

## Act for Peace Representative Toolkit

Thank you for taking the step of joining with scores of other Representatives across Australia - because of you, many lives have been and will be changed throughout the world! By being a Representative for Act for Peace, for your church and for your community, you continue to touch the lives of so many. Our goals of empowering communities to reduce poverty, protect refugees and prevent further conflict are being met today through your work and commitment.

This toolkit is designed to provide you with the ideas and tools you'll need to get you and your church active. The key is to have fun and commit as little or as much time as you have available and feel comfortable with. Every action or gift, large or small, can make a difference in someone's life when we act together.

### How can I get involved?

There are so many ways that you can act for peace, but this toolkit highlights a few key ways that you can really make a difference. Remember, your local Development Officer is keen to support you, so please don't hesitate to get in touch! (See back for details.)

### 1 Pray!

As Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia, our foundation rests on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the importance of prayer in all situations. Prayer remains a vital way in which we can love those in desperate crises, even if circumstances prevent us from assisting in other ways.

### What's in my toolkit?

- ✓ Act for Peace brochures
- ✓ Pocket Calendars
- ✓ Peace Mails
- ✓ Gift in Will Brochures
- ✓ Bookmarks
- ✓ Resources from last year's Christmas Bowl Kit  
(This year's kit will be available in September)

Act for Peace helps to protect refugees and internally displaced people in the world's worst conflict-affected regions, such as Darfur, Sudan.

Paul Jeffrey/ACT



## 2 Reach Out!

### Support the Christmas Bowl

**The Christmas Bowl is the annual Christmas program of Act for Peace.**

For more than 60 years, Australians have given generously to the Christmas Bowl to assist more than 1 million people affected by conflict and poverty.

The Christmas Bowl is a symbol of offering, partnership and peace building that helps remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Each year in September, Act for Peace will supply you with a free Christmas Bowl kit like the one enclosed containing resources to help your church get active.



Paul Jeffrey/ACT

A'isha, displaced by the on-going conflict in Darfur, Sudan, and now living in a refugee camp in Chad which is home to over 350,000 displaced people.

#### Why Esther is an Act for Peace Representative:

“ It alerts me to the compassionate work of those in real places of desperate need across the world and the possibility of active, creative responses through education at my local level. ”

Esther, Act for Peace Representative, Burwood, Victoria



#### What actions can I take?

- 1) First, you can ensure that the kit resources are given to the right individual at your church. Simply hand the Worship Resources booklet to your Minister or church leader to help them prepare for the Advent and Christmas services. Then give the Activities booklet to the relevant person or use them yourself to get others on board with the Christmas Bowl!
- 2) Ensure the Christmas Bowl gift envelopes are handed out with the pew sheets at services and are well stocked and displayed in your church.
- 3) Prominently display Christmas Bowl signs (corflutes) and posters in your church.

#### I want to do more for the Christmas Bowl!

**Do you have a little extra time and want to get more involved with the Christmas Bowl?**

Great! Here are a few other ways you can help:

- 4) Arrange for the Clip Art to be placed in parish newsletters.
- 5) Encourage the use of prayer points in parish newsletters.
- 6) Arrange a fundraiser on behalf of the Christmas Bowl.
- 7) Show the Christmas Bowl video or download a PowerPoint presentation and present it in church.
- 8) Host a dinner to raise money for the Christmas Bowl. Take a bowl and place it on your home or church dinner table. Encourage your guests to place a sum of money into the bowl which they consider to be the value of the meal. By filling the bowl with our gifts, we offer hope, generosity and love to those people that truly need our support.

To find out more about the Christmas Bowl or download additional activities and resources, please visit our website at: **[www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)** or **call your local Development Officer today** (See back for details.)

## Act for Peace in Disasters and Emergencies

**Act for Peace is a member of the global Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance** which is at work in 125 countries. Because of this unique alliance, we are able to respond to the most critical humanitarian emergencies immediately and effectively.

In 2010, thanks to the generosity of individuals and churches across Australia, Act for Peace raised more than \$800,000 to support those devastated by the earthquake in Haiti. In the last two years we have responded to calls for emergency assistance around the world, including support to those affected by the wars in Gaza and Sri Lanka, and the cyclone in Burma.

### What can I do?

- 1) We will send you a bundle of envelopes which can be used to collect money in the case of an emergency or throughout the year. By passing out these envelopes to your congregation when an emergency occurs and collecting them on behalf of Act for Peace, you can be sure that at least 90% of the funds raised will be sent to support affected communities.

**To order envelopes for your church, please ring your local Development Officer today!**

- 2) Find out more information about our project partners' work in disasters or encourage others to visit our website at: [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)



Paul Jeffrey/ACT

Act for Peace raised over \$800,00 to support those devastated by the earthquake in Haiti.

## Encourage others to become an Act for Peace Partner

**Act for Peace Partners offer hope and practical ongoing support** to people living in extreme poverty in war-torn regions around the world with their kind gifts each month. Act for Peace Partners give as much or as little as they wish to help people who seek safety, security and a better quality of life.

### How can I make a change?

- 1) **Learn!** Read through the monthly Peace Mails enclosed which report to Act for Peace Partners on the lives of people that their monthly gifts are helping change for the better.
- 2) **The change starts with you.** Please consider becoming an Act for Peace Partner yourself if you can. Regardless of the amount you commit, your ongoing promise will help us ensure that these life changing projects can continue. *To become an Act for Peace Partner ring Howard or Sarah on 1800 025 101, send in the form on the back of the calendar or visit [www.actforpeace.com.au](http://www.actforpeace.com.au).*
- 3) **Show the monthly Peace Mails to others** in your network and tell them about what they can achieve by making such a positive commitment.

## 3 Speak out and Take Action!

### Join in Advocacy Initiatives We're Supporting

Act for Peace is working closely with churches, organisations and individuals to address the inequality and injustices experienced by millions of people on a daily basis. Long-term change requires research, lobbying and effective policy. We are involved in many areas of advocacy that we invite you to join. Please visit our website [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au) for more information.

### Invite an Act for Peace Speaker

If you have organised an event, or feel that your church or group would benefit from hearing more about the work of Act for Peace, you might want to consider inviting an Act for Peace speaker. Contact your local Development Officer to find out more.



#### Why Pam is an Act for Peace Representative:

“ *The Christmas Bowl gives us the opportunity to share the stories of the great majority of the world's population. It puts names and faces to ordinary men, women and children who desperately need clean water, food, education, health care and shelter. Having seen this need first hand, it changed my life and my values.*

*By sharing the Christmas Bowl story as an Act for Peace Representative, I can help others have the joy of making a difference in the lives of many.*”

Pam, Act for Peace Representative, Forest Lake, Queensland



Children playing in the Thai-Burma Border refugee camp, where Act for Peace has supported displaced families for over 20 years.

Remember, your local **Development Officer** is keen to support you, so please don't hesitate to get in touch!

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. - Matthew 5:9*

For more information call your local Development Officer or ring Howard or Sarah in our head office on **1800 025 101** or email them at: [actforpeace@ncca.org.au](mailto:actforpeace@ncca.org.au)