what action we can take in response.

Harvest for Justice



Working together we can make a difference.

Ideas for Interactive Prayer Displays

- A map of Africa highlighting South Africa and the Umzimvubu River and Senegal. Prayers could be written on post-it notes and stuck on or around the map.
- Hang on to the map several 2 sided faces, worried on one side and happy on the other. Begin with all the faces looking worried and as you go through the acts of worship, as you pray, collect money or during the Harvest Service, turn some of the faces over to be happy so you are left with a mixture. As we help through prayer, collections, campaigning etc the lives of the people in Africa improve.
- Alongside the map have a picture of a giant tap and prayers could be written on paper in the shape of drops of water falling from the tap.



- Display a large copy of the chart below alongside pictures of farmers and their families in Africa, these are available from Aid Agency Web Sites e.g. Christian Aid, Tearfund, Oxfam etc and can also be found via the Google Image Search, using the key words Senegal Farmers. The website www.usaid-sn.org/ also has great pictures and lots of information. Give the children opportunity to add their own ideas and to tick the boxes.

What shall we do? What shall we give?			
Which is the better idea?			
	✓		✓
Eggs		Chickens	
Plants		Seeds	
Milk		Goats	
Add your own ideas			

- Underneath your display have a basket of small cards with maps of Africa printed on them. Encourage the children to take one as a book mark and to use it as a reminder to pray. They could also take one to give to a friend or family member and ask them to pray for the people of Africa.

(1) WORRY

Show a picture of a worried face. How is this person feeling?

What is worry?

What sort of things do you worry about?

Why do we worry?

What causes worry?

How do we feel when we are worried?



Harvest in Senegal

The farmers in Senegal are worried, why?

Find Senegal on the map of Africa.

What do you think that the farmers in Senegal could be worried about?

Are their worries the same or different to ours?

Do we need to worry about the same things as the farmers in Senegal e.g. rain? Why not?

If appropriate make a list comparing worries.

What

What is being done to help the people in Senegal?



Boreholes, water pumps and water points with taps



Reflect and Prayer

Take time to reflect on the discussion you have just had.

Pray for the worries that the children mentioned and pray for the farmers in Senegal. Introduce your interactive prayer display.

(2) WATER

Place on a table a large glass of dirty water and a large glass of clean water. Which would the children prefer to drink? Why?

When we turn on the tap clean water comes out. What would happen if dirty water came out? How far do you have to walk to get a drink of clean water?

If possible send 3 volunteers to the nearest 3 taps to fetch a glass of water. How long did it take them?

What would happen if no water came from the taps?

If there was no water what would you not be able to do?

What would that be like? How would that feel?

Why is water so important?

Harvest in Senegal

Farmers in Senegal are worried about the Harvest. They are worried about whether or not they will be able to feed their families. Lack of rain is one of the main causes of food shortages. However things are improving, Christian Aid's partner organisation, The African Network for Integrated Development (RADI) has been working to provide local communities with boreholes, water pumps, cattle troughs and water points with taps.



This water is transforming peoples' lives. "Dié Sylla has had her life transformed by this organisation she used to spend entire days trying to get water and making sure her family and animals had enough to drink. Her sheep, provided by RADI, now drink from the new water trough. She uses the water from a new irrigation basin to water her vegetables and her children no longer suffer from water-borne diseases." She says: 'They are all very healthy children as they wash, and eat vegetables every day, unlike other children...it is very good to live here. It's a lot easier for women than it is in other villages. My husband was born in a village three kilometres from here and they have to get all their water from a well. I am very glad that we don't have to do that anymore.'



Reflection and Prayer

Pour a jug of water slowly and from a reasonable height into a glass bowl. Ask the children to focus on the falling water clean, clear, bright, fresh and life giving.

Thank God for water, for all the things we are able to do because we have lots of easily accessible clean water.

Pray for the people of Senegal in Africa and all around the world who do not have plenty of water.

