

## Prayer stations

### Kinnecting with God, fairtrade and economic justice for the global poor

*Use these kinaesthetic prayer stations to help people engage with general prayer for Fairtrade and economic justice for the global poor. Each one details what if any equipment you need to get together in advance, instructions for setting up, and the text for the instruction signs you will need to display – (simply copy and paste these into a word document, enlarging the font so that the instructions are clear enough to read).*

*Used together, the stations should take 50-60 minutes to work round, but if you have less time you can obviously leave out a couple. You can use them within an intercessions slot, have them set up as an installation for a special service or day of prayer where people can come and go independently and/or use them individually as prayer or intercession responses.*

*Most of the stations can be worked round in any order but 'Economics made easy?' needs to come first and 'Powerful players' last.*

*You might also like to use mp3 worship tracks of songs celebrating God's love for people, and his heart for the poor to create a playlist or CD to play in the background as people are moving round the stations. (If you're stuck for ideas, check out some of our songs, or use our 'Outward focused song index' at [www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet/songs](http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet/songs) )*

#### 1. Economics made easy?

**Equipment needed:** a small table that is safe and light enough to be turned over, a print out of the sheet of scripture refs provided at the end of this document, cut up into strips and placed in an unsealed envelope labelled 'Complex economic arguments?' and a print out of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

#### Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Get together all the items that you will need, prepare the envelope full of scripture ref strips and make a sign using the 'For display' text below.
2. On the day: Lay out the items and display a copy of the sign you have made.

#### For display:

#### Economics made easy?

- The words 'international economic systems' can make us feel powerless. That puts us in good company. Most of the world's poorest communities *are* powerless because of them.
- Some things are complex but their complexities can also be a smoke screen or an excuse sometimes which hides simple truths. It's simply not right – after all – for the rich to use their power to steal from the poor so they can become richer still. That reads pretty black and white doesn't it... and it's open to criticism from clever arguments. But it doesn't make it any less true...

- **Open the envelope marked 'Complex economic arguments' and take out one of the scriptures.** Read it several times till you absorb its meaning and thank God for its truth. Keep a hold of it because you are going to need it on your whistle-stop tour of some of the world's most unjust economic systems and practices...
- **Look at the table** and consider how Jesus turned over the tables in the temple... and how much this upset the ruling, religious authorities of the day... **turn it over** as a symbol that you are willing to stand for the things on his heart.
- **Dedicate this time to God and ask him to help you** see what he is wanting to show you, to guide your prayers, and to lead you to any actions he is asking you to take as a result.
- (And remember if you want to look into the complexities of all these systems after today, **there are plenty of books and organisations that can help you** understand them better.)

## 2. Taste the goodness

**Equipment needed:** Pictures, information and stories about Fairtrade downloaded from [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) or similar, Fairtrade goodies such as chocolate and/or dried fruit and a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

### Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Get together everything you need, source and print out the information about Fairtrade and make a sign using the 'For display' text below.
2. On the day: Lay out everything and display the sign and print out that you have created.

### For display:

- **Read the stories and statistics** about Fairtrade provided at this station.
- **Taste** some Fairtrade goodies and enjoy their sweetness: literally and symbolically – in terms of what they stand for.
- **Celebrate Fairtrade!** Read the scripture you brought with you from station 1 again. How is this deeper truth demonstrated by Fairtrade?
- **Thank God** for the idea of Fairtrade; for how much it has grown in popularity; and for the lives that have been changed as a result.
- **Pray for increased awareness** of its benefits and impact.
- **Pray blessing on** the Fairtrade Foundation and all the organisations and individuals involved in running co-operatives and securing living wages for poor communities.

## 3. Weighing up global trade

**Equipment needed:** old fashioned weighing scales, a considerable amount of small change, (optional) a film about trade such as 'Speak out and defend' available free from The Methodist Relief and Development Fund at [www.iotacourse.org](http://www.iotacourse.org) and the means to play it, a print out of the statistics provided in the 'To display at the station' text below and a print out of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

### Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Get together everything you need and make a print out sign using the 'For display' text below.
2. On the day: and display a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

**For display****Weighing up global trade**

- Global trade is conducted with crooked scales controlled by the powerful and stacked up against the poor. Fairtrade schemes are brilliant but wholesale scale change is needed if we are to free all poor communities from the trap that trade currently ends up being for the vast majority of them...
- **Watch the film or read the statistics provided** and allow some time for the statistics, and the reality of how the system our country benefits from to sink in.
- **Read the scripture** you brought with you from station 1 again. What deeper truth does it speak to the clever complexities of global trade?
- **Take some coins from the 'rich' side of the scales** and hold them in your hand. Ask God to challenge rich nations and international institutions to change their practices and policies.
- **Take a few moments** to consider how God might be asking you to speak up and defend the rights of poor communities who are suffering from the injustices of a system that's impossible to work with.
- **Place the coins on to the 'poor' side of the scales** and pray for a release of resources to poor communities and a rebalancing of global trade rules in their favour.

