

THE ADVOCATE

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Special points of interest

- Join the CRC Justice Seekers community website
- Violence erupts in Kenya
- Small steps toward climate change
- Calvin, Redeemer, ESA: conferences abound

CRC JUSTICE SEEKERS: SOCIAL NETWORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ever wish you had a way to keep that great momentum going after a missions trip or conference?

Are you passionate about justice and advocacy but sometimes feel like you're the only one in your congregation who is?

Does your church group need a forum to organize and reach out to others?

Enter [CRC Justice Seekers](#), a new, online community for Christian Reformed folks to discuss, inform, and share their thoughts on justice with others in the denomination.

The Justice Seekers community was created to help individuals discuss issues that might be awkward or uncomfortable in a regular Sunday setting.

It's to create community among isolated activists, inspire congregations and pastors with the work of others in the CRC, and raise awareness about how integral justice issues are to all types of ministry and outreach.

Once you create a profile on the website, you have the ability to befriend other CRC justice seekers and post content in a variety of formats.

If you have photos from a church event or mission trip, we want to see them! Instead of for-



warding the next justice video you find on YouTube, post it to CRC Justice Seekers.

If you're involved in a justice group through church, consider starting a group on Justice Seekers to advertise events or work your way through curricula.

Those of us returning from learning or mission trips can keep in touch, post articles, and educate others.

Specific justice issues, fan clubs for your favorite field workers, book discussions - anything could be a good subject to create a group around. Let's get creative!

For a quick tutorial, or to brainstorm about the ways you can use CRC Justice Seekers, contact Meghan at kraleym@crcna.org.

To dive right in, just visit <http://justiceseekers.ning.com> and see what others in the CRC are up to!

ACTION OPPORTUNITY

Canadians, check out the news blurb above about the progress of the **Better Aid Bill**, C-293. Canadian voices helped to push this bill along in the legislative process, and **your voices are instrumental to keep the bill going**. Make Poverty History, the white band movement in Canada, (along with the [Micah Challenge Canada](#)), has made it easy for you to take action on this bill.

Simply visit: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/e/betteraid/> for information on the bill, why it's important, and the name and contact information for the person who needs to hear your voice.

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

Check out **Fatal Transactions** at www.fataltransactions.org. This group is a network of non-government organizations that believe Africa's plentiful natural resources, like gold and diamonds, can be a source of growth and development instead of a vehicle for conflict. The site collects information on countries affected by these resources, and provides some action suggestions.

Ekklesia, at www.ekklesia.co.uk/home, is a UK think tank "that promotes transformative theological ideas in public life." Check out their site for resources on issues such as community life, social justice, peace and war, development and more.

Bread for the World Institute, the research arm of Bread for the World, has made its **annual hunger report** available. This year's report, **Working Harder for Working Families**, takes a closer look at American families who work hard at low-paying jobs, but are still struggling to get by.

According to the BFW Institute, two-thirds of all children growing up in poverty in the United States have one or more working parents. So what can be done to help these families? Download the report today, at:

<http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-reports/>



Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities is a new book that looks at the problems causing poverty among children and the possible solutions that can help them. Edited by Ron Sider of Evangelicals for Social Action and Heidi Roland Unruh, Hope for Children in Poverty is available from booksellers like www.christianbook.com and www.amazon.com.

The **ONE campaign** has launched a great new website called **On the Record**, which catalogues the responses of the current Republican and Democratic presidential candidates on issues of extreme global poverty. Each candidate has submitted a video response addressing their positions on how to address issues such as HIV/AIDS and foreign poverty policy.

You can select candidates and compare their messages, and even use the "Candidate Tracker" feature to see if and when the candidates will be arriving near you. Check out the site and the candidates' messages at: www.onevote08.org/ontherecord. The ONE campaign is the non-partisan US movement to overcome poverty, and along with other **white band** groups like the **Micah Challenge** and **Make Poverty History**, works to reduce global poverty and hunger.

ADVOCATE CALENDAR

On **January 18 Redeemer University College is hosting its first ever conference on Faith and Social Justice**. Students are encouraged to attend this one day event (only \$10!) to learn more about how their faith interacts with social justice. The conference includes topics such as incarnational living, missions, global HIV/AIDS and refugees. Non-students are also invited to attend (\$40 for non-students and \$25 for students outside of Redeemer). Get all the details and registration info at <http://www.redeemer.ca/students/>

Calvin College is hosting the Faith & International Development Conference from January 31-February 2.

Topics include sustainable development, ecology, health care and more. Plenary, breakout sessions and worship will engage and challenge participants on development issues.

Registration is \$40. Get all the details at: <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/ids/conference/>

And yet another conference: **March 28-29** is the Evangelicals for Social Action conference, **The Scandal of Evangelical Politics: Towards a Biblical Agenda**, held at Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, PA.

The conference keynotes and workshops will explore hot button political issues with the aim to help Christians to apply biblical values in the socio-political realm. Learn more and register at: www.esa-online.org.

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