Pray for all the aid and project workers working together with the local communities to provide water that will transform lives.

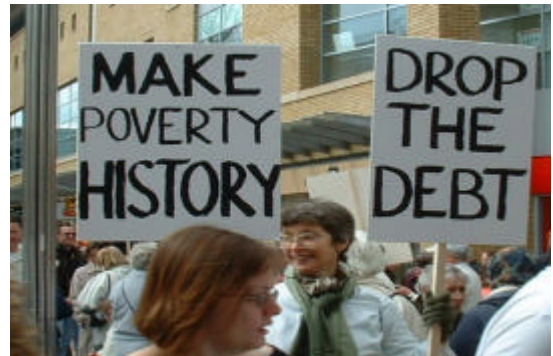
Here you could use the interactive prayer tap display.

(3) Working Together

The way to get things changed is by working together, the recent Make Poverty History Campaign illustrates this really well.

Activity

You will need 3 volunteers and 2 large boxes of lego or building bricks. Tip out onto the floor in 2 separate piles the boxes of lego or bricks. Ask one child to pick up the contents of one box and two children to put the pieces back into the other box. Who is finished first? Working together we can get things done quickly and efficiently.



Harvest in South Africa



The crops grown are often of poor quality so projects have been set up in the poorest communities to improve cultivation techniques. The project workers teach the people who then pass on what they have learned to other members of their family and friends.

You will need 6 volunteers prepared beforehand. Ask the children to stand in a line. The first child is the Aid Worker and miming he/she shows the next in line how to dig, plant and water. The child who has learnt the techniques turns and teaches the next child and so on down the line.

The information gets passed on and shared so many people can now grow enough in their gardens to feed their whole family and have some left to sell.



"Busi Wawa, a project trainer, says of the scheme: This is so much more than just handing out bowls of rice to the poor or giving a blanket to those who are cold. It is about sharing the gospel with people through our actions. It's about listening to the needs of the people and helping them to build a sustainable agricultural project that is owned by the people."

Reflection and Prayer

Using the chart from the interactive prayer display discuss with the children the best kind of practical help that can/should be given to the people in Africa.

Why is it better to give the seed, animals, the taps etc rather than only the water and food. Working together to make a difference now and in the future.

Pray for the aid workers, the success of the projects, the confidence of the farmers and the future.

(4) We Can Take Action

You will need a bag containing:

A map of Africa

Worried faces

A tap and bottle of water

Farming/Gardening manuals

Begin by lifting the objects/pictures from your bag and briefly revising the contents of the 3 previous acts of worship. Place the objects on your worship table alongside a cross and candle.

Harvest for Justice

The Bishop's Appeal is called Harvest for Justice, what do the children think this means?

The word justice can be interpreted as fairness, right and true.

Harvest for Fairness

Harvest for 'Right'

Harvest for Truth.

Why is justice important? Why is the situation at the moment unjust?

Do the children think this is a good title for the Harvest Appeal?

What did Jesus Say?

Ask the children first and then choose from some of the following suggestions,

Jesus taught:-

Sharing and giving.

Love your neighbour as yourself.

Love one another as I have loved you.

Be light in the world and shine with good deeds.

The stories of The Widow's Offering and The Good Samaritan.

Reflection and Prayer

Reflect upon *W.W.J.D?* What Would Jesus Do?

What action are we going to take?

Pray for justice, for the people in government and for the people of Africa.

What can we do?

Ask the children.

Encourage answers such as supporting campaigns, letters to the Prime Minister, raising money, finding out more so we understand the situation, passing this information on and prayer.

Working together decide, by offering the children choices or by being open to their ideas in what form the offering at your Harvest festival will take.

**Thank you for supporting this year's Harvest Appeal
Please make your cheques payable to
'Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Limited' and send to:
Diocesan Board of Finance (Harvest Appeal)
Church House, Cathedral Close. Blackburn, BB1 5AA**

Lita

