

It is right and a good and joyful thing

ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE BY BISHOP PAUL V. MARSHALL

always and everywhere to give thanks.

Our New Hope program is Bethlehem's extra mile along the MDG journey



Bishop Paul Marshall

The Millennium Development Goals are represented on almost every page of this month's Diocesan Life and the Episcopal Life publication that comes with it. Our church body has joined this worldwide effort to save life.

An old hymn said that once to every person and group there comes a decisive moment. Previous generations have had the adventure of settling a new continent, or the unfortunate circumstance of being joined in a World War. Those on the planet now have the happier circumstance of being invited to wage peace and health together on a global basis.

The MDGs will not solve all the problems of the world, but they go a long way towards making life sustainable for all. The price is amazingly low – .07% of GNP.

Our churches and dioceses have been asked to set aside a minimum of .07% of income to join the MDG effort. With our New Hope program we have chosen to go the extra mile, several extra miles in fact, in a campaign to raise \$3.6 million for the destitute in Sudan and in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Each phase of our New Hope work allows those we assist to control their own destinies.

In Sudan, we are responding to the request of the diocese of Kajo-Keji for assistance in building the educational and organizational centers that will allow them to provide for their own future.

Through revolving "micro-finance" funds, enterprising individuals, largely women, will be able to make a new start in a war-torn country.

Similarly, the money for use at home is to allow grants for the expansion of local projects and also to allow parishes such as yours to have seed money for new initiatives in serving those in need.

In March the Presiding Bishop told me how happy she was to hear about New Hope, and the delight she takes in endorsing and commending it to you.

In September, every member of the diocese will be given the opportunity to join this work with glad hearts.

We are, rightly, to some degree concerned about

what emerged in the 1960s as "The Anglican Communion." Is it a fellowship? Is it a church? Who decides?

Those are questions over whose answers you and I have almost no influence at all. What we have in the New Hope Campaign, especially as it relates to Sudan, is the opportunity to enact the Anglican Communion as we work together with fellow believers for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Those who have visited Kajo-Keji know that their worship forms and church life vary from ours to a great degree. Our cultures also have very little in

common, although this will change in the next generations. What we do have in common is our Lord, our faith, and our baptism into the life of discipleship. The same yet different.

Even though as a diocese we don't get to keep the money, there is something in this campaign for us.

Personally, I have come to no greater opportunity in my life to give selflessly, to surrender significant resources in service to God. For me, making that commitment means that I am going to have to retire a little bit later than I had planned. For others of you, the sacrifice may also have consequences. It may mean keeping a car a year longer or not taking that dream vacation just yet.

We are, in short, not taking a collection here. We are inviting ourselves to sacrifice, to lose a bit of our substance.

But what we are offered in no uncertain terms by Jesus is that in letting go of our lives, we find them.

In calling ourselves to go the extra mile in the MDG effort we are making for Kajo-Keji and our own poor, we are calling ourselves to transformation, to growing more into the image of God we were created to reflect.

What we also know is that parishes, where sacrificial giving for others occurs, discover that their local stewardship improves because people enter a new way of experiencing themselves.

I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

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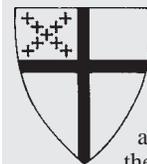
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OUR NEW HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BY CHARLIE BAREBO

Responses to a few frequently asked questions



Charlie Barebo

The closer we get to September 23, the official kickoff date for the *New Hope* Campaign, the more questions we get regarding campaign issues. Here are a few answers.

As a Diocese we are trying to raise \$3.6 million, of which \$900,000 is earmarked for aid to the poor in the Diocese and \$2.7 million will be raised for our partner Diocese of Kajo-Keji. Included in the \$2.7 million is the fee for our consultant, Kirby-Smith.

We have a five year period in which to fulfill our pledges. Cash, checks, transfer of appreciated stocks and use of your MasterCard or Visa are all methods of paying your pledge. Checks should be made out to the "New Hope Fund."

You will receive the necessary documentation for your tax returns within a month of making your pledge.

The software we have purchased to help manage the campaign will enable us to quickly respond to gifts with the proper tax documentation as well as send timely prompts for those of us who decide to make monthly, quarterly or annual payments.

This software will also allow your rector, upon request, to call and receive the total giving for your parish.

All gifts will be kept confidential and only three people will know the actual level of giving from individual donors.

All the monies given will be kept in the Diocesan Investment Trust and watched

over by our trustees. No monies for any project will be sent until the proper financial protocols are met.

The \$900,000 intended for outreach to the poor inside the Diocese will be given to various churches to support new and existing outreach ministries. These churches will apply to our social ministries committee with a grant form. The committee will approve (or deny) the applications and monies will be forwarded accordingly.

In Kajo-Keji we intend to finish and maintain the Canon Benaiah Poggo College. We will build and maintain five primary schools and one secondary school. We will create a \$250,000 micro-finance program intended to kick start a failed economy and support millennium development goals. Monies will be forwarded as our friends in Kajo-Keji supply us with proper documentation monies for these three projects. A finance committee has been created that will supply oversight and audits. Our in-

tent is to travel to Kajo Keji annually to audit the funds.

Bishop Poggo is well aware of the need for proper financial oversight. At our recent meeting in London he said, "I am committed to put in place transparent and hopefully foolproof systems. We are committed to doing independent audits. We shall have clear policies on oversight and who has access to any account."

