

The State of the World

- Almost 1 billion people live on less than \$1/day
- 3 billion people (1/2 the world) live on less than \$2 per day
- 94% of world income goes to 40% of the people. The other 60% live on 6% of the world income.
- 26-30,000 children die each day due to poverty
- Around 28% of all children in developing countries are estimated to be underweight or stunted
- about 72 million children of primary school age in the developing world were not in school in 2005
- Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names
- Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation
- Approximately 790 million people in the developing world are still chronically undernourished
- 1.6 billion people — a quarter of humanity — live without electricity
- The GDP of the 41 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (567 million people) is less than the wealth of the world's 7 richest people combined
- about 0.13% of the world's population controlled 25% of the world's financial assets in 2004
- 20% of the population in the developed nations, consume 86% of the world's goods

Global Spending	Global Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cosmetics in the US \$8 Billion ▪ Ice cream in Europe \$11 Billion ▪ Perfumes in Europe and the US \$12 Billion ▪ Pet foods in Europe and the US \$17 Billion ▪ Business entertainment in Japan \$35 Billion ▪ Cigarettes in Europe \$50 Billion ▪ Military spending in the world \$780 Billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic education for all \$6 Billion ▪ Water and sanitation for all \$9 Billion ▪ Reproductive health for all women \$12 Billion ▪ Basic health and nutrition \$13 Billion

Extreme/Absolute Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Relative Poverty
Cannot meet basic needs for survival	Basic needs met, but just barely	Lack of access to what is considered "normal" in a given society
Chronically hungry, lack health care, safe drinking water, and sometimes rudimentary shelter	Chronic financial hardship and a lack of basic amenities such as safe drinking water, health care, education, etc.	Lack access to cultural goods, entertainment, recreation, quality health care, quality education, etc.
UN: \$1 per day	Between \$1-\$2 per day	Income below a given proportion of average national income

What can you do from afar?

1. Re-evaluate spending habits & priorities. Live a simple lifestyle. (Consider 1 Tim. 6:6-10)
 - a. The wrong question: is it okay to buy X (new shoes, stereo, vacation)
 - b. Better question: is it okay to buy X when others are going without? How much should I keep for myself? How does God want me to use His money?
 - c. I don't know the answer to how much to give, how much to buy for yourself. But this is a good and healthy struggle to have! (Read the book, "To Give or Not to Give")
2. Save more in order to give more. (Consider 2 Cor. 9:6-11)
 - a. A lot of people are very creative and put a lot of effort into saving money (looking for sales, comparing prices, cutting out coupons, eliminating excess, not insisting on getting the very best of something) but usually their motivation to save money is to get something else for themselves (e.g., a better vacation, a new TV, etc.).
 - b. It would be incredible to see people deliberately do things to save money so that they can use the money saved directly for the kingdom.
3. Don't take things for granted (Consider Matt. 6:19-34)
 - a. Thank God every day for having a bed to sleep in, food to eat, health care, friends, self-worth, etc.
 - b. Take a dollar out each day, thank God for it and reflect on how billions of people only have that much to live on for the day and then consider the impact that dollar could have on people and for the Kingdom of God
 - c. All of us could give a dollar a day and not even feel it; how about 5? 10? 20?
 - d. Stay informed – websites, books, prayer letters
4. Social businesses (Mohammad Yunus) that have social change as motive not profit
 - a. Export businesses selling goods made by the poor (e.g., fair trade)
 - b. Businesses here that use profit for social change
 - c. Create business in the developing world to hire local poor and positively impact communities
5. Get behind people who are doing effective work on the field
 - a. How to know who to support?
 - i. Do they take a holistic approach?
 - ii. Are they into transformational development?
 - iii. Do they have a system for accountability?
 - iv. Do they have proven results?
 - v. How much of my donation is used for administration, overhead, etc.?
 - vi. What evidence is there that I can trust the people to do good work and to handle money responsibly?
 - b. How to support them?
 - i. Money and/or supplies
 - ii. Prayer
 - iii. Letters
 - iv. Mobilizing, recruiting others
 - v. Information (e.g., send articles, books)
 - vi. Connections (e.g., new donors)
6. Sponsor a child, family or village
7. Become an ambassador and/or advocate for the poor
8. Go on a "Service Vacation"
9. Prayer
10. Be Creative (e.g., Clinton's book, *Giving*)