

MISSION FACTS

- More than 1 billion people worldwide have no access to clean drinking water, 2 billion have no access to electricity and 3 billion live without proper sanitation.
- In the mission lands, 1 child dies every 8 seconds from drinking contaminated water. That's 6,000 children daily.
- Many children die each day from preventable causes such as malaria, diarrhea, and respiratory illnesses. In Africa statistics show that per minute; 2 children die from Malaria, 1 woman dies from complications during pregnancy, 9 people become infected with HIV, and 3 people die of TB.
- Almost half of the people in the world live in severe poverty, living on less than \$2 per day.
- AIDS drugs cost \$40 per month in Uganda, but the government spends just \$7 per person per year on healthcare.
- The poorer the country, the more likely it is that debt repayments are being extracted directly from people who neither contracted the loans nor received any of the money.
- According to UNICEF, 30,000 children die each day due to poverty. And they "die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world."
- Worldwide, 2.2 million children die each year because they are not immunized and 15 million are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.
- The statistics fail to capture the humiliation, powerlessness, and daily brutal hardships of the impoverished people of the world.
- The statistics cited use children under 5 years of age. The numbers would be higher if children ages 6+ were included.

Websites for more info: www.globalissues.org, www.povertymap.net,
www.unicef.org, www.coc.org

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Despite the sad statistics of impoverished people, there are stories of great hope and courage thanks to the work of missionaries.
- Donate to the **Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)**. MCA provides food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and education for mission children worldwide. Young people are invited to pray and to offer financial help so that children in the Missions today may know Christ and experience His love and care.
- **DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF PRAYER.** Through your prayers and sacrifices, these poor children experience God's love and mercy and know of the hope offered through His Son, Jesus Christ. Pray the World Missions Rosary with your family and friends or say a daily Hail Mary (or daily prayer of some kind) for the suffering children and the missionaries who help them.
- Offer up sacrifices for the suffering children. Perhaps you can eat whatever may be on your plate, whether you like it or not, while considering the children around the world who have nothing to eat. Give up your favorite treat and give the money you would have spent to the Missions. Give up a day of TV or video games for the children who have no electricity.
- Considerations: Be conscious of your use of water for a day, considering how easy it is to get it from a faucet rather than having your mother or you walk miles to and from the closest river/well for your family's daily water supply. Show appreciation and respect for even the smallest things that your parents or caregivers do for you, considering that many of the poor children worldwide have no parents or have only one parent who has to care for many children.
- Be creative and think of ways you can make a difference through your prayers, sacrifices and financial support.

Lord, help us to follow the example of Jesus. Through our prayers and sacrifices, may we learn what it means to be faithful disciples. Help us to be missionaries to children around the world especially those who live in fear. And we pray that children everywhere will learn of Jesus' great love for them. Amen.