



Worship Material

Fairtrade Fortnight 2011



Worship Resources

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Honey has sweetened human life from ancient times and beekeeping is still a global activity, from the equator to the edges of the polar regions.

No matter how different our cultures and circumstances, that universal appetite for honey is something that unites people of all races and in all places.

In many communities, keeping bees or collecting wild honey is a vital way of supplementing a family's income. The extra money not only puts food on the table, it can pay for an education for a child or a home for a family.

Traidcraft is working with beekeepers in Africa and Latin America to help them improve their techniques, grow their markets, and build better futures for themselves and their communities. And we're inviting churches and congregations to help.

Use these worship materials along with our Big Brew resources to reach out to your local community.

Find out more about Traidcraft's work at www.traidcraft.org.uk

Order resources for your Big Brew at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

When you use these resources, please consider taking up a special offering to support the work of our charity, Traidcraft Exchange.

- **£75 could provide hives for a beekeeper**
- **£150 could train a beekeeping co-operative**

Collection boxes and envelopes are available from 0191 497 6445



Traidcraft was formed as a Christian response to poverty.

Traidcraft plc offers the UK's widest range of fair trade food, craft and textile products from more than 100 producer groups in almost 30 countries.

Traidcraft Exchange is an international charity helping small-scale farmers and producers in developing countries gain the confidence, knowledge and opportunities to work their way out of poverty through trade.

Together, we share a vision of a world free from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just, and people and communities can flourish.

All donations to Traidcraft are received by Traidcraft Exchange. Registered charity no. 1048752. Registered in England 303 1674

Opening:

My son, do not cheat a poor person of his livelihood or keep him waiting with hungry eyes. Do not tantalise one who is starving or drive him to desperation in his need.

Ecclesiasticus (Apocrypha) 4: 1-3

Prayer

Father, we gather here to praise and worship you. We acknowledge that your power and majesty are beyond our human comprehension but still we gather in worship, striving to catch a glimpse of your glory and to give thanks for your goodness and your grace to us.

So we praise and thank you for all the gifts you have showered upon us:
for the other people who are important in our lives,
for those who comfort us in time of trouble,
for those whose love and care and service and understanding are given without hesitation or expectation of any return,
for those who work in every corner of the world to harvest and mine and manufacture the good things which make our comfortable lives possible.
Lord, we thank you for other people.

We thank you for the good things with which we've been blessed:
for the health that enables us to worship today,
for our comfortable homes,
for money and material comfort,
for the ability to use our wealth and talents

to help those less fortunate than ourselves.
For all these things too we thank you, Lord.

But in giving thanks for these blessings we acknowledge that we often do not deserve them,
that we take and enjoy them without thought.

Forgive us, Lord, for taking the presence and love and support and skills of others for granted, for the way we often hurt others by careless words and actions.
Forgive us, Lord, for the way we use our money selfishly, begrudging the demands of others on our small store, overlooking the true cost of the goods we buy without a second thought.

Father you give us so much to enjoy and we accept these things as a right rather than a privilege. We are truly sorry for falling short of being the people you intended us to be.

Help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, to live better lives in future, to show in our living a reflection of the love of your Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name we gather.

Amen

With thanks to Alan Bell, who wrote the worship material.

Stories by Fiona Thomson, photos by Richard Else

Reading:

Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.

Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey, which he scooped out with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass. Now his father went down to see the woman. And Samson made a feast there, as was customary for bridegrooms. When he appeared, he was given thirty companions. "Let me tell you a riddle," Samson said to them. "If you can give me the answer within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. If you can't tell me the answer, you must give me thirty linen

garments and thirty sets of clothes."
"Tell us your riddle," they said. "Let's hear it."

He replied, "Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet."

Judges 14: 5 -14

Samson's riddle is probably known to everyone in the UK with a sweet tooth, because the authorized version is printed on the front of every tin of Lyle's Golden Syrup: "Out of the strong came forth sweetness."

Samson, of course, was talking about the strength of a lion and the sweetness of honey - but in terms of economics we tend to speak, nowadays, of strong nations not as lions but as 'tigers.' We, in the rich countries are strong, and the sweetness that can emanate from us is our wealth and how we use it. A wonderful example of that is provided by that same tin of Golden Syrup - or at least the company who supplies it - Tate and Lyle. Once a company which built its strength from participation in the slave trade, it is now using that strength to help sugar farmers achieve Fairtrade certification.

Chile: Apicoop

Apicoop is a bee-keeping co-operative based in Paillaco, a town in the Valdivia province of Chile.

