



evangelicalsfordarfur

A campaign of Sojourners/Call to Renewal in partnership with the Save Darfur Coalition

Congregational Toolkit

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Evangelicals for Darfur

- Who We Are, Why We Act
- Background on the Crisis in Darfur
(from the Save Darfur Coalition)
- The Evangelicals for Darfur Advertisement
- How Do I Sign Up?
- Recruiting Others

Weekend of Prayer & Action for Darfur

- What You and Your Church Can Do

Worship Resources

- Suggested Scripture References
- Sample Sermon
- Prayers for Darfur

An Offering of Action

- Explanation & Message
- Call Cards

Learning More & Staying Involved

- Resources to Educate & Engage

Appendix

- List of Evangelicals for Darfur Endorsers

Who We Are and Why We're Acting **NOW**

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did for me.’”

—Matthew 25:40

This campaign is an urgent effort to bring an immediate end to the genocide in Darfur. In numerous conversations in recent weeks and months, evangelical leaders have discovered profound unity on this crisis. Believing that God was calling us to act, a number of us began talking about how we could respond together to this call. Those conversations led us, in partnership with the Save Darfur Coalition, to create **Evangelicals for Darfur**, a campaign that brings together and lifts up the voices of evangelical Christians to call for an end to the senseless suffering in Darfur.

We are calling this effort **Evangelicals for Darfur** not to exclude any other faith groups, but to recognize the special impact evangelical Christians – from across the political spectrum – can have on this crisis.

A broad and diverse group of evangelical leaders was eager to be a part of this project, and we hope you are, too. You may have seen the full-page Evangelicals for Darfur ads that ran recently in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and a host of other national and regional newspapers. (See a copy of the ad on page 4 of this toolkit.) Those ads were only the beginning of what we hope and pray will be a true tipping point in the world’s response to this horrific crisis.

In a preliminary conversation between Jim Wallis and Richard Land about this effort, Dr. Land said, “Jim, if people see evangelical leaders like you and me speaking together on this issue, it could light a fire in America and give the president the power to do what he would really like to do.” In the midst of our painful awareness of the lives being lost every day in Darfur, we continue to hope and pray that Dr. Land’s words will prove to be true.

We are excited to be joining with you, your family, and your church in this important effort. In the following pages, you’ll learn how you can unite your prayers and actions with thousands of other evangelical Christians around the country to help make a life-saving difference for our brothers and sisters in Darfur.

We are deeply encouraged by the broad spectrum of Christians that are speaking out together on this issue. For we know that in matters of life and death, there is no left or right, there is only right and wrong.

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” —Luke 10:36-37

BACKGROUND on the Crisis in Darfur

Since 2003, Darfur in Western Sudan has been embroiled in a deadly conflict. At least 400,000 people have been killed; more than 2 million people have been forced to flee their homes and now live in displaced-persons camps in Sudan or in refugee camps in neighboring Chad; and more than 3.5 million people are completely reliant on international aid for survival.

Sudanese armed forces and Sudanese government-backed militia known as “Janjaweed” have been fighting two rebel groups in Darfur, the Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The stated political aim of the rebels has been to compel the government of Sudan to address underdevelopment and the political marginalization of the region. In response, the Sudanese government’s regular armed forces and the Janjaweed – largely composed of fighters of Arab nomadic background – have targeted civilian populations and ethnic groups from which the rebels primarily draw their support – the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa.

The people of Darfur experience horrendous crimes, including the mass rape of women and girls, burning of homes and religious buildings, killing of babies, and other atrocities. The main perpetrators of these atrocities have been the Sudanese-government-sponsored Janjaweed militias, who have often operated with direct help from the Sudanese military. Infighting among the various rebel groups and factions has also taken a damaging toll. Not since the Rwandan genocide of 1994 has the world seen such a calculated campaign of displacement, starvation, rape, and mass slaughter. In fact, the only thing keeping the death rates in Darfur from skyrocketing is the presence of one of the most elaborate humanitarian aid systems the world has ever seen.

