1. Invitation

Join us in remembering the biblical idea of 'Jubilee' on Sunday May 19 2013.

Dear Jubilee friends,

True wisdom doesn't age or expire. And so it is with the ancient idea of 'Jubilee'. Each year, on the third Sunday in May, people across Australia unite in heart, mind and spirit to recall and be re-inspired by the ancient Old Testament idea of 'Jubilee', a time when debts were cancelled, slaves were freed and land was redistributed.

As a congregation, a social justice group, a school group, a family or even as an individual, Jubilee Sunday is an opportunity to set aside time to reflect on our role in building a fair, equitable and compassionate society.

As Christians, we are called to live in step with the spirit of Jubilee renewal, to break the chains that bind our global brothers and sisters and prevent them from realising full and dignified lives, and to actively seek ways to release from poverty those who live on the outer margins of society.

Many of us have a deep desire to do something about the plight of the world's poor. We may even have our own ideas about how best to help. But the causes of poverty and inequality in our world today are complex. Living the Jubilee Principle means understanding that poverty is not simply about lack of money, and that charity alone will not bring it to an end.

Jubilee Australia's challenge for you in 2013, and especially as we remember together the biblical idea of 'Jubilee', is to put your traditional ideas aside for a moment, and join us as we *listen*.

We invite you to join us on Jubilee Sunday to *listen* to the voices of the poor, the oppressed and the powerless, to *deepen* your understanding of the structural causes of global poverty and injustice, to *pray* for long-term solutions to the global poverty crisis, and *collect* a special offering to support the work of Jubilee Australia.

Enclosed you will find reflection, worship and action materials. We encourage you to adapt and use them in any way that works for your congregation. Incorporate one prayer and/or dedicate your entire service or social justice group to the vision of Jubilee.

Through your prayers and actions, your congregation can be part of the worldwide Jubilee movement to fight greed and inequity, and build a just and fair global economy, for the sake of the world's poorest communities.

Our warmest regards, *The staff and board of Jubilee Australia*.