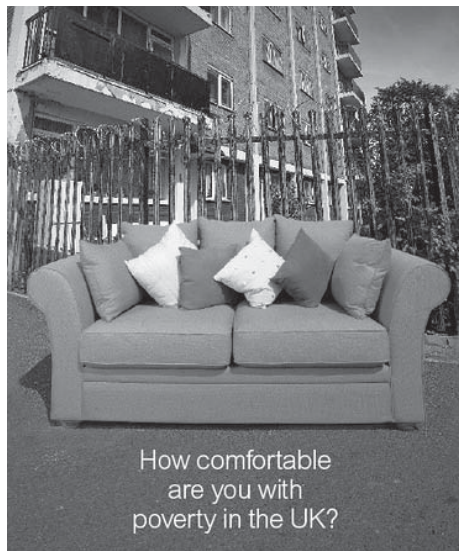


## Get Ready to Get Fair

**2008 saw the launch of the Get Fair coalition whose aim is to eradicate UK poverty by 2020. Three-quarters of the population think that the gap between rich and poor has grown too large. It's now our time to speak out!**

Over the past two decades Britain has become richer, but not any fairer. The UK is the fifth richest country on the planet, yet the gap between rich and poor is still enormous. Get Fair is a new umbrella campaign, supported by over 50 organisations; refugees and disabled groups, housing groups, and faith and community groups. YCW Impact are part of this coalition who have come together around the one simple message: *It's time to Get Fair.*



How comfortable  
are you with  
poverty in the UK?

Image from an Oxfam anti-poverty campaign

2009 sees the launch of the new National Impact Campaign on this theme of Get Fair. We are inviting all our Impact groups to see how fair their local neighbourhood actually is, judge it and then act to do something about it. This will help make our country a fairer place for young people to live in.

A campaign is a process of study, reflection and action on a topic, in this

case the theme of Get Fair on poverty in the UK. We are hoping that it will involve as many Impact groups as possible, who through their friends and contacts are then united in an effort to make a difference on a wider scale.

### The Purpose of doing a National Campaign

There are five main purposes behind the National Campaign:

1. To take action for young people on the issue of UK poverty.
2. To provide an opportunity for the formation of YCW leaders.
3. To promote unity and a common purpose in the Movement by coming together to take action on UK poverty.
4. To publicise the YCW and Impact by its involvement in this issue.
5. To make contact and build friendships between the young people in different groups, and to reach out to new young people.

In order to help the young people begin to examine UK poverty we have created a set of three enquiry sheets. These sheets each take them through a See, Judge, Act on the theme of Get Fair. However there is a focus for each sheet:

- **“Seeing the reality of UK poverty”** is focused on finding out about poverty in the local area. It begins by getting them to think about what poverty actually is. What does it mean for someone to be poor in the UK? Then the sheet invites them to find out about real examples from the local area, using their friends and contacts, mapping tools, and research. The

Judge invites them to reflect on how people saw great things in Jesus when he was a baby, how can we see something special in everyone we meet. Finally the Act section invites them to carry this forward and get more involved in the campaign.

- **“What do we think about UK poverty”** is the judge section of the campaign. It begins by looking at some statistics on UK poverty and asking the young people if they know anyone in the situations described in these statistics. The Judge section is the main part of this enquiry. It begins by getting them to think about their opinion on UK poverty and examine their ideas about it. It then has a Gospel enquiry getting them to look at what our faith calls us to do about UK poverty. It then leads them onto the Act section of the campaign.

- **“Acting together against poverty”** is the final stage of the campaign. It begins again by focusing them on real situations and looking at the effect of poverty on young people. Again there is a Gospel enquiry encouraging them to take action and not just talk about the issues. Finally there are some suggestions for action that they could take as part of the campaign or they could use these to give them ideas of their own.

Whatever the young people decide to do, please do keep us up to date with what they doing in the campaign at [getfair@ycwimpact.com](mailto:getfair@ycwimpact.com). Let us have a short write up of their action with pictures and we'll include it on our website and the YCW magazine. Or use the “Ambassadors for the Young” CD-rom to create a short video about your action, which we'll display on our website.

*Your Role in the Campaign - see next page*

# GET FAIR

*In each stage of the campaign you will have a distinct role play. Here we will look briefly at your role for each stage of the campaign.*

## See

The See of the campaign is often more detailed than in a review of life meeting. The young people must go out to discover information for themselves on how fair their neighbourhood is, with support from you, the chaplain or companion. To this end you will have to encourage the young people to plan how to gather the necessary information. If this planning doesn't take place, then things may be missed.

When the young people are planning their See, help them to consider:

- How can they discover what is really happening? How can they find facts?
- Can they find out any information from other organisations or groups? Who will do it?
- Can they use the internet? Who will take on the responsibility to do this?
- Who can they speak to?
- Can they invite someone to come and talk to the group? Who will invite them?
- How can they find out how this issue affects other young people?

## Judge

There are two basic questions when completing the Judge section of a campaign with the young people.

