

October 17 is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Poverty continues to rob our local and global neighbours of their dignity and well-being.

Here in Canada, over 3 million people (approximately 1 in every 10) live in poverty, including lone-parent families, new immigrants, people with disabilities, and Aboriginal children and families.

Poverty is complex; there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Yet the biblical call to seek justice and bring an end to poverty is clear (Isaiah 58; Micah 6:8; Matthew 25).

What can we do?

1. Listen to the experiences of people living in poverty and educate ourselves about its root causes.
2. Partner with groups that are working for systemic change, such as your church's social justice office, Citizens for Public Justice, or *Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty-Free Canada* (www.dignityforall.ca)
3. Ask our elected officials what they intend to do about poverty in Canada.
4. Encourage the members of our church communities to engage with these issues. The reflections and activities in CPJ's *Living Justice: a Gospel Response to Poverty* are a great way to start.
5. Pray. (See reverse for a suggested prayer)



Citizens for Public Justice

Citizens for Public Justice is a national, ecumenical organization of members inspired by faith to act for justice in Canadian public policy.
www.cpj.ca

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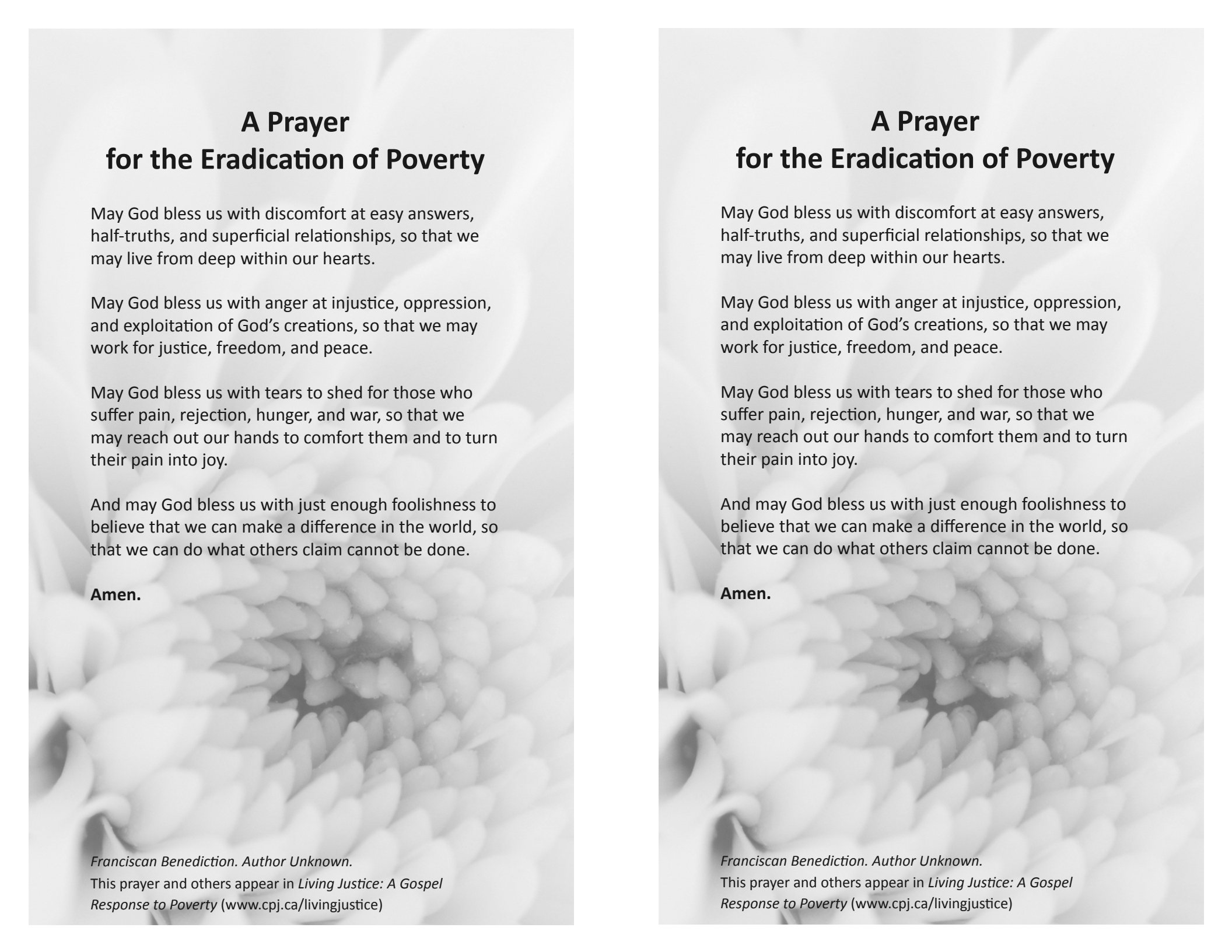
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A Prayer for the Eradication of Poverty

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God's creations, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with just enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

Franciscan Benediction. Author Unknown.

This prayer and others appear in *Living Justice: A Gospel Response to Poverty* (www.cpj.ca/livingjustice)

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