

# *The Bishop's Harvest Appeal 2006*

*Ideas for Collective Worship*

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## *Reaching the Unreached In India*



*'Nearly 50% of the world's hungry live  
in India.'* (World Food Programme)

## *The Gift of Clean Water*



This year's harvest appeal will benefit communities in India who suffer from chronic water and food shortages. Reaching the Unreached (RTU) works in Tamil Nadu, South India, providing wells and pumps, together with children's villages and other support for rural communities. Christian Aid's partner ASTHA works in the north where tribal people suffer from water shortages and also from loss of their land which they need for growing food.

Please send all donations and money raised to  
**Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Limited** and send to:

Diocesan Board of Finance (Harvest Appeal)  
Church House  
Cathedral Close  
Blackburn BB1 5AA

*Thank you for taking part and raising money for  
this year's Bishop's Harvest Appeal.*

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## Ideas for Display

Create a focus for worship using:-

The title Reaching the Unreached - The Gift of Clean Water

A map of India with Tamil Nadu (Southern India) and Rajasthan (North India) marked on it.

Brightly coloured sari or sarong materials.

Traditional Indian music.

The quote Numbers 20 v 11 "Water gushed out and the community and their livestock drank."

The quote Matthew 25 v 40 "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

A bottle of clean water and a bottle of dirty water.

The question "How far do you have to walk to reach clean water?"

The Diocesan Harvest Appeal poster and pictures from the Christian Aid and Reaching the Unreached websites ([www.rtu.org](http://www.rtu.org)) ([www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk))

The Toilet Challenge!



## Reaching the Unreached

Begin by exploring the title 'Reaching the Unreached.'

What does it mean 'to reach' for something?

Why do we reach for things?

Is a reach more than just putting your arm out to pick something up?

On what occasions do we reach for things?

What sort of things do we reach for?

Something high on a shelf, at the back of a cupboard, under the table, etc.

A 'reach' takes effort and energy so usually the object or person we are reaching for is worthwhile and something we want to do.

'Reach' can also be used when describing a destination. We reach the top of a mountain, we reach the other side of a river, we reach the end of the path. Again a 'reach' takes effort and energy it is usually something we want to do for a reason that is worthwhile.

There is a purpose for our 'reach'.



So, **reflecting** upon these thoughts and ideas what does the title of our Harvest series of worship "Reaching the Unreached" tell us about the projects that we are going to be raising money for?

## The Gift of Clean Water

Find Southern India on a globe.

Ask the children to imagine a place where it has not rained for over 10 years, this drought is due to changes in the world's climate. Where do the people who live in this place get water from? Wells, water pumps and in emergencies, tankers, the project Reaching the Unreached has worked to provide clean, safe, accessible water to the 400,000 people in Tamil Nadu for over 30 years.

Why are 'clean' and 'safe' important?

Use the bottles of clean and dirty water as a focus.

Why is 'accessible' important?

In Asia the average distance walked for water usually by women is 6 km; in the UK it is less than 20 steps. If possible try and illustrate that in India people have to survive on less than 30 litres per person per day, in the UK the average person uses 146 litres per day. For example use a picture graph, cubes of unifix or Lego or a bucket and a dust bin full of water, 15, 2 litre bottles (e.g. empty coke bottles) filled with water would also give a visual impact.



**Reflect** upon the subtitle - The Gift of Clean Water. Why is this appropriate?

Is there an equivalent gift in the lives of our children?

## The Toilet Challenge!



Ask the children to put a jam jar on their toilet cistern at home for a week. The challenge is to ask everyone who flushes the toilet during that week to put a small amount of money e.g. 2p, 5p, or 10p into the jam jar. At the end of the week the children can bring their jam jars to school and add the

money to your harvest appeal fund.

For some people in India the amount of water you flush in your loo is what they have to survive on per day.



£2 pays for 1kg of earth worms, local women are taught how to use the worms to produce compost. This compost helps to enrich the soil therefore improving the quality of the crops.

## Skills to shape their own lives

Both the RTU and ASTHA projects dedicate time and money on education and training.

Ask the children to think of things that they can do now which used to be done for them. For example eating with a knife and fork, getting dressed, tying shoe laces, unlocking a door, all sorts of things! Who did these things for them, why? Who showed them how to do these things? Why? What would their lives be like if they hadn't learned how to do these things? Why is it important for them to be able to do these things for themselves?

A large part of the aid projects is to give people the skills so that they can shape their own lives. Why is this important? - so they can be independent, self sufficient, able to make their own decisions etc. This gives the people a purpose and sense of achievement they no longer have to rely so heavily on the project workers.

**Reflect** upon the children's sense of achievement and pride when they can do something for themselves. Think of the people in India, being skilled gives them the feelings of joy and freedom.

### ASTHA

ASTHA works in Rajasthan in North India. They help in many ways but a major part of their work is to educate and give the people an understanding of their rights. This equips the people with the knowledge they need to ensure fair terms of employment, fair trade and health awareness. This programme of education will eventually enable the people to shape their own lives.

Ask two children (you may wish to choose very carefully and prime the children before hand) to come out to the front and give each one a large lump of play dough. Using their imaginations ask the first child to hold the play dough and do nothing with it because they do not know what to do with it. Ask the second child to squash the play dough and mould it into something easy like a bowl. Then ask each child how they feel. The first has got something potentially useful but no



knowledge, how does that feel? The second has used the dough and been creative, how does that feel? Education and skills make a difference, education changes people's lives. You could also use this illustration to point out that the child who did not know what to do had very little to say and little confidence whereas the child who used his/her knowledge and created something had plenty to say and was very confident.

It is important for the people in India to have the courage and confidence to speak out.



If possible create a power point of faces and images from India and use this for a time of **Reflection**. Encourage the children to think about how the work of ASTHA changes peoples lives and gives them hope for the future. If a power point is not possible use images on OHT acetates.

Images can be found using a Google image search, all colour pictures in this document have been taken from a variety of web sites including [www.ewenbell.com](http://www.ewenbell.com), [www.pbase.com](http://www.pbase.com) (search India) [www.flickr.com/groups/sunkissedindia/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/sunkissedindia/)

## Interactive Prayer Ideas

- Write prayers on mini maps of India and use a hula hoop to create a giant mobile with all the maps hanging from it blowing in the breeze.
- Create acrostic poetry prayers using words like India, Water, ASTHA, Reach.
- Write prayers on paper water drops and fill a bucket with 'water.'
- Use Matthew 25 v 35 - 40 to explore the concept that when we are helping others we are working for Jesus. 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