- What do we think about this as a young person?
- What do we think about this as young Christians?

# The Role of the Chaplain or Adult Companion in the Campaign

Your role as the adult companion is key here. It is you who will help the young people reflect upon their principles and values as they judge. We have suggested some Scripture passages to use in the enquiry, but you know your group best. There may be others, a piece of Church teaching or the sayings of an influential person on poverty or fairness which maybe more appropriate for your group. Whichever is chosen, it will expose the young people to a different way of looking at the issue.

## Act

During the Act stage of a campaign, which is usually an extended period of action, your group will continue to meet to reflect upon the process. Such reflection should happen at all times, but particularly during the Act stage. You, as an adult companion, will need to think about each young person involved in the campaign. How will you enable each individual to reflect?

A time and space for reflection will help each young person to live out the aims of the campaign in their daily lives. For example, if the young people are taking action to enable the voice of youth to be heard, how is each member going to live this out as an individual? Are they looking at young people in their family, neighbourhood, and school? You can help all members of the group look at their own situations, especially their friends and contacts, and discover ways of giving voice to young people's concerns.

It is important to emphasise that the campaign is not just about what they do; it is about everyone playing an active part in their own lives and within their own sphere of influence. This might differ from the main action of the campaign, but it will help ensure a commitment to make a difference is rooted deeply in each young person's life. In this way, each member of your group will grow personally as a young Christian leader.

## Review

As the group completes their campaign and begins to Review, the adult companion has a unique opportunity to accompany the young people in identifying how they have worked together to make a difference.

Your task is to:

- Help the young people identify the original situation;
- Realise the change they have made;
- Revisit the reasons why they chose to take the action.

The Review is one of the most significant moments in the entire method of Impact and YCW. If young people can identify the original situation of concern (in this case a situation of real isolation because of poverty) and see the change they have effected, they can recognise how they have moved from a situation of isolation to a moment of liberation. The reason why they chose this particular action (no matter how implicit it was originally) was identified during the Judge stage of their campaign. The values of the Gospel and the principles of the kingdom of God were shared together. If you can enable the young people to identify these reasons and values during the Review, you will assist them in entering into a new world view, the world view of Christ. Therefore, your participation in reviewing a campaign can help facilitate a profound moment of evangelisation. It is an opportunity for young people to realise that the truth of the Gospel makes a real difference in the world.

In addition to their own Review, the group should plan an opportunity for all involved in the campaign to come together to celebrate and review. Obviously the review that is done with the action team is going to go deeper, but each young person involved will also be able to recognise the liberation that has taken place. It is through this recognition that the evangelisation of each young person can occur.

# The Year of St Paul

To mark the 2000th anniversary of the birth of St Paul the Apostle, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed 28 June 2008 – 29 June 2009 to be “the year of Paul”. The calling of the apostle Paul (Acts 9:3-9) is one of the best-known and dramatic accounts of vocation in the Bible, to the extent that the expression “a Damascene experience” or “it was my/his/our road to Damascus” has passed into the language to describe a total turn-around, or conversion.

Paul, or Saul as he was then known, was born in Tarsus, a Greek city in southern Turkey. He had received a good religious education as a Jew, and was an enthusiastic persecutor of the Church: “There was simply no limit to the way I persecuted the Church of God in my attempts to destroy it” (Galatians 1:14). Luke tells us he was present at Stephen’s martyrdom, and “approved of the killing” (Acts 8:1). He also tells us (Acts 22) that he was a Roman citizen, although Paul makes no such claim for himself in his letters. Paul/Saul was born in the first decade after Christ, and was a young man when the newly-founded Church was being persecuted in the 30s AD. Following his dramatic conversion, he journeyed to and fro across what is now Syria, the Lebanon, Turkey, and Greece, probably to Rome and possibly even to Spain, bringing the Good News to Jewish and Gentile (non-Jewish) communities, before, tradition tells us, being imprisoned in Rome and martyred there in 67AD.

According to Luke, Saul was on the road to Damascus armed with “letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus that would authorise him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way” (Acts 9:2-3), in other words, to persecute the fledgling Church in Syria, when Christ intervened:

“Suddenly a light from heaven shone all round him. He fell to the ground, and then he heard a voice saying, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ he asked, and the answer came, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.’” (Acts 9:3-5)

Once in Damascus, the Lord appeared to a Christian, instructing him to go to Saul to heal and baptise him. Ananias’ horrified response was to question this: “Lord, I have heard from many people about this man and all the harm he has been doing to your holy people in Jerusalem” (Acts 9:13), but the Lord explains that Saul “is my chosen instrument to bring my name before gentiles...” (Acts 9:14). So Saul, or Paul, as he became known (“the least of the apostles”, 1 Cor 15:9), was baptised (Acts 9:18) and went from being the persecutor of Christians to the greatest promoter of Christianity.



There is much we can learn much from Paul’s total conversion, so we can only focus here on a few points.

