

2009 GLOBAL BAPTIST PEACE CONFERENCE

The Global Baptist Peace Conference was held in February in the Villa Mondo Migliore, a residential centre at Castel Gandolfo, near Rome. 250 delegates from 60 countries gathered to explore the challenging theme of Global Peace. The majority came from Baptist communities, but the conference was greatly enriched by a small number of ecumenical companions, both Christian and Muslim. People came from many of the world's most troubled communities, including Baptists from Afghanistan, Georgia, Iraq, Israel-Palestine, and Congo, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. At the end of the week, conference members 'walked for Peace' in the centre of Rome, beneath many rainbow-coloured umbrellas, publicly lamenting the loss of countless millions of innocent lives through war and violence. The 2009 Global Baptist Peace Conference **peace statement** can be obtained by emailing gsparkes@baptist.org.uk.

GET FAIR - CONSTITUENCY LOBBY - 26/27 June 2009

Government statistics have revealed that 12.8 million people are living in poverty in the UK today - that's 1 in 5 of us. Tell your MP that this is wrong, and it's time to **Get Fair**.

For the lobby to be successful, the Get Fair campaign is seeking people in as many parliamentary constituencies as possible who would be willing to act as a local organiser, bringing a group together from a range of local organisations to plan the lobby. Could you help? There will be briefing events to provide you with all you need to know - from detail on the campaign and the purpose of the lobby, to how to organise a delegation and put across an effective case to your MP.

If you're interested, please come to one of the regional briefing events listed below. To register, call 0161 236 9321 or email info@getfair.org.uk. Go to www.getfair.org.uk to find out more and sign up for monthly updates.

Sheffield - Central URC, Wednesday 1 April, 6-9.30 pm
Taunton - Belvedere Trading Estate, Thursday 2 April, 3-5 pm
Birmingham - Salvation Army Citadel, Monday 6 April, 7-9 pm
Manchester - Friends Meeting House, Saturday 18 April, 11.30 am -1.30 pm
Luton - Wigmore Methodist/United Reformed Church, Monday 20 April, 6-8 pm
London - Shelter, Old Street, Tuesday 21 April, 6-8 pm
Perth - North Church, Wednesday 22 April, 6.30-8.30 pm
Cardiff - City United Reformed Church, Friday 24 April, 7-9 pm
London - Church House, Westminster, Wednesday 29 April, 3-5 pm

PUT PEOPLE FIRST: Pray and march for jobs, justice and climate - Saturday 28 March

On 2 April the leaders of 20 of the world's biggest economies meet in London to tackle the recession and global financial crisis. Even before the banking collapse, the world suffered poverty, inequality and the threat of climate chaos. Our future depends on creating an economy based on fair distribution of wealth, decent jobs for all and a low carbon world.

Come to London on 28 March to be part of the global campaign to challenge the G20 leaders.

Please support the ecumenical service at Central Hall, Westminster at 11.00 am (with music and worship from 10.30 am), before joining the march in Parliament Square en route for the rally in Hyde Park. Participants in the service include Joel Edwards (Micah Challenge), Richard Chartres (Bishop of London), Father Joe Komakoma (Secretary General of the Episcopal Conference, Zambia) and Christine Allen (Progressio).

Go to www.putpeoplefirst.org.uk for full information.

HOW WOULD RELIGION REGULATE FINANCIAL MARKETS? JustShare Debate

Tuesday 31 March, 1.05 pm at St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AU
What do Judaism, Islam and Christianity have to say about money and markets? What sorts of regulation would their teachings suggest, and why? Join the Rt Revd Peter Selby, former Bishop of Worcester and Deputy Chair of the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group, Mr Tarek El Diwany, partner at Islamic finance consultancy Zest Advisory LLP, and Zaki Cooper, previously adviser to Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sachs and currently Director of Business for New Europe, for this topical inter-faith debate. Chair: Claire Foster, Director of the Ethical Dimension and of the St Paul's Institute. Further details from Rachel Lindley (07732 014181; justshare@stmarylebow.org.uk). JustShare is a coalition of churches, agencies and other bodies committed to global development and social justice. www.justshare.org.uk

GOD AND GLOBAL WARMING - What Christians should do about climate change

Saturday 4 April, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Broadway, Morecambe

Main speaker: Mark Dowd (Operation Noah). The day will also include a choice of workshops, activities for children of primary age, and a performance of 'Degrees of Change', directed by David Ash for Drama Factory. Free but booking required. Download the booking form/ programme or contact Kathy Chandler (01524 425374; kathy@kasulu.org).

FAITH IN ACTION

Derby Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility have produced 'Faith in Action', a new community mission manual. It starts with the theology of community mission and an understanding of authentic church, goes through developing and communicating vision and planning to achieve it, to practical resources including fundraising, overcoming legal hurdles and developing appropriate structures and policies.

Available printed and bound in a loose-leaf folder, on CD and as a download. Go to www.faithinderbyshire.org for further details.

Contact

If you would like to receive the Joint Public Issues Team Newsletter, or would like to publicise an event or project, please contact Wendy Cooper, wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk; 020 7916 8632; address - URC, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT.