



Supporting your work for Justice and Peace with young people

Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of the imaginatively titled 'BOVA'd?'. This newsletter is produced by Bosco Volunteer Action, the Salesians of Don Bosco's overseas volunteering organisation in the UK. It aims to encourage and support instances of development education within youth work; raising awareness of problems confronting developing countries and presenting actions which can be taken. Sent out 6 times per year and then available from www.boscovolunteeraction.co.uk, 'BOVA'd' brings together information, links and resources relevant to justice and peace issues from a large number of charities and campaign groups. In time it is hoped that it will also include materials sent in by those on the mailing list.

Many thanks to all who have signed up (from across the world), but we want more! If you like what you see, please encourage others to join by emailing bova@salesianyouthministry.com. Perhaps you could suggest it to confirmation catechists, youth group leaders, school councils, teachers, chaplains, Priests, Sisters and Brothers, justice and peace group secretaries or other interested individuals.

An explanation of the format:

Section	Explanation	In this edition
Hints and tips	Suggestions of best practice in development education	The pover-tree; root causes of poverty
Focus	An in-depth look at one particular issue, figure or organisation	Trade
Odds and ends	Other resources, events and links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking youth clubs with youth clubs in developing countries National Youth Sunday resources and training

Our aim is to support you in your work, so please contact bova@salesianyouthministry.com with any feedback, suggestions or items for inclusion.

Best wishes

James

Hints and tips

The pover-tree; root causes of poverty

Last time we looked at striking the balance in terms of how we represent developing countries – ensuring that we go beyond the ‘horror stories’ to the real people. It is important that young people understand that not all people in developing countries are poor and/or unskilled; developing countries themselves need and want to take responsibility for their own development, but there are barriers in place which prevent this. This helps strengthen the argument that we need our young people to go beyond simple charity (such as collecting money) to campaigning for justice, such as on debt (resources in BOVA’d? 2, available on www.boscovolunteeraction.co.uk) or trade (resources below).

One image I use to investigate this is the ‘pover-tree’ (get it? My clever friend Jessica thought of it!). This idea helps us to make a (slightly artificial) distinction between the consequences and root causes of poverty in the developing world and consider our responses to them.

When working with groups I ask them to answer three questions:

- What is poverty?

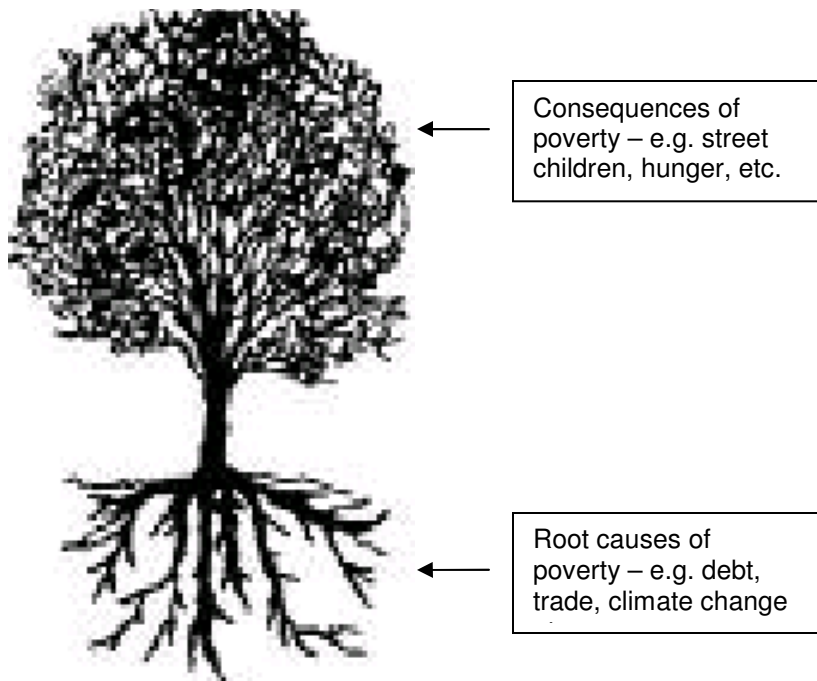
This usually leads onto to discussions of poverty at home and overseas, relative and absolute, definitions and concepts such as poverty lines, and spiritual or emotional poverty.

- What are the consequences of poverty?

For example: street children, poor health, slums, crime, depression, prostitution, death and so on

- What are the causes of poverty?

For example: climate change, drought, famine, extreme weather events, the burden of debt, poor governance, conflict, corruption, historical and present day exploitation and unfair trade rules, conflict and so on.



It is important to note that some of these causes can be traced back to developed countries. Examples include conflict (the arms trade), climate change, trade rules and debt.

I then use the ‘pover-tree’ to make the point that many development interventions, and much of the money/goods collected for charities, focus on the consequences of poverty; in the tree analogy they prune the leaves. However the tree continues to grow. There is therefore a need to cut poverty’s ‘roots’, including those in the developed world, removing the barriers to development, by campaigning on these issues.