First, to turn our lives around and be truly converted to the Gospel of Christ. From persecuting the Church, Paul became its greatest promoter, bringing the Good News of salvation to Jewish and Gentile communities around the eastern Mediterranean. Just like the other apostles, who were called by Jesus on the lakeshore to give up their livelihoods and families to follow him, so Paul, called by the risen and ascended Christ, gave up his home, a secure wage (Luke tells us he was a tentmaker (Acts 18:1-3), which would have meant plenty of work), and any semblance of family life in order to travel between the tiny Jewish and Christian communities, spreading the good news of salvation.

As Christian Workers, in particular, we

should also note that, while Paul may have given up stable work to follow Christ, this does not mean that he did not work, nor that he did not value work. On the contrary, he reminds the Thessalonians that “when we were with you... we worked with unsparing energy night and day, so as not to be a burden on any of you... Now we hear that there are some of you who are living lives without any discipline, doing no work themselves... In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we urge and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat” (2 Thess 3:7-8, 11-12). Our work is not only paid employment – at different times in our life it is our study for school, college and trade qualifications; our work in the home looking after our families; our learning new skills; our active search for work... It is whatever we do that means that we do something!

Third, the Gospel, the “Good News” of salvation, is for all. From being a Jew convinced that only the children of Israel would be saved, and who probably fanatically followed the laws designed to keep Gentiles “out”, he became the “Apostle to the Gentiles”, in trouble more often than not with the other apostles for bringing Gentiles “in”. He is insistent that the Good News is for all: “there can be neither Jew nor Greek, there can be neither slave nor free, there can be neither male nor female – for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28). “Regardless of colour, creed, age, ability or gender”, we might say, “regardless of the worth society gives you according to what you do or how much you earn”, the Gospel, the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, is still for you, for me, for us. “Each young person is worth more than all the gold in the world, for they are all children of God.”

Fourth, Paul is the earliest witness to state the essence of what we believe. From being an observant Jew, scandalized by the blasphemy of the Christians’ claims that Jesus, Son of God, had risen from the dead, Paul

# Gospel Enquiry –

## “The Conversion of Saul”

*A disciple called Ananias who lived in Damascus had a vision in which he heard the Lord say to him, ‘Ananias!’ When he replied, ‘Here I am, Lord’, the Lord said, “You must go to Straight Street and ask at the house of Judas for someone called Saul, who comes from Tarsus. At the moment he is praying, having had a vision of a man called Ananias coming in and laying hands on him to give him back his sight.*

*When he heard that, Ananias said, ‘Lord, several people have told me about this man and all the harm he has been doing to your saints in Jerusalem. He has only come here because he holds a warrant from the chief priests to arrest everybody who invokes your name. The Lord replied, ‘You must go all the same, because this man is my chosen instrument to bring my name before pagans and pagan kings and before the people Israel; I myself will show him how much he himself must suffer for my name.’ Then Ananias went. He entered the house, and at once laid his hands on Saul and said, ‘Brother Saul, I have been sent by the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on your way here so that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit’. Immediately it was as though the scales fell away from Saul’s eyes and he could see again. So he was baptised there and then, and after taking some food he regained his strength. After he had spent only a few days with the disciples in Damascus he began preaching in the synagogues, ‘Jesus is the Son of God’. Acts 9:10-20*

### Commentary:



This passage comes immediately after Jesus appeared to Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus, and Saul’s loss of sight. This meant that he now needed to be led to Damascus by the people he was travelling with, unable to get there on his own.

The Lord chose Ananias to open Saul’s eyes and to complete his conversion by baptising him. We are told that Ananias had reservations about restoring Saul’s sight, because of what he knew about Saul’s intentions. After his conversion Saul, now Paul, began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues, using the same intensity and conviction he had previously used against him.

### Questions for enquiry:

- Ananias was initially reluctant to work with Saul, because of the prejudices that some early Christians had against him. Who are people prejudiced against today?
- Have you ever made a judgement about someone based on what you have heard about them even though you don’t really know them?

*continued from page 3*

learned from Jesus himself to preach “the tradition which I had myself received, that Christ (“born of a woman” – Gal 4:4) died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried; and that on the third day, he was raised to life, in accordance with the scriptures...” (1 Cor 15:3-4) – the very core of the Christian faith, at the heart of the Creed we still say each Sunday.

Finally, despite his reputation (and he does get fearsomely cross when people misunderstand the Gospel!), Paul actually rarely “orders” or “commands” those he is writing to. It is clear from his letters that they asked him to write in response to particular problems, and more often than not, Paul encourages and guides, rather than directs. He must have had the spirit of the YCW in mind!

- Do you know anyone like Saul who uses their strong personality to express their own views? How do you respond?
- The story challenges us to do things which we don’t want to do. What do you think about this? What are you called to do, which you would rather not?
- What can you do to help someone today, like Saul’s companions who helped him finish his journey?
- Do you need to speak to anyone and make amends for times when you have been quick to judge?
- What other action may this story be calling you to take as a group? As an individual?

## “YOU MUST GO ALL THE SAME”

Accompanier - For adults who accompany YCW & Impact  
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