



“Mission is service, a call to help people in need and to permeate all of life with the compassion of God.” Living Faith 9.1.3

In November 2009 we asked for your help on three issues: HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction in Canada and climate change. ***Thank you for your work!*** Here’s what’s happened since November 2009...

A REMINDER

In November 2009...

HIV/AIDS

In 2004 Parliament unanimously passed “Canada’s Access to Medicines Regime” (CAMR). The legislation was designed to provide countries in the global South access to generic, less expensive, versions of patent-protected medicines to fight diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, the procedures that regulate CAMR are so cumbersome that medicines have only left Canada once, to one country, in five years. **In November** we asked you to write to Senator Michael Meighen in support of Bill S-232, and your MP in support of private members’ Bill C-393. The proposed legislation is designed to streamline CAMR.



POVERTY REDUCTION IN CANADA

November 24, 2009 marked the twentieth year since parliamentarians unanimously voted to end child poverty in Canada by 2000. Currently, one in ten Canadian children live in poverty. Seven provincials governments are working to reduce poverty. National leadership is needed. **In November** we asked you to contact your MP asking for a national leadership to reduce poverty in Canada.

UPDATE

Hold down the Ctrl key and click the underlined text to follow the URL link.

HIV/AIDS

The Government of Canada stated that it’s too soon to gauge how effective (or not) the CAMR has been and so any amendments are premature.

- Private members’ Bill C-393 passed second reading! It will be referred to a House of Commons Committee for detailed study. The Committee will report back on their findings in this new session of Parliament. We are one step closer to amending CAMR.
- Senate Bill S-232 died on the order papers when Parliament was prorogued.

Poverty

- A Senate Committee published a 300 page report entitled “In from the margins: a call to action on poverty, housing and homelessness.” It suggests several ways the federal government can help reduce poverty in Canada.
- Before the December 2009 prorogation of Parliament, a House of Commons Committee was conducting a study on a role for the federal government in reducing poverty. It is unclear if this work will continue in the new session.
- Citizens for Public Justice is running the Dignity for All campaign. Please sign the petition!



CLIMATE CHANGE

The Kyoto Protocol is the only internationally negotiated policy to mitigate climate change. The Protocol concludes in 2012. In December 2009 the international community met in Copenhagen to negotiate a new agreement. **In November** we asked you to sign the Kyotoplus petition, and encourage the Government of Canada to show positive leadership at the Copenhagen meeting.



Climate Change

- Over 150,000 people signed the Kyoto plus petitions. There were 14,000 signatures from KAIROS member churches, including us! Thank you!
- A non-binding agreement was struck at the Copenhagen meeting.

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