

# MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY



**‘Grand Regional Launch Meeting’**

**Wednesday 2nd March, at 7.30 pm**

*North East*

**Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building, University of Newcastle  
(opposite Haymarket Metro)**

*Guest of Honour*

**His Excellency Mr H. O. G. Kibelloh,  
High Commissioner for the United Republic of Tanzania**

*Speakers*

**Sir Colin Lucas, former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University  
Chris Bain, Director of CAFOD.**

*Co-sponsored by*

**University of Newcastle, Newcastle City Council, Diocese of Newcastle and the TUC**

**Aid and campaigning agencies, faith groups, trade unions and celebrities, uniting under the banner ‘MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY’, have ambitious plans for 2005, forging the most powerful coalition against absolute poverty the world has ever known. Its international symbol is the white arm band.**

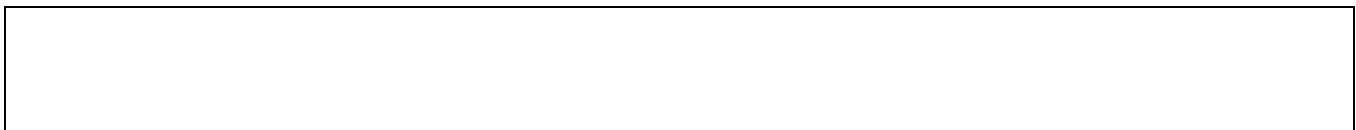
Britain will host the G8 meeting of world leaders this year, for the first time since Birmingham in 1998, and assumes the presidency of the EU. In the Autumn, the UN holds a summit to mark a ten year countdown to the Millennium Development Goals. All in all, this will be a year of unprecedented opportunity for us to change our world – a world where poverty kills 30,000 people every day, and ruins the lives of thousands of millions. We know we can make a difference, because we have already started to do so (see page 3).



Above right: ‘*Terrible as an army with banners*’, 400 women clergy led by ‘The Vicar of Dibley’, Dawn French, besieged Downing Street in support of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** on 13<sup>th</sup> January. Those shown here include Revd Judith Morgan, Canon Caroline Dick and Revd Elaine Scrivens from the Diocese of Durham, and of course, the ‘Irreverent Rev.’.

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY - please don't abbreviate it ☺ - is calling on our leaders to:**

**Change the trade rules - Cancel poor country debt - Deliver more and better aid**



Historic National Gathering to  
**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**

**Edinburgh, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2005**

**Coaches booked for 1,000 people!  
From every major town and city in the North East!**

The North East is right in the 'front line' for the great national gathering in central Edinburgh on 2nd July - if we can't make a major contribution to this, who can? So be part of it, whether you're a veteran of Birmingham, Cologne and Genoa, or have never stood with us before!

**This will be a peaceful, good humoured and fun occasion – all our rallies have been just that. The world leaders don't arrive until the following weekend and, even then, they will be at Gleneagles, hundreds of miles away, so there will be nothing at all about our event to invite trouble. Of course, nothing in life is 100% risk-free but, realistically, there is more reason for concern about road accidents, than about trouble in Edinburgh! However, the event is perfectly timed and placed to influence public and political opinion.**



*Right: NE campaigners in Cologne, where we won our first major victory.*

Book early yourself; tell everyone about it; and bring a party of family and friends

**Book by 'phone and credit card (£15.30): Classic Coaches, tel. 01 207 282 225**

**By post and cheque (£15): Classic Coaches, Morrison Road, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, Co. Durham, DH9 7RX**

**Participants must be 18 or over, unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult**

***Provisional Start Places and Times***

Alnwick	8.30 am	Durham	7.30 am	Newcastle	8.00 am
Barnard Castle	6.30 am	Gateshead	8.00 am	Stockton	7.00 am
Berwick	9.15 am	Hartlepool	7.00 am	Sunderland	7.30 am
Bishop Auckland	7.00 am	Hexham	8.00 am	Washington	8.00 am
Chester Le Street	7.30 am	Middlesborough	7.00 am	Whitley Bay	8.00 am
Cramlington	8.00 am				
Darlington	7.00 am	Morpeth	8.30 am		

Leave Edinburgh at 1700-1800hrs provisionally, back in North East late Saturday evening

***This is ridiculous!***

The Northumberland Sailing Club is said to have a budget of £250,000, which sounds fair enough. But consider: Jubilee Debt Campaign UK has just won 100 million pounds p.a. for the world's poor and if we get other countries on board, that amount will increase 15-fold in the future. Meanwhile, it can barely scrape together £150,000 p.a., whilst the (2.5) great young people that staff it are pushed to and beyond the limit. Is this not ridiculous? Please support JDC-UK financially during 2005 and beyond, and help us see this through.

# What Wonderful News!

*- from Gordon Brown*

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, members of the JDC national board received this email, "**Wow, what wonderful news! We're celebrating here** (at CAFOD, the Catholic aid agency) **as you must be there.**" It's true, everyone was doing just that – after pinching themselves to check they were not dreaming!

