



# Australian Young Christian Students Movement

## ***Road to Change Series*** ***Sanitation for All***

From the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of October this was Anti- Poverty Week. The purpose of this week was to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardships around the world and in Australia and to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

Many YCS groups across Australia were engaged in actions during this week and to follow on from this week the AYCS has decided to release our next *Road to Change Series* on Sanitation. 2008 is the International Year of Sanitation and we have chosen to focus on this issue in this *Road to Change Series* as poverty is very connected to the issue of available Sanitation. We encourage YCS groups to use this *Road to Change Series* with their group to increase the group's skills in the Review of Life Method so that we can all be more effective in taking action that transforms ourselves and our world.

We are aware that it may seem like a weird experience to be doing a Review of Life on Sanitation so we recommend that you tell your YCS group the week before you plan to do this *Road to Change Series*. This way they can be prepared for what will be discussed and reflected upon in the meeting and they may even be able to do some research prior to the YCS meeting on Sanitation.

### Why Sanitation?

- In 2008 the UN General Assembly declared 2008 the International Year of Sanitation.
- The goal is to raise awareness and to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals target the number of people without basic sanitation by 2015. (The International YCS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Millennium Foundation committing to raising awareness and taking action on the Millennium development Goals)
- Around the world, 2.6 billion people do not have a clean and safe place to use for performing their bodily functions often they lack that basic necessity, a toilet. This hidden global issue is a big problem threatening the dignity of humans across the world.

### What is Sanitation?

- Basically sanitation refers to the collection, treatment and disposal of human waste.
- It is not just about toilets!

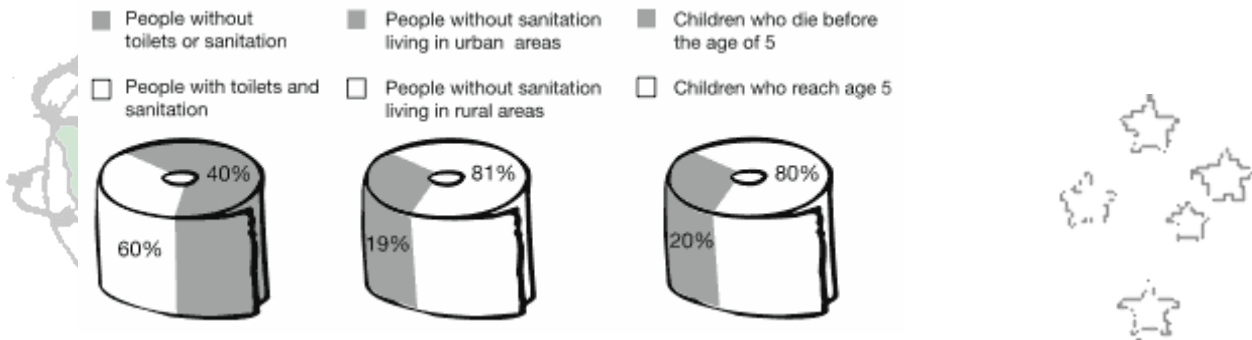
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## Sanitation Facts and Figures

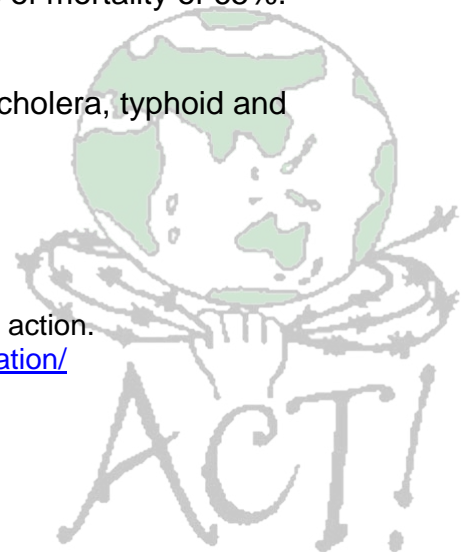


This diagram is a representation of the world.

- In 2005, an estimated 2.6 billion people — 40% of the world's population of 6.45 billion — lacked toilets and other forms of improved sanitation. (Millennium Development Report, 2005)
- 81 per cent of people with no access to sanitation live in rural areas. (WHO)
- In the poorest of countries, one child out of five doesn't reach their fifth birthday, mainly because of infectious diseases provoked by poor water quality. (UNESCO)
- The regions with the lowest coverage are Sub Saharan Africa (37%), Southern Asia (38%) and Eastern Asia (45%).
- Sanitation is often an issue of equality with many women not being granted access to toilet facilities
- Some people are forced to defecate in bags, buckets, fields or in road side ditches.
- Underlying issues that contribute to the challenging situation include lack of political will, inadequate financial resources, weak institutional frameworks, neglect of consumer preferences and cultural beliefs.
- Meeting the MDG target of halving the number of people without access to clean water would avert 391 million cases of diarrhoea a year.
- Water, hygiene and sanitation reduce the incidences of mortality of 65%.
- Health Gains from sanitation are great
- World toilet Day is 19<sup>th</sup> of November
- Lack of sanitation increased the risk of outbreaks of cholera, typhoid and dysentery.
- The Average Westerner spends 3 years on the toilet
- Information from World Health Organisation.

