

Called to be Peacemakers

ONE Campaign Invigorates Efforts to End World Poverty and Hunger



With hunger, poverty and disease rampant in the world the US can and must do more to aid governments and groups helping people improve their lives. We have the resources and tools to end poverty and hunger. We must now muster the political will.

The ONE Campaign, a effort by a diverse coalition of faith-based and anti-poverty groups, seeks the allocation of an additional 1% – about \$25 billion – of the U.S. budget toward providing the most basic needs.

With an additional 1% of our budget we can help:

- ◆ keep 10 million children from becoming AIDS orphans.
- ◆ get 104 million children into grade school.
- ◆ provide water to almost 900 million people.
- ◆ save almost 6.5 million children under 5 dying from diseases that could be prevented with low-cost measures like vaccination or a well for clean water.
- ◆ build a better, safer world for all.

Contact your legislators and President Bush, and urge them to invest just 1% in a constructive approach to national security. For action ideas and to learn more see www.elca.org/advocacy/one.

New Challenges for Middle East Peace

The Hamas victory in the Palestinian elections and challenges since then have dramatically impacted efforts toward Middle East peace. Decisive US leadership could reap huge dividends in the coming period. Such leadership would build on the effective engagement of Secretary of State Rice in recent months.

While there are evident risks, the US also faces a crucial opportunity to help end the cycle of violence, strengthen confidence-building measures, and support movement toward a negotiated peace between Israel and the Palestinian people.

We can help by urging US leadership and effort in at least four crucial areas: prompt implementation of a lasting cease fire; simultaneous, reciprocal steps toward negotiated peace as agreed to in the Road Map; full

full implementation of the Gaza agreement; and ending construction of the Israeli separation wall on Palestinian land. Please urge your elected officials to make Israeli-Palestinian peace a top US priority. We can also encourage participation in ecumenical prayer vigil, accompaniment trips or speakers from them, outreach to Jews and Muslims in the community, Peace Not Walls and/or Peaceful Ends through Peaceful Means. Info: www.ecla.org/middleeast www.cmep.org www.pepm.org



It's About Your Tax Dollars

Congressional deliberations on the FY 2007 budget and the President's budget proposal before that reveal a disturbing picture of this administration's priorities.

Military spending receives a 6.9% increase on top of large increases in the past (a total of 48% since 2001!). We can help citizens across the political spectrum get past the rhetoric to grasp the problems with this picture:

1. Very little of the new money that has flowed to the military in the past five years has actually gone to programs that address terrorism.
2. The military receives vastly more funding than goes to proven nonviolent methods for addressing conflict or programs that address such root causes of conflict as a billion people in desperate poverty.
3. Unneeded increases in military spending have come with tax breaks for the well-off and cuts to essential social programs, including the deepest cuts in 26 years for education and \$36 billion in cuts to Medicare.

The ongoing budget process and the upcoming mid-term elections provide excellent platforms to raise questions about US priorities in forums, letters to the editor, informal conversations and candidate questions

Misplaced budget priorities are vividly explored in LPF's computer activity, "What Brings Security?" It has received rave reviews from major development and budget advocacy groups and was the highest rated workshop at two conferences last year. The '05 version is available with an 8-page Leaders Guide on our web-site; 2006 as a CD (\$10 list, \$4-8 for LPF members):

And check out our new Iraq discussion resource, *It's Time to Talk...* available for free by mail, or on our web site.

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