On the previous day, when thousands had gathered in Brighton to press for Trade Justice, the Chancellor had announced that Britain was calling for debt relief for some of the poorest countries. The British Government (a) committed itself to meeting its 'share' of the payments made to the World Bank by many of the poorest countries and (b) proposed that the write-off of debts owed to the IMF should be funded from its gold reserves. It's taken us eight long years of campaigning to bring them round to our point of view, but better late than never!

## Jubilee Debt Campaign says 'Thank You!'

**"Campaigners are warmly thanked for all their efforts. There's more campaigning to be done before 100% of all unpayable poor country debts are written off by all creditors, including the UK. But Gordon Brown's announcement is a real step forward and holds out real hope that, with continued public pressure, some debt could be dropped at the 2005 G8 in Scotland."**

**There is, indeed, "more campaigning to be done"!** Most urgently, we have to persuade them to change the doctrinaire and damaging conditions attached to debt relief (conditions are good – *their* conditions are an utter disgrace). **And** we've got to press for all poor countries to be included, for example, Nigeria and Bangladesh. **And** we've got to help shame the other members of the G8 into coming on board!

## 'Breakfast with Blair'

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, a group of debt and trade campaigners met with the Prime Minister in his constituency in Trimdon, Co. Durham. [Security was deliciously... *British*, and all the better for that!] Contrary to our fears, 'spin' was conspicuous by its absence. The PM's opening remarks lasted only a few minutes, after which there was ample opportunity for many campaigners to make their views known and to hear Mr Blair's candid reactions. Furthermore, the PM did not attempt to disguise his concern at the strength of the opposition to the Government's stance. This is centred on the issue of economic '*liberalisation*', which relates to both debt relief and trade justice.

David Golding and Michael Faulkner were subsequently encouraged by Mr Blair's office to submit a one-page briefing for him, to try to resolve misconceptions and explore pathways to convergence. [See box, right.]

## 'Briefing for Blair'

"Liberalisation is not being managed for the benefit of the people in less developed countries, but has, on the contrary, brought abject and agonising poverty to countless millions. For example, having already cut subsidies, etc., Senegal was forced by the IMF in 2001 to withdraw all state support from groundnut production, as a condition for debt relief. This precipitated a major collapse and, since most of the rural population is dependent on the crop, the government had to provide a multimillion pound relief programme to stave off widespread starvation... Speaking of the IMF's liberalisation agenda, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, former Chief Economist of the World Bank, says '*the net effect has been too often to benefit... the well off at the expense of the poor*'. Mr Blair, is this your idea of 'managed liberalisation'?"

(Copy of full text available from David Golding)

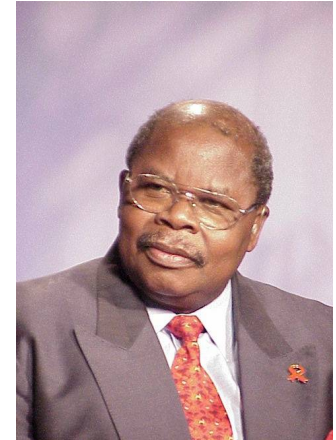
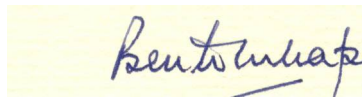
# What Wonderful News!

*- from President Mkapa of Tanzania*

“When I became President in 1995... one of my first priorities was to ask for debt relief: you were among my greatest partners in that campaign. As promised, this [relief] was directed to the priority sectors in education, health, water, rural roads and HIV/AIDS.

“[For example,] the primary school population has increased by 66%, we have built 45,000 classrooms and recruited 37,250 new teachers... We believe the goal of universal primary education can be attained in 2006, 9 years ahead of the 2015 target!

“You in Jubilee Debt Campaign UK have every reason to share with us the satisfaction with these successes... [However] much more can be done with total debt cancellation. On to the Jubilee!!”



[Note: President Mkapa will address JDC's Annual Conference in London on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Please book with JDC.]

## Run to MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY in 2005



Our team of nearly 60 in the Great North Run gave great publicity to the debt and trade campaigns, and raised sponsorship money of nearly £12,000, most of it for aid agencies of their choice, for the prevention of HIV and the care of AIDS sufferers and orphans. Our warmest congratulations to our intrepid runners and sincere thanks to their sponsors.

*Left: The 'Edwards duo', Professor Christopher and Jonathan, two of JDC's Patrons, meet team members.*

The Great North Run will be the NE's unique contribution to the campaign in 2005 and our T-shirts will be blazoned with the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** logo. Why not join our team and be part of it!

## From the Coordinator: *Is this our time?*

**“We are the inheritors of a long struggle for justice. When Wilberforce was fighting against slavery, it was the time. When Martin Luther King was marching against racism, it was the time. When as young students we danced against apartheid, it was the time. Now we have recognised the oppression of the debt crisis. We are going to tackle this injustice with all our might. So we cannot stop.”**

**(Farai Siyachitema Maruza)**