### Links to information about Sanitation

- TEAR Australia has a lot of great resources and ideas for action.  
<http://www.tear.org.au/getinvolved/international-year-of-sanitation/>  
<http://esa.un.org/iys/>
  - World Health Organisation  
[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation)
- Global Education
- <http://www.gloaleducation.edna.edu.au>



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## ***The Road to Change Series*** ***Sanitation for All!***



35 Minutes

*During this meeting and all YCS Meetings it is important to make sure that someone is taking notes in the groups note book, this will help the group follow up actions that members set.*

### **Opening Prayer**

1 minute

YCS Creed- Handout copies of the Creed and the Closing Prayer to all members of the group so that the group can read them aloud together.

### **Reflection**

2 minutes

The reflection is attached to this meeting plan. Read the story aloud to the group and discuss the questions.

### **Actions from Previous Meeting**

4 minutes

This is the time in the meeting when you can follow up any actions from the Previous Meeting.

### **Review of Life - Sanitation**

24 minutes

#### **SEE**

Based on your own local groups knowledge and experience reflect on the following Review of Life Questions.

1. Is this information new to you? If not what else do you know or have experienced about the issue of Sanitation? If yes, is there any other information or experiences you can share with the group?
2. What affects to you think not having access to basic sanitation has on the individual, family and wider community?
3. Why do people in many countries not have basic access to sanitation?

#### **JUDGE**

3. What do you think about this issue?
4. How do you think Jesus would respond to this situation?
6. What do you think should be happening in this situation?

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## ACT

7. In the long term, what do you want to change about the situation that you have reviewed?
8. What action can you take now to start to make that change happen?
9. Is there anyone else you can involve in this situation, i.e. other students, teachers, etc?

*Be Specific in your actions and consider*

*What is the action?*

*Who will do the action?*

*How they will do the action?*

*When will they do the action? Possibly create a time line*

*Where will they do the action?*

*Who will follow you or the group up about the actions committed to?*

It is really important that at your next YCS meeting that you follow up what actions individuals took so that you can work towards your long term goal.

## General Business

*2 minutes*

## Planning the Next Meeting

*1 minute*

When is the next meeting?

Who will be running the next meeting?

Who will be taking notes?

## Closing Prayer

*1 minute*

Get the whole group to read the Closing Prayer together.



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## Reflection

“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask them why they are poor they call me Communist.”

*By Archbishop Dom Helder Camara, Nobel Peace Prize Nominee and YCS Adult Assistant in Brazil.*

1. What does this reflection say to you?
2. How might this reflection relate to Sanitation and Poverty Week?

As YCS students we need to be looking at the causes of situations we are reviewing so that our actions are not just putting a bandaid on the situation but working to transforming the whole situation. When we are reviewing Sanitation today and looking at Poverty issues during Anti- poverty Week it is important that we keep this in mind.

## YCS Creed

As Young Christian Students we believe in God.

We believe that God created the universe and that we, as part of God's creation, are invited to help complete God's plan.

We believe that the earth has been entrusted to us, to care for, to nurture and to respect. People, as God's creation, have a dignity and worth beyond measure, and deserve to be treated with respect and understanding.

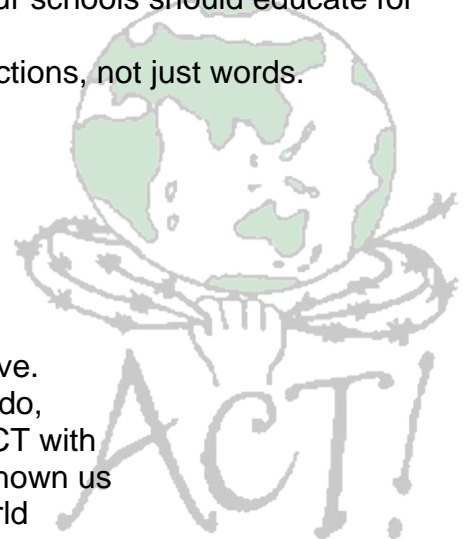
We believe the Holy Spirit empowers us to live active lives following the example of Jesus Christ. We do this through communicating our thoughts, opinions and emotions and accepting and loving each other unconditionally.

We believe that our schools should promote these values through encouraging students to form and question their own opinions and beliefs, and treating each student as a worthwhile individual who has unique needs and talents. Our schools should educate for life.

And we believe that Jesus calls us to live through actions, not just words.  
Amen.

## YCS Prayer

Dear Jesus,  
Please fill us with your spirit of love.  
Help us to SEE the world as you do,  
To JUDGE with your heart, and to ACT with  
The strength and courage you have shown us  
As we work to transform our world  
Amen



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