

We are planning a sequel to *Women's Uncommon Prayers: Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured, Celebrated*, and we invite you to send us your prayers!

The popularity and impact of the first volume of *Women's Uncommon Prayers*, together with the emergence of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a mission priority for the Anglican Communion, have led us to plan the sequel. Whereas the first book included extraordinary prayers by women in the United States, with the overall theme being prayers from a woman's life cycle, we are now intentionally seeking the voices of women and girls across the Anglican Communion as you pray your experiences of global concerns.

Church Publishing plans to publish the new book of women's prayers under its Morehouse imprint, which has served the Episcopal Church since 1884. The all-new edition of *Women's Uncommon Prayers* will include a foreword by the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori. The company plans to publish the book in May 2009 and to celebrate it with a major launch at General Convention in July 2009.

The new book will reveal how Anglican women and girls worldwide are deeply connected by global issues, even across cultural and economic differences. For example, the book might show the spiritual bond between a teenage girl in the United States struggling with self-image because of debasing popular culture and a teenage girl from the Global South who has disappeared into the slave trade.

Each chapter of the book will focus on one of the eight MDGs. Agreed to by all member states of the United Nations, the MDGs form a blueprint for radically improving the lives of the world's poor, and a way for Christians to live out the Gospel in today's world. The goals are to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development.

We seek many different kinds of prayers, both personal and corporate, written in inclusive language—collects, psalms, litanies, psalms, guided imageries, meditations, poems, rituals, table graces, blessings, and other creative forms.

Topics for prayer might include your personal experiences of poverty, hunger, gender inequality, pregnancy and motherhood, or disease. You might pray for a creative realization of the MDGs or

for the Spirit to inspire the world's leaders. You might reflect on the close connection between women's and environmental spirituality. You could envision a better world for women and girls.

At Church Publishing, we believe that nurturing your inner life of prayer will be a way for you to care and advocate not only for yourself and your loved ones, but also for your sisters throughout the Anglican Communion. That is, in prayer, you can claim your public voice on global concerns. To see this, you can read these **sample prayers** from the first book and see how they relate to the MDGs.

The Rev. Margaret Rose, director of The Episcopal Church's Center for Mission Leadership, will serve as one of three general editors of the new book. The other two are Abigail Nelson, vice president for programs at Episcopal Relief and Development, and the Rev. K. Jeanne Person, co-author of *Where You Go, I Shall: Gleanings from the Stories of Biblical Widows*. An editorial board of clergy and lay women and teenage girls, representing various national and cultural heritages, will review prayers for inclusion in the book.

Royalties from the new book will help to empower Anglican women and girls and strengthen their global partnerships. All royalty proceeds will be given equally to the International Anglican Women's Network, the organization through which the voices of Anglican women are reported to the Anglican Consultative Council, and Episcopal Relief and Development in support of programs for women and girls.

The deadline for submissions is **September 1, 2008**.

You may send a submission by email to prayers@cpq.org. Please include your full name, mailing address, and email address. Church Publishing will contact you early in 2009 if your prayer has been selected for publication.