Unfortunately, that aid network is now coming under attack as well. In July of 2006 alone, more aid workers were killed than in the previous three years combined. Aid workers have also frequently been arrested by the Sudanese government. If the aid network collapses due to violence, the monthly death rate in Darfur could top 100,000, according to Jan Egeland, U.N. Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs.

The men, women, and children of Darfur are being deprived of their humanity. Many of them have lost their homes, communities, families, and dreams for the future. Their government continues to deny that they need international protection, even as thousands more are displaced by government-backed attacks. Those who escape the initial attacks contend daily with the constant threat of further violence and the ever-present specters of disease and starvation. Since the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement on May 5, 2006, things have actually gotten worse, and the possibility of a dramatic increase in death rates looks increasingly real. **These families need our support, and we can’t afford to wait any longer.**

The international community must approve and deploy a strong United Nations peacekeeping force for Darfur. This will take significant leadership from President Bush and the U.N. Security Council, and significant contributions from all nations able to help get the force off the ground. The Sudanese government is resisting the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force in Sudan, claiming that such a force would violate the nation’s sovereignty. But only a U.N. force will have the resources necessary to protect civilians and allow aid workers to do their jobs. **Let us stand together with the people of Darfur by lending our prayers, our support, and our voices to their plight.**

Without you, Mr. President, Darfur doesn't have a prayer.



Darfur refugee, 2006

We come to you from across the evangelical spectrum. We beseech you to act on your faith and do the right thing in leading the world to bring an end to the genocide affecting “the least of these” in Darfur. To date, over 400,000 people have been killed. 2.5 million displaced. Countless more raped, maimed and tortured. Men, women and children created in God’s image. Ending the atrocities will require your personal leadership in supporting the deployment of a strong U.N. peacekeeping force and multilateral economic sanctions. While we often disagree on matters of politics, we are united in the belief that your leadership can make the critical difference in Darfur. We join together now to urge you, in the words of Proverbs 24:11-12, to “rescue those being led away to death.” We pledge to do everything we can to rally support in both Congress and in the U.N. to uphold your efforts in bringing the horror in Darfur to an end.

.....
Rev. Rob Bell, Founding Pastor, Mars Hill Bible Church, author of *Violet Eklis*
Bishop Charles Blake, Pastor, West Angeles Church of God in Christ, Founder, Save Africa’s Children
Dr. Tony Campolo, Baptist evangelist and international speaker
Rev. Rich Cizik, Vice President for Government Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals
Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr., President, Esperanza USA
Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary, Reformed Church in America.
Rev. Ted Haggard, President, National Association of Evangelicals
Rev. Dr. Roberta Hestenes, Pastor, Community Presbyterian Church, former President, Eastern University
Dr. Joel Hunter, President, Christian Coalition of America
Rev. Bill Hybels, Pastor, Willow Creek Church, leader of Willow Creek Association
Bishop Harry Jackson, President, High Impact Leadership Coalition

Dr. Richard Land, President, Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
Rev. Brian McLaren, author, leader in emerging church
David Neff, Editor & Vice President, *Christianity Today*
Dr. Glenn R. Palmberg, President, Evangelical Covenant Church
Dr. Bob Roberts, Jr., Founding Pastor, NorthWood Church
Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, Jr., President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
Rev. Dr. William J. Shaw, President, National Baptist Convention, USA
Dr. Ron Sider, Founder and President, Evangelicals for Social Action
Rev. Geoff Tunnicliffe, International Director, World Evangelical Alliance
Rev. Jim Wallis, President, Sojourners/Call to Renewal, author of *God’s Politics*
Rev. Gloria E. White-Hammond, MD, Co-Founder, My Sister’s Keeper
Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, President, Skinner Leadership Institute
Lauren Winner, author and Visiting Lecturer, Duke Divinity School

.....
EVANGELICALS FOR DARFUR

To sign the ad and take action go to www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org

**I am an evangelical Christian.
I am concerned about the suffering of
millions of God's children in Darfur.
I support the message of the
Evangelicals for Darfur, and
I want to add my voice!**

Why Do I Sign Up?

As people of faith, we have a unique role to play in generating the personal, congregational, and societal energy necessary to empower President Bush to lead boldly in bringing an end to the horror in Darfur.