We will be asking you to prayerfully contemplate making a sacrificial gift. Part of this sacred responsibility is in insuring that the money is used for God's purpose, enacting the second command, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

There is more than one way to make a contribution to the Capital Campaign. Cash, although the easiest, is not always the best.

The most overlooked way to contribute is through appreciated stock you currently

own and may not want to sell because you don't want to pay capital gains tax.

The Diocese, in conjunction with Millennium Wealth Management, has made this a simple process. The IRS allows you to use the current market value of that stock as a charitable deduction on your tax return. Please note that there are some limitations and you should check with your tax preparer before making a decision.

All you have to do is: • Contact your broker and inform him of your decision. • Your broker should then call Judy Savchak at 610-821-6844 or email her at jsavchak@hncbank.com for proper instructions.

Judy will then take delivery of the shares, notify the Diocese, sell them and deposit the proceeds for the benefit of the people of Kajo Keji and the poor in our Diocese.

Charlie Barebo, CEO of Otterbine Barebo Inc., is chair of our New Hope capital campaign.

Bethlehem/Kajo Keji meet near London ... Bishop Anthony has accepted Bishop Paul's invitation to be with us at Diocesan Convention

Bishop Paul met on July 1, outside London with Bishop Anthony Poggo, Bishop of Kajo Keji, and The Rev. Emmanuel Murye, diocesan secretary of Kajo Keji. Joining them were Charles Barebo, chairman of the New Hope Campaign, and Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow.

Bishop Anthony and Bishop Paul agreed to issue a joint pastoral letter to the people of both dioceses late this month, after various drafts have gone back and forth. Bishop Paul wrote on our interactive diocesan Internet list that "one message we all returned with is that Bishop Anthony, Father Emmanuel and we are clear on objectives, methodology, and the always important issues of transparency and accountability."

Bishop Anthony has accepted Bishop Paul's invitation to be present with us in October at our Convention. "We have begun the visa application process, which is always iffy," Bishop Paul said. "So please hold this application in your prayers until we hear from the government."

STRETCH DONORS ... GOD DOESN'T NEED OUR MONEY ... BUT WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WITH GOD'S STUFF

Might you be a stretch donor?

Though big gifts by big donors get a lot of attention, most of these hardly dent their donors' lifestyles. Led by Warren Buffett's \$31 billion pledge to the foundation of his friend Bill Gates, last year American billionaires and multimillionaires made 21 gifts of \$100 million or more.

Nonprofits say, however, according to a *Giving Till It Hurts* story in the Wall Street Journal (July 6), that they are receiving an increasing number of "stretch" gifts, donations seemingly out of proportion to the givers' resources.

"To the shock or chagrin of friends and family," the author writes, "these gifts often require donors to make sacrifices or at least live more modestly than their income would allow." The sad phrase that may have gotten your attention was "to the shock or chagrin of friends and family."

The writer goes on to say that academics who study wealth say "more aging Baby Boomers are choosing charity to add meaning to their lives – and to get a buzz that lasts longer than the kick that comes from splurging on a designer watch or expensive car."

Later in the story, someone is quoted as follows: "There is no such thing as a self-made man. You are

God doesn't need our money

[From a column by Father Craig Sweeney, rector of Epiphany, Clarks Summit, in the July/August parish newsletter] God doesn't need our money, but money is that thing which we have to give away to free ourselves from the fear of it. Money is that which we must give away so that we are set free from it controlling our lives. God wants us to learn to give so that we will know the joy of giving and also be free from the fear that drives us to hoard. If we can give something away, it no longer has control over us. [Read it all at Parish Newsletters on the newSpin blog.

Am I being careful with God's Stuff?

"What stuff?" you might ask. How about all the stuff the family and I have accumulated: the house, all the stuff around the house, in the bank, in the car, in the 401s, in the vacation place, in the garage and storage shed? I ask the question because it is one that I have felt challenged by recently. The challenge began when I heard some seminar speakers and someone on TV say: "You don't see any hearses pulling U-Hauls to the cemetery." This is a modern version of the very old saying, "You can't take it with you." [From a column by Canon Cal Adams, rector of St. Gabriel's, Douglassville, in the July/August parish newsletter] Read it all at the July/August edition of St. Gabriel's parish newsletter at www.stgabriels.us.

To bypass the initial voicemail at Diocesan House

Use one of the following extensions:

- *For Bishop Paul, Archdeacon Stringfellow or Linda Shifter, 222.
 - *For Barbara Lewis or to leave a general message, 221.
 - *For children's missionary and child advocate Debra Kissinger, 237 – or Rosemary Kleintop, 224.
 - *For financial concerns: Cindy Bakos, 223, or Bruce Reiner, 230.
 - *For Canon Jane Teter, 228.
 - *For communication minister Bill Lewellis, 229.
 - *For our information technology person Kat Lehman, 235.
- To reach the following people on Diocesan House staff, it would be most efficient to call their home or cell phones:
- *For youth missionary Demery Bader-Saye, 610-417-6973 (cell).
 - *For stewardship missionary Dan Charney, 610-837-4613 (home).
 - *For missionary for development Char Horst, 610-683-8625 (home).