

POVERTY

- Poverty kills. Most of the 11 million children who die every year around the world **die as a result of poverty**—not enough food, clean water or disease prevention and treatment.
- Poverty frustrates. For 3 billion people living on **less than \$2 a day** a better life—even a **\$5 mosquito net** to ward off malaria—is out of reach.
- Poverty separates. When a pet in the US has more spent on it per year (**\$460**) than 1.5 billion have to live on, it is hardly a recipe for a peaceful future.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

—Luke 1:52-53, NRSV



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- Poverty is not a result of God's will, but of **human choices by individuals, governments, and corporations.**
- Corporations make lots of money by paying workers in poor countries as little as **8-10 cents an hour** to make our clothing and sports gear.
- The US government **ranks next to last** among rich countries in the proportion of its total economy given as aid to poor countries.
- Poverty is also the result of **many other factors**, including corrupt governments, lack of natural resources, and a history of colonialism.



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Solutions:

- Spend less on yourself—**give more to others.**
- Support NCP's **Give a Girl a Chance** project (\$12 keeps a girl in school for a month in Sudan).
- **More US aid** to the world's poorest countries.
- Buy **Fair Trade** products. Visit our struggling neighbors on an NCP Learning Tour. Educate yourself about the human and environmental cost of your purchases (responsibleshopper.org).



New Community Project

718 Wilder Street, Elgin, IL 60123

www.newcommunityproject.org

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