**To display at the station**

- Global trade is stacked against poor communities and nations – who desperately need it to build a better future for themselves...
- International trade is worth \$10 million a minute. Poor countries only account for 0.4% of this figure – half the share they had in 1980.
- Aid, debt relief and other things which look like rich countries are helping poorer nations often come with strings attached which force poorer nations to open their markets to cheap, foreign imports and/or to end subsidies for their own producers.
- This means they can't develop and grow their economies by protecting their markets – as rich nations and middle income countries have done previously – trapping poorer nations in poverty and making the rich even richer.

**4. Consuming or consumed?**

**Equipment needed:** pens and paper, print outs of advertising slogans/images which show the messages of consumerism, instant gratification and materialism and a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

**Instructions for setting up:**

1. In advance: Get together everything you need and make a sign using the 'For display' text below.
2. On the day: Lay out everything and display a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

**For display:****Consuming or consumed?**

- **Read the advertising slogans** and messages from our consumer culture. Many of them will be familiar to you...

- **Take a sheet of paper and a pen and write down** the things they, and our society as a whole, tells you that you 'deserve' or 'need'.
- Take a moment to reflect... who or what is really being consumed?
- Look at your list again. **Underline the things you really need to survive.**
- **Read the scripture** you brought with you from station 1 again. What deeper truth does it speak to the clever complexities of me-centred living and self-gratification... often at the expense of others – whether seen or unseen?
- Do you feel set free by what you own and what you want to buy? How do you feel about the fact that behind these products you buy or crave are powerful multi-national companies who are exploiting poor communities?
- **Take a moment to reflect...** who or what is really being consumed?
- **Ask for God's help** in being counter-cultural in our consumer society both for the sake of your own self-worth and identity in him, and for the sake of others who have less consumer choice but are still being consumed by materialism...

## 5. Clothed in mystery

**Equipment needed:** print outs of information about the clothing trade and trafficking available from [www.stopthetraffik.org](http://www.stopthetraffik.org) or similar, pens, print outs of the Tshirt template provided at the end of this document and a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

### Instructions for setting up:

3. In advance: Get together what you need, source and print out the information on trafficking and the clothing trade and make a sign using the 'For display' text below.
4. On the day: Lay out everything and display a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

### For display:

#### Clothed in mystery

- **Think about** the clothes and shoes you are wearing today.
- Do you remember where you bought them from? Do you know where they were made and who by?
- **Read the information** provided.
- **Read the scripture** you brought with you from station 1 again. What deeper truth does it speak to the clever complexities of unethical supply chains?
- **Pray for** the exposure of companies with immoral practices, an increased awareness in consumers about the issues, and an end to forced labour and sweat shops in our century.
- What shops do you normally buy clothes from? Do you know whether they have ethical supply chains?
- **Take a Tshirt** and as you hold it ask God to help you be wise and considered in your purchasing.
- **Make a note** of the retailers you thought of on your Tshirt and take this away with you to remind you to ask some questions of these retailers...

## 6. Reverse Robin Hood syndrome

**Equipment needed:** some cash (you can use monopoly money, but a meaningful amount of real money – such as £30 – will be more effective), print outs of some information about tax injustice from [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) or similar and a print out of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

**Instructions for setting up:**

1. In advance: Get together everything you need, source and print out the information about tax injustice and make a sign using the 'For display' text below.
2. On the day: Lay out everything and display a copy of the sign you have created using the 'For display' text below.