How Do I Sign Up?

The first thing to do, if you haven't already done so, is to **add your name** to the growing list of Evangelicals for Darfur. You can do this online by signing up at www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org. Signing up means you believe that the violence against God's children in Darfur needs to stop. It also means that you commit to do your part – through prayer and action – to help bring peace to this suffering land.

Recruiting Others

Once you've signed on, it's time to encourage your friends, family, and church to join with you and other evangelical Christians across the nation in speaking out against the genocide in Darfur.

- 1** Recruit others by directing them to the Evangelicals for Darfur Web site. At www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org, you can do so by clicking on the Tell-A-Friend page.
- 2** Spread the word at your church about this effort. You can do so during the announcements, during coffee hour, or by inserting a message into the worship bulletin.
- 3** Contact your church's worship and social ministry teams to ask them to make Darfur a priority in the church's ongoing ministry and prayer life.

Weekend of Prayer & Action for Darfur

On Sunday, December 10, Christians across the country and around the world will unite in prayer and action for the people of Darfur. Earlier that weekend, people of other faith traditions will be remembering and speaking out against this deadly conflict, too.

What You and Your Church Can Do

The plan is to get as many churches as possible to do two things on December 10:

- 1 Pray:** incorporate Darfur into your Sunday worship service. The following pages are full of resources to help you.
- 2 Act:** Ask your congregation to commit together to taking a simple but powerful action: make two phone calls. One call will be to the White House, asking President Bush to boldly lead the international community in doing what it takes to stop the genocide in Darfur. The other call will be to one friend, asking him or her to join Evangelicals for Darfur and to make a similar call to the president.

The Save Darfur Coalition is keeping track of how many churches will be praying and acting together for Darfur on December 10. Please let us know that your church will be participating! Sign up at www.savedarfur.org/efd.

The late Illinois Senator Paul Simon said:

“If every member of the House and Senate had received 100 letters from people back home saying we have to do something about [the genocide in] Rwanda, when the crisis was first developing [in 1994], then I think the response would have been different.”

TODAY, let us send a message to the president, hundreds of times over, telling him that we believe our shared Christian faith compels him to do everything in his power to bring an end to the genocide in Darfur.

Worship Resources:

Suggested Scripture References

The Bible is full of passages and stories reminding us that our Christian faith compels us to act on behalf of the suffering people of Darfur.

Proverbs 24:11-12

Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?

Isaiah 2:3-4

"Come, let us go up the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Isaiah 58:9-12

If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called repairer of broken walls, restorer of streets and dwellings.

Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be

pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Proverbs 3:27

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.

Luke 21:15

For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

James 3:17-18

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see

Scripture References (cont.)

you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” And the king will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did for me.” Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.” They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?” He will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

James 2:15-17

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Luke 10:25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Worship Resources

Sample Sermon

(courtesy of the Save Darfur Coalition)

What if God is One of Us?

Luke 10:25-37

First delivered August 8, 2004

*By Rev. Dr. Roy Howard, Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
pastor@saintmarkpresby.org*

Let us begin with a confession. We have heard the story of the Good Samaritan so many times that we can hardly hear it again without daydreaming through the telling. We shudder to hear one more sermon on it. Hasn't everything been said that can possibly be said about the poor man lying on the side of the road, the callous cold-hearted religious and civic leaders who pass him by muttering their weak excuses, and the unexpected, shocking hero, the Good Samaritan, the outcast from the outcast tribe who rescues the suffering one and puts all the insiders to shame by his compassion? What's left? All that's left is the conclusion we've heard at least 100 times: go and be like the Good Samaritan. We yawn. We have heard it so often that it is nearly impossible to hear this story afresh.

