

JUSTICE

..EACH PASSING YEAR
BRINGS US CLOSER TO
THE REALIZATION THAT
OUR PRESENT WAY
CANNOT LAST MUCH
LONGER. IF THE SHIFT
TO A NEW MODE OF
EXISTENCE IS TO TAKE
PLACE VOLUNTARILY, &
NONCATASTROPHICALLY
MUCH WORK NEEDS
TO BE DONE.

GEORGE LEONARD

**If you want peace,
work for justice.**
POPE PAUL VI

A few of the world's unmet needs

- 500 million people in developing countries are chronically malnourished
- 1.4 billion of the world's people lack access to an uncontaminated water supply
- 700 million (1 in 4 adults) are handicapped by illiteracy; two-thirds of these are women
- 200 million people world wide are unemployed
- 75,000 people a day are migrating to dangerously overcrowded cities
- 500 million children of school age have no access to education
- world military expenditures are 8% greater than all government spending on education; they equal twice the amount spent on health services
- total annual US food aid to the whole world is less than the cost of one Trident submarine
- the annual budget of the UN and its Specialized Agencies equals the amount spent for armaments world wide in two days
- the amount spent by WHO over 10 years to eradicate malaria is \$83 million, less than the cost of one strategic bomber

Due to the nation's economic decline, over one million poor Egyptian squatters live in mausoleums in cemeteries on the outskirts of Cairo. The government now lists "tomb" as an official housing category.

More Colombians die from diseases caused by U.S. tobacco products than do Americans from Colombian cocaine.
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR WORLD HEALTH

The Nicaraguan government owns one eighth of its country's land. The U.S. government owns a full third of its land. HARPER'S

One in every four children in the U.S. are poor—half of all black children, one-third of all Hispanic children, and one-sixth of all white children.

PORTRAIT OF POOR

In November last year the U.S. Census Bureau reported that 33.1 million Americans, 14% of the total, were poor in 1985. And do not blame it on unemployment. In 1986, 41.5 percent of all people over the age of 14 had a job. The "working poor" is the fastest growing segment of the population—8.9 million in 1986, compared with 6.5 million in 1979. The number of full-time, year-round workers who are poor has increased from 1.36 million in 1976 to 2 million in 1986.

But as always, children are the poorest. In 1986, 20.5 percent of all American children lived below the poverty line.

And the poor, also as always, get poorer. Adjusted for inflation, the amount by which the incomes of the poor fell below the poverty line rose to \$49.2 billion in 1986, from \$39.5 billion in 1980.

For whom the bell tolls

At current rates, 1 out of every 21 black men and 1 out of every 131 white men will be a victim of homicide during their lifetimes. One in 104 black women and 1 in 369 white women can also expect to be killed.

—From Bureau of Justice Statistics
Special Report, May 1985

There are
mighty,
sometimes
monolithic
and over-
powering,
forces that
block the
way
between
God's will
and the cry
of the poor
for justice.

Who Are the Poor

By governmental definition, a family is poor if it is unable to purchase the necessities of life. What does the definition mean?

It means that, as a mother and father awaken in the morning, there is not enough food in the house to feed their children, not enough clothes for their children to wear against the winter, no money to call a doctor if their children are lying sick in the next room. But to be poor involves an injury much more profound than lack of money. It means a mother and father lying in bed at night unable to sleep, unable to think another thought because their minds are exhausted, trapped, terrified of the emptiness of the approaching day. It means that they are marginal people. They no longer participate in economic, social or political life. Their sense of human dignity has been violated. They no longer count, but are counted.

There are 33 million Americans who are poor. Another 20 to 30 million Americans have so little that, by any measure, they are in need. Between 1979 and 1983 the poor in this nation increased by more than 9 million. In the next ten years nearly 25 percent of Americans will be in poverty at sometime and will receive welfare benefits in at least one year. And no one should have trouble identifying with the poor because he is white. Two-thirds of the poor of this nation are white.

—Justice Francis T. Murphy

STARVATION IS GOD'S
WAY OF PUNISHING
THOSE WHO HAVE
LITTLE OR NO FAITH
IN CAPITALISM...

A Hand Up,
Not a Handout.
Help the Poor
Help Themselves.

A revolution is coming - a revolution which will be peaceful if we are wise enough; compassionate if we care enough; successful if we are fortunate enough-but a revolution which is coming whether we will it or not. We can affect its character; we cannot alter its inevitability.

-Robert F. Kennedy

I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down other-centered can build up. I still believe that we shall overcome.

MARTIN LUTHER KING

Let them eat moon-shots!