Trade

Remembering the 3 barriers to action introduced in the last edition (don't know about it, nothing to do with me, nothing I can do), any session on trade needs to help your young people:

- Understand why unfair is a barrier to development in the developing world
- Be aware of the links between our lives in the UK and trade
- Find ways in which we can take action

The resources and links below should help you to do this. There are many more available, but I've sifted through and chosen those which I feel are best.

Unfair trade is a barrier to development in the developing world:

- 'The luckiest nut in the world' is a video full of singing peanuts! It also explains trade rules well, going into quite complex issues. It can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtIYyUJjACw>. If you want to use it in a school or youth club where the internet is not available (or reliable) you can use the Youtube downloader (<http://youtubedownload.altervista.org/>) to save it to your computer.
- A shorter (but less musical) animated explanation can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldZwGDXTsmk>

Raising aware of the links between our lives in developed countries and trade:

- *"Before you finish eating your breakfast this morning, you've depended on half the world. This is the way our universe is structured..."* (Martin Luther King Jr)
- A good activity for assemblies or presentations to youth clubs, making clear the unfairness of the rules, can be found at [http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/Images/trade rules are nuts a short talk on trade tcm16-19373.pdf](http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/Images/trade%20rules%20are%20nuts%20a%20short%20talk%20on%20trade%20tcm16-19373.pdf)
- *'Britain doesn't need anyone else,' a man said angrily to his radio (invented by a Russian, an Italian and a Croatian) as it broadcast a programme on world unity. The angry man had just had a wash (with soap – invented by ancient Gauls from Europe), checked his hair in a mirror (that originated in Egypt) and put on a tie (that evolved from seventh-century Croatian shawls).*

He was tucking into a hearty English breakfast (made with Danish bacon) at his table covered with a cloth made from Ugandan cotton. After a cup of Indian tea, he looked at his clock (invented in Germany) and rushed out of the door.

He bought a newspaper (created using the German process of printing) and as he read about what the rest of the world was up to (in English – a language based on Arabic characters, on paper invented by the Chinese) he thanked a Hebrew God for making him 100 per cent (percentage being a system invented by the Greeks) British.

Anon

- A good, quick and low on resources trade game can be found on [http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/Images/wriggling out of poverty activities 11-14 tcm16-19380.pdf](http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/Images/wriggling%20out%20of%20poverty%20activities%2011-14%20tcm16-19380.pdf)
- An excellent but more complicated one can be found at <http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/YouthLeaderResources/pbag.aspx>

Taking action:

- The Oxfam video 'What's your ethical rhythm?' is a fun short cartoon looking suitable for all ages, giving alternatives to consumerism. It's available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9k9gNUG5k9k>.
- The Trade Justice Movement has links up-to-date actions (such as petitions, letters, emails etc) <http://www.tjm.org.uk/action.shtml>
- Quotes from a range of faith groups (suitable for prayer or reflection) can be found on the last page of http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/Images/wriggling_out_of_poverty_activities_11-14_tcm16-19380.pdf

You think you're too small to make a difference? Then you've obviously never slept in the same room as a mosquito.

- African Proverb

Odds and ends

- Interested in linking your youth club/group etc to a youth club in a developing country? Please get in touch – bova@salesianyouthministry.com
- BOVA (as part of the Livesimply movement) is proud to have contributed to:

National Youth Sunday Resources and Training

www.reclaimthefuture.org.uk (launches September 2008)

National Youth Sunday 2008 is on the 23 November. It's a celebration of the unique contribution of young people in the life of the Church. This year the theme is sustainability. What does it mean? How are we to respond as young Catholic Christians? Is there anything we can do?

The online resource accompanying NYS08 contains comprehensive liturgy and collective worship ideas, as well as prayers and reflections, activities, dramas, games photographs and videos. The resource has been designed with youth leaders and school chaplains in mind, with dedicated pages for them, as well as a 'Youth Zone' for under 18s and young adult pages.

The resource collects together some of the best activity and prayer ideas from around England and Wales on the topics of sustainability, relationships and creation with specially-commissioned resources along with contributions from the dioceses of Northampton, Birmingham and East Anglia, and from the livesimply network from Myddelton Grange, The Briars and Soli House youth retreat centres, the Sion Community, Pax Christi, Bosco Volunteer Action, the Salesians, CAFOD, and YCW.

After its launch in mid-September, the RTF! team will hit the road to bring an action-packed series of FREE training days for DYO's, youth leaders, school chaplains and clergy. The days offer a straightforward look at the theology, science, and politics of sustainability, and explore how to get the most out of the resource.

Choose the day best for you from:

16 September - Birmingham (St Chad's Cathedral hall)

18 September - Leeds (St Anne's Cathedral hall)

24 September – London (St Vincent's Centre, Victoria)

(all 10.30 for 11am 'til 4pm. Lunch included)

Booking is essential so email youth@livesimply.org.uk for your FREE place.