We confess more, that the standard interpretation - the one we have heard so often - has convinced us of the truth of the banal notion that the gospel really is all about us, alone. We have learned that the story is about being a hero, and most of us have silently dismissed it for that reason because we don't think of ourselves as heroic, at least not when it comes to risking everything to help a half-dead stranger. Still, we praise the Good Samaritan as a fine example of what we should do and marvel at the eloquence of the parable. Silently dismissing the story, either with guilt or embarrassment at our failure to enact it, is a subtle admission that we have been lured into accepting the false notion that Christianity is actually a self-centered, rather than a God-centered, religion. We have allowed that the gospel is a primer for moralism, all about us alone. In the glare of the heroic, we have forgotten that the gospel is a wit-

ness to the power of God's Spirit to do in us and through us what is otherwise impossible, taking risks of love and compassion for a stranger.

Perhaps, by God's grace, even that confession may not get us off the hook today. For, in our confession lies the possibility that we will not mentally go out to lunch, but instead summon ourselves before God to hear afresh this poignant, powerful story that lies at the very center of Jesus' ministry and the heart of Christian discipleship. Perhaps our honest confession will be the one act that allows us not to leave this sanctuary untouched, undisturbed, unmoved by a story that demonstrates the power of risk-taking love on behalf of a stranger in need.

Confessing my boredom and not wanting to inflict you with more of the same, I went looking for God in this story. Whether I discovered God is a question best left unanswered, but two events merged that helped me to hear with fresh ears this parable. The first event was a commentary on a nightly news program and the second was a song that kept singing into my soul.

What I saw the other night was babies with large eyes and limbs the size of toothpicks. They were in the arms of women looking sad and frightened, telling stories of being assaulted repeatedly, their husbands killed in front of them, and their families forced to flee for safety across a vast desert with no bread or water. That was what I heard the moment I settled into a chair at the end of the day to listen to the news. A so-called random selection of television choices. The stories were heart-breaking, but the photos harder. One click of the remote at the end of the day and suddenly there was a congressman asking a very direct question. So direct that it hit me with the force of the Word of God. I suspect this is why the theologian Karl Barth once said we are to read the Bible in one hand with the news in the other.

The congressman who had traveled to the Darfur region of Sudan was pleading, "Where in God's name are the churches on this issue? And what are their leaders - pastors, priests, rabbis, and imams - saying to

Sample Sermon (cont.)

them?" I set the remote down, sealed the bag of chips, and listened as if he were speaking to me - which of course he was, only more directly than he could ever imagine.

"Don't they know that nearly 300,000 people are already going to die, and that with no more immediate action, 1 million men, women, and children will die needlessly because the world community did not do anything?" He went on, "Now I understand, for the first time, how the world could have sat by and let a holocaust of 6 million Jews be slaughtered, while we talked endlessly about resolutions, delays, and hesitations. But not now; we should know better. What will be our fate if we let this happen again? This is genocide before our eyes. Couldn't the religious communities at least raise their voices for these children, who are nearly half-dead already, and not wait another 30 days or 90 days?"

Nearly half-dead already? My God, I thought, he is talking about the man lying beside the road to Jericho. He is pointing to the priest and the lawyer and all the others who walk past him, doing nothing, offering up religious reasons for their unwillingness to take a risk for the sake of one who is dying. Without knowing it, he is asking, "Where are the good Samaritans who will rise up to help?"

Stricken by the Word of God, I responded by writing to my senators and representatives. I asked for their leadership in getting immediate humanitarian assistance to the people of Darfur, and demanding the Sudan government stop the marauding bands of Janjaweed Arab militia who are doing the killing, raping, and pillaging of the people. This is not enough for one whose duty it is to shepherd the flock and preach the gospel.

Why do any of this? Is it simply because a congressman's harangue was effective enough to prod me into action? Frankly, politicians harangue about all issues, and clergy are always targets of criticism for our action or non-action. No, the congressman's plea was not the only reason. There was a theological reason, too. The song that urged itself upon me suggests it. It draws our attention to the truth that lies at the heart of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan.