**For display:****Reverse Robin Hood syndrome**

- **Take the money in your hands for a moment** and imagine you have just been given it.
- How do you feel? What might you spend this cash on? How would it make a difference to your day?
- Now **imagine** you go ahead and spend it, feeling thankful for the difference it has made.... only to discover the very same person who gave it to you has hacked into your bank account and taken out three times as much.
- How do you feel?
- Tax injustice can sound complicated and difficult to think about but it comes down to this statistic... poor countries **lose out on what's owed to them in tax** by companies using their resources to the tune of **three times what they received in aid**. It's robbing from the poor to give the rich more.
- **Read the scripture** you brought with you from station 1 again. What deeper truth does it speak to the clever complexities of tax havens?
- **Praise God** that the practices of international companies have begun to come under scrutiny in this area and **pray for** more awareness and – crucially – regulations and reforms to be put in place by the international community.

**7. Hot air help**

**Equipment needed:** balloons, felt tip pens, print outs of information about the history of poor countries' debt, the benefits of debt relief and the complexities of conditions that are attached and cause more problems from [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk) and a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

**Instructions for setting up:**

1. In advance: Get together everything you need, source and print out the information about debt relief and make a sign using the 'For display' text below.
2. On the day: Display the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

**For display:****Hot air help**

- **Pick up a deflated balloon** and imagine for a moment that it represents a poor nation, devoid of resources.
- **Blow a small amount of air into the balloon and pinch it together...** It looks better off now right?
- Many poor countries are indebted to rich nations because of loans that were given to them. Of course they looked like help, but they often had damaging conditions attached which prevented them from growing. And of course these nations were also then left with money to pay back – often with interest – that they couldn't afford.
- **Let the air out of your balloon.**

- The Jubilee Debt Campaign gained massive momentum in the lead up to the millennium and continues its brilliant work today. It has secured debt relief for many countries and is campaigning for more.
- **Blow some more air** into your balloon and pinch it together again. Looking better again now right?
- Read the information provided that shows just how complex even debt relief has become.
- Praise God for the good things that have been done.
- Then read the scripture you brought with you from station 1 again. What deeper truth does it speak to the clever complexities of how rich countries are *still* squeezing the life out of poor nations by attaching conditions to debt relief too...
- **Allow the air out of your balloon again.**
- **Blow your balloon up one final time – properly this time – and knot it.** Use a pen to write your prayers for more and fairer debt cancellation onto your balloon, perhaps listing some of the benefits poor nations could finally begin to see if they were given a truly fresh start.

## 8. Powerful players

**Equipment needed:** Laptop, ipad or similar, pens and paper a copy of the 'To display at the station text' and a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

### Instructions for setting up:

3. In advance: Get together everything you need together and create a sign using the 'For display' text below.
4. On the day: Lay out everything and display a copy of the sign you have made using the 'For display' text below.

### For display:

#### Powerful players

- Read the scripture you brought with you from station 1 one final time and **reflect back** on all the different stations you have visited, and all the different economic systems and injustices you have prayed about... **Fairtrade, global trade rules, tax, debt relief, consumerism, unethical trading...** what stands out to you?
- **Offer God your pain**, questions and frustrations at the scale and complexity of the problem versus the simple truth of right and wrong which you know underpins it all and ask for his help.
- **Praise God** that he is more powerful than every corrupt and unjust system and pray for his help for all affected, and his guidance on all with influence.
- Remember that **you are a powerful player in global economics!** You are a consumer with the power to choose, purchase, boycott and complain... **praise God that he has given you resources and a voice** and ask him to help you use these to bring justice to poor communities.
- Take a few moments to make a '**shopping list**' to take away to remind you of anything you'd like to do differently or explore more as a result of today... for example do you want to buy more Fairtrade products, review where you shop or how much you buy?
- Remember you have access to influence powerful players who write the rules and devise complex economic systems that make and keep people poor. **Praise God** that he has given you a voice and ask him to help you get heard. **Pray for wisdom and a softening of hearts** in politicians, international institutions and big businesses.

- Take a few minutes to decide **if there's someone you want to write to and/or a particular issue you would like to sign up with a campaigning organisation to take action on....** use the details provided to decide what you want to do and start now, or jot down on the other side of your shopping list any details you need so you can follow this up later.
- Thank God for the space and time to explore these issues today. Thank him for the opportunity to learn more of his truth and to be part of bringing change and ask him to help you find the balance that he is leading you into in your life.

**To display at the station**

Useful websites for you to look at include:

[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)

[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

[www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

[www.stophetraffic.org.uk](http://www.stophetraffic.org.uk)

[www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

[www.waronwant.org.uk](http://www.waronwant.org.uk)

[www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)

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