-Isaac Asimov, updating Marie Antoinette



A million hogs in
Indiana have
superior housing
to a billion
humans on this
planet.

Richard Foster

"It is necessary and urgent to abandon inconsiderate forms of domination, capture and custody with respect to all creatures."
—Pope John Paul II

Respecting Life Means Fighting Social Sins of Our Times

Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has, and it never will.

How Will the Poor Survive?

In this world it rains on the Just and the Unjust alike, but the Unjusts have the Justs' umbrellas.

“A society which reverences the attainment of riches as the supreme felicity will naturally be disposed to regard the poor as damned in the next world, if only to justify itself for making their life a hell in this.”

●No Christian has a right to the luxury of contentment when he knows that poverty, hunger and disease are rampant in his neighborhood, nation and world.

-Harry Emerson Fosdick

●Anyone who proposes to call America to repentance and does not address the idolatries of militarism and nationalism is not calling America to repentance.

-Frances H. Epp

I Keep Hoping

Lord, I keep hoping

that minorities will be a little more patient
that the poor will get some ambition
that inflation

will not ruin anybody's retirement
(especially mine)

that the Eskimos will move off our oil fields
like the Indians did

that the Indians will stop being bitter
that you will bless everyone in this country.

Lord, I keep hoping

that John Wayne will run for president
that you will straighten out this country
that the silent majority and the vocal minority

will shut up so I can get some rest
that you will make us all live in harmony.

Lord, I keep hoping

that I can get along without you
that I will never go without the things I need
that you will bless me
that I won't have to get too involved

that you will call on someone else
to do what needs to be done.

Lord, I keep hoping

that war will go away
that we will stop killing each other
that we will stop hating each other
that you will make us love one another.

Please.

Amen.

John Ferree

Sirs:

I just figured out why Reagan has
been making life so shitty for the poor.
Because if it was fun, everybody would
want to be poor. Then what would
happen to Haagen-Dazs?

Muffy Beastwick
East Hampton, N.Y.

*'The first
thing we
can say
about the
direction
of this
nation is
that we
must
change it.'*

— Gov. Mario Cuomo

Give justice to
the weak and the
fatherless; main-
tain the right
of the afflicted
and the destitute.
Rescue the weak
and the needy;
deliver them
from the hand of
the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4

Social Issues

Genesis 1

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15

Job 38:4-7

Psalms 33:6-9

Psalms 19

Romans 8:19-21

Revelation 21:1

Revelation 22:1-2

1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans

13:1-7; Luke 12:11-12;

20:24-25

Acts 5:27-29

Isaiah 10:1-3

Isaiah 58:6-7

Amos 5:21-24

Micah 6:8

Galatians 3:26-28

"And God saw that it was good. . . ."

Care for the earth.

"The morning stars sang together. . . ."

The word of the Lord and Creation.

"The heavens are telling. . . ."

Creation will be set free.

". . . a new heaven and a new earth."

". . . for the healing of the nations."

Attitudes toward civil authority.

"Obey God rather than men."

Injustice condemned.

A true fast: free the oppressed,
share with the hungry and homeless.

". . . but let justice roll down like
waters."

". . . justice . . . kindness . . . and walk
humbly."

". . . neither Jew nor Greek, neither
slave nor free, neither male nor
female . . . all one in Christ Jesus."

*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of
these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

MATT. 25:40

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat:

I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

I was a stranger, and ye took me not in:

naked, and ye clothed me not:

sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

MATT. 25:42-3

The road to holi-
ness necessarily
passes through
the world of
action.

Dag Hammarskjöld

Where do seeds of hope lie when
the earth is covered with blood?

I LOVE MY COUNTRY, BUT

O God, I love my country.
But my pride does not hide my discontent.
We have too easily forgotten
that your love and truth molded the men
who shaped our nation's ideals
of freedom, justice and equality.

While we condemn the atheist enemy who denies
you.
many of us ignore you.

While we grow fat with the luxury living
of our prosperous economy,
we cringe at the pleas of poverty.

While we shout our slogans of freedom and
equality,
we push aside minorities,
we silence the voices of honest dissent,
and we nurture our own deep-rooted prejudices.

While we design computers
to decipher our complex,
fast-changing, scientific world,
we are soothed by easy answers.

While we boast
of a country governed by the people,
we are stifled by the apathy
of its good citizens.

O God, help me to know what is right
Nourish the love within me
that I may extend my hand
to those who disturb me most.

HERMAN C. AHRENS, JR.

**“Liberty is the only thing
you cannot have unless you
are willing to give it to
others.”**

William Allen White (1868-1944)