The song by Joan Osborne is called "One of Us" on her CD by the same name. It's the theme song for the tele-

vision show *Joan of Arcadia* in which God appears in a thousand disguises of human form. I'm going to play now a snippet of that song. [Play song]

Isn't this the reason why we act in compassion for the suffering ones? Not simply out of moral duty, but because we believe that God came among us in human form? We believe that God's children are indeed bearers of God's image. Jesus taught us that we will never know when we are offering love to him when we don't turn away, but instead risk doing something, some small act of caring: for the hungry - children with large eyes, extended bellies, and toothpick limbs; for the thirsty - mothers who walk across deserts of Sudan with no water but a hope for life; for the naked; for those without shelter; for the sick. What if God was one of us? Jesus tells us that in fact we are to treat others as if we are treating God. That is why it's important to listen to the cries of the people of Darfur, to join ... [together in] calling for immediate assistance and stopping of the atrocities; to call, e-mail or write our representatives. Because God is one of us, lying half-dead along the side of the road in a place called Darfur, Sudan. To do nothing is to turn away from Jesus who meets us in the stranger.

The priest had his religious excuses for passing by the man. There is always some rule allowing him not to get involved. We have our excuses too, all of them well-reasoned and carefully crafted justifications for non-compassion. My dearest friend reminded me that the parable of the Good Samaritan is a cautionary tale directed to those who would allow their religion to keep them from stepping outside of their comfort zone for God's sake.

It was the one least expected, the outsider, who helped the man. Ever since then he has been called the Good Samaritan. Actually, he was only an ordinary man walking along the side of the road who saw a man nearly dying. He recognized him as his neighbor and in so doing, reached out to help him. That's all, nothing heroic ... unless, of course, doing the good deed is heroism.

When the story was over, Jesus asked the lawyer, "Who proved himself a neighbor?"

Go, then, and do likewise.

Worship Resources

Prayers for Darfur

(courtesy of the Save Darfur Coalition)



I want to join my prayers to many other voices. Every few months we are driven away from one refugee camp to the other, so far in the desert where nothing, nothing at all exists. This is no way for a human being to live. No way to live in such a shocking place – uncultivated, waterless, treeless, and barren region ...! Everything is burning, Lord, around me, around us ... in me, in us Everything is barren, hell, hell ...! Yet, Lord, we believe you are there, beside us. We pray for all the Africans living now our same condition. Bring back peace and tranquility to our beloved country. Peace which is desired by everybody, the old and young, rich and poor, women and men. Amen ... amen Let it be so.”

—*Prayer from a Darfurian woman*
© Gloria Silvano, Sudan/CAFOD

Loving God, we know there are tremendous problems facing the world: natural disasters, civil wars, violence, disparities in resources, and sickness. We confess that there are days when we look the other way, change the channel, or pretend the problems don't exist. We say that the problem is someone else's concern or displace the blame. We are not confident that we can make an impact and we fear failure for ourselves and on behalf of others. We might even think that moving to make a difference will change us in ways we will not like or make us uncomfortable. Before we begin, we desire to give up – on our opponents and on the victims. Forgive us for our faintheartedness and selfishness, for failing to love others as we should, and for failing to believe that you have empowered us to protect our brothers and sisters. Remind us, Holy One, that some faithful persons refused to give up on us, and that you have not given up on any of us. AMEN.

Merciful and compassionate Spirit
Be present to the suffering people of Sudan
Shelter the widows and the children
Comfort all who are weary and afraid
Bring relief to those who hunger and thirst
Center our thoughts with those who suffer in silence
Move us to recall our shared humanity
Unite us in our determination to respond to injustice
May we never forget! May we never forget!
Hear our prayer. Make our action swift.
Amen.

(From the United Nations)

An Offering of Action

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2006

For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

—Luke 21:15

■ We know that it is only through the Lord's goodness that we even have the power of speech. Thus we must use that God-given power to speak out against injustice against God's children.

■ This Sunday, we will make a different kind of offering than perhaps we are used to.

■ We will tithe 10 minutes of our time today.

■ We will use those 10 minutes to speak out against the suffering of our brothers and sisters being led to death in Darfur.

■ We believe that God is calling us to do what we can to stop the genocide in Darfur. Today, in faithful response to that call, we will:

1 Call on President Bush to continue leading boldly in efforts to put U.N. peacekeepers on the ground in Darfur. Call the White House comment line: (202) 456-1111

Sample message:

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm an evangelical Christian calling from [your church] in [your town]. I'm calling to tell President Bush that I stand behind him in leading the international community to do whatever it takes to get a U.N. peacekeeping mission on the ground in Darfur. President Bush, please don't let the genocide of God's children go on another day!

2 Call one friend or family member. Encourage him or her to join **Evangelicals for Darfur** and to call the White House today.

3 Visit www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org to sign up and learn more.

The Save Darfur Coalition is keeping track of how many churches will be praying and acting together for Darfur on December 10. Please let us know that your church will be participating! Sign up at www.savedarfur.org/efd.

The late Illinois Senator Paul Simon said:

If every member of the House and Senate had received 100 letters from people back home saying we have to do something about [the genocide in] Rwanda, when the crisis was first developing [in 1994], then I think the response would have been different."

TODAY, let us send a message to the president, hundreds of times over, telling him that we believe our shared Christian faith compels him to do everything in his power to bring an end to the genocide in Darfur.

Copy and distribute these cards to members of your congregation who will be tithing their time and action for Darfur today.

God is calling us to speak out against the genocide in Darfur. Today, in faithful response to that call, I will:

1. Call the White House comment line: (202) 456-1111

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm an evangelical Christian calling from [your church] in [your town]. I'm calling to tell President Bush that I stand behind him in leading the international community to do whatever it takes to get a U.N. peace-keeping mission on the ground in Darfur. President Bush, please don't let the genocide of God's children go on another day!

2. Call one friend or family member. Encourage him or her to join **Evangelicals for Darfur** and to call the White House today.
3. If I haven't already, visit www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org to sign up and learn more.

God is calling us to speak out against the genocide in Darfur. Today, in faithful response to that call, I will:

1. Call the White House comment line: (202) 456-1111

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm an evangelical Christian calling from [your church] in [your town]. I'm calling to tell President Bush that I stand behind him in leading the international community to do whatever it takes to get a U.N. peace-keeping mission on the ground in Darfur. President Bush, please don't let the genocide of God's children go on another day!

2. Call one friend or family member. Encourage him or her to join **Evangelicals for Darfur** and to call the White House today.
3. If I haven't already, visit www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org to sign up and learn more.

God is calling us to speak out against the genocide in Darfur. Today, in faithful response to that call, I will:

1. Call the White House comment line: (202) 456-1111

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm an evangelical Christian calling from [your church] in [your town]. I'm calling to tell President Bush that I stand behind him in leading the international community to do whatever it takes to get a U.N. peace-keeping mission on the ground in Darfur. President Bush, please don't let the genocide of God's children go on another day!

2. Call one friend or family member. Encourage him or her to join **Evangelicals for Darfur** and to call the White House today.
3. If I haven't already, visit www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org to sign up and learn more.

God is calling us to speak out against the genocide in Darfur. Today, in faithful response to that call, I will:

1. Call the White House comment line: (202) 456-1111

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm an evangelical Christian calling from [your church] in [your town]. I'm calling to tell President Bush that I stand behind him in leading the international community to do whatever it takes to get a U.N. peace-keeping mission on the ground in Darfur. President Bush, please don't let the genocide of God's children go on another day!

2. Call one friend or family member. Encourage him or her to join **Evangelicals for Darfur** and to call the White House today.
3. If I haven't already, visit www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org to sign up and learn more.

God is calling us to speak out against the genocide in Darfur. Today, in faithful response to that call, I will:

1. Call the White House comment line: (202) 456-1111

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm an evangelical Christian calling from [your church] in [your town]. I'm calling to tell President Bush that I stand behind him in leading the international community to do whatever it takes to get a U.N. peace-keeping mission on the ground in Darfur. President Bush, please don't let the genocide of God's children go on another day!

2. Call one friend or family member. Encourage him or her to join **Evangelicals for Darfur** and to call the White House today.
3. If I haven't already, visit www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org to sign up and learn more.

God is calling us to speak out against the genocide in Darfur. Today, in faithful response to that call, I will:

1. Call the White House comment line: (202) 456-1111

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm an evangelical Christian calling from [your church] in [your town]. I'm calling to tell President Bush that I stand behind him in leading the international community to do whatever it takes to get a U.N. peace-keeping mission on the ground in Darfur. President Bush, please don't let the genocide of God's children go on another day!

2. Call one friend or family member. Encourage him or her to join **Evangelicals for Darfur** and to call the White House today.
3. If I haven't already, visit www.evangelicalsfordarfur.org to sign up and learn more.

Resources for Learning More & Staying Involved

As people of faith and advocates in this crisis, we bear the responsibility to become and remain educated about the situation affecting our brothers and sisters in Darfur.

The following Web sites and organizations are good resources for credible and current information. Visit them online to learn more about the history of the conflict, the current situation on the ground, and what you can do to make a difference.

[Save Darfur Coalition](http://www.savedarfur.org)

www.savedarfur.org

The Save Darfur Coalition's mission is to raise public awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur and to mobilize a unified response to the atrocities that threaten the lives of 2 million people in the region.

[Genocide Intervention Network](http://www.genocideintervention.net)

www.genocideintervention.net

Read up on the background of the conflict in Darfur and find out what's going on right now. Browse expert reports on the situation and take a look at Darfur-related multimedia.

SudanReeves.org

Analytic briefs and advocacy writings by Eric Reeves, who has spent the past seven years working full-time as a Sudan researcher and analyst. He has testified several times before Congress, has lectured widely in academic settings, and has served as a consultant to a number of human rights and humanitarian organizations operating in Sudan.

[International Crisis Group – Darfur](http://www.crisisgroup.org)

www.crisisgroup.org

The International Crisis Group is an independent nongovernmental organization working through field-based analysis and high-level advocacy to prevent and resolve deadly conflict.

[Refugees International – Darfur](http://www.refugeesinternational.org)

www.refugeesinternational.org

Refugees International offers photo essays, personal stories from refugees in Darfur, policy recommendations, and a roundup of the latest news and commentary about Darfur from major media outlets.

[Darfur Peace & Development](http://www.dpado.org)

Organization: <http://www.dpado.org>

DPADO is an international organization committed to working with indigenous people in Darfur to overcome hunger and poverty through integrated self-development and relief programs.

[Passion of the Present](http://www.passionofthepresent.org)

www.passionofthepresent.org

Passion of the Present is an online community where you can find and share ideas, information, and inspiration on how to stop the genocide in Darfur.

Appendix

List of Evangelicals for Darfur Endorsers

Rev. Rob Bell, Founding Pastor, Mars Hill Bible Church; author of *Velvet Elvis*
Bishop Charles Blake, Pastor, West Angeles Church of God in Christ; Founder, Save Africa's Children
Dr. Tony Campolo, Baptist evangelist and international speaker
Rev. Rich Cizik, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals
Rev. Luis Cortés Jr., President, Esperanza USA
Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary, Reformed Church in America
Rev. Ted Haggard, President, National Association of Evangelicals
Rev. Dr. Roberta Hestenes, Former President, Eastern University
Dr. Joel Hunter, President, Christian Coalition of America
Rev. Bill Hybels, Pastor, Willow Creek Church, leader of Willow Creek Association
Bishop Harry Jackson, President, High Impact Leadership Coalition
Dr. Richard Land, President, Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
Rev. Brian McLaren, author, leader in the emerging church
David Neff, Editor, Vice President, *Christianity Today*
Dr. Glenn R. Palmberg, President, Evangelical Covenant Church
Dr. Bob Roberts Jr., Founding Pastor, NorthWood Church
Rev. Samuel Rodriguez Jr., President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
Rev. Dr. William J. Shaw, President, National Baptist Convention, USA
Dr. Ron Sider, Founder and President, Evangelicals for Social Action
Rev. Geoff Tunnicliffe, International Director, World Evangelical Alliance
Rev. Jim Wallis, President, Sojourners/Call to Renewal; author of *God's Politics*
Rev. Gloria E. White-Hammond, M.D., Co-Founder, My Sister's Keeper
Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Founder and President, The Skinner Leadership Institute
Lauren Winner, author, visiting lecturer, Duke Divinity School