In 1992, Traidcraft started buying honey from this small project group. After five years of selling honey at fair trade prices, Apicoop became a co-operative and bought a honey processing plant. The number of members increased and the co-op became sustainable.

Apicoop has used the Fairtrade premium to invest in equipment to improve efficiency in their honey production and they are now diversifying into blueberries.



Reading:

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9: 6 -15

Of course, Paul here is writing about charitable giving, and in times of extremity such giving is necessary to alleviate suffering. But once the immediate crisis is past, the best gift we can make to the poor is the dignity of useful work and the ability to maintain themselves and their families, free from want.

Economics is sometimes called 'the dismal science', and certainly the events of the last three or four years don't inspire a lot of faith in some of its modern practitioners, but two of the fathers of the subject, Adam Smith – the man on the back of the £20 note – and his near contemporary David Ricardo, both men of faith, had no doubt about the power of trade to improve the lot of the poor.

They showed that wealth is not finite, it increases through trade, and trade, if it is fair trade, has no losers; it is a win-win situation that makes everyone richer. So giving is good, but for the long term, trade is better.



Chile: Apicoop

The land farmed by many of the Apicoop members is poor and divided into small, family plots. Without the support of Apicoop – which buys and sells their honey – many families would struggle to make ends meet. Up to 70% of a family's income can come from the bees.

As well as assisting Apicoop to obtain a loan, Traidcraft made a grant to help them plant blueberry bushes.

Further help came in 2010 following the devastating earthquake which hit this part of Chile. With many hives damaged or destroyed and a large number of bee colonies dispersed, Apicoop was facing a serious financial loss. Traidcraft helped with grants and loans to replace the hives and re-establish bee colonies.

Offertory Prayer:

"If you find honey, eat just enough — too much of it, and you will be sick."

Proverbs 25: 16

Living Lord, you have given us enough and to spare. May we be as generous in our dealings with others.

Amen

Reading:

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 7: 7 - 12



Kenya:

Until recently, smallholder farmers at Iriaini Tea Factory in Kenya - one of Traidcraft's newest tea suppliers - relied solely on tea grown on their small plots of land. With each generation, the land owned by families has been divided, so that today many of the tea growers describe their inheritance - and the land they rely on for a living - not by acres or hectares, but by tea bushes or stems. For many, life was a constant struggle.

Now, thanks to training from Traidcraft, things are changing. The tea growers have been shown how to keep bees so hives are being placed on rough land which would otherwise provide no income, and in wooded areas, helping to preserve the environment.

They are also planting passion fruit, providing extra income for them and nectar for the bees. Some farmers have begun water harvesting and their small plots of land are flourishing, providing food for families and with surplus to sell.

Tarachisious Kamoche Muchiri chairs the Ruruguti Tea Zone Welfare Group, in the Iriaini district. He says:

"After the training we achieved a lot. We knew nothing about bees, we knew nothing about hives, but through the help of mwalimu (the Swahili word for teacher, which is what they call Rosemary Mbogo of Traidcraft), we have now come to realise our mistakes. Now, almost everyone has an idea - what is a bee, what does the bee produce, what kinds of hives we should have, and now everybody has started at home."

Sermon Notes:

*Lord Finchley tried to mend the
electric light
himself. It struck him dead: And serve
him right!
It is the business of the wealthy man
to give employment to the artisan.
Hilaire Belloc*

... may seem a rather flippant start to a serious sermon on fair trade, but actually Hilaire Belloc is expressing the same thought as the writer of Ecclesiasticus 2000 years earlier: "Do not cheat a poor person of his livelihood or keep him waiting with hungry eyes".

Jesus said that the labourer is worthy of his wages, but just as surely, in order to be worthy of those wages, the labourer must first be acknowledged to be worthy of a job. And it's up to us, the 'Lord Finchleys' of today's world, to use our comparative wealth to help provide opportunity and livelihoods for others. We are, after all, our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

Christians have always emphasised the importance of charity in helping to alleviate the lot of those worse off than we are, as we hear in the reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthian church. Traditionally, the concept has been that this would either involve donating money or, for those with the necessary talents and opportunity, rolling up your sleeves and getting down to work helping out in person. But there is another way: trade.

It's a dirty word to some, trade. At one end of the political spectrum, the landed gentry always looked down on anything as grubby as commerce, while to those on the far left, trade, caricatured as capitalism, was the ultimate enemy.

But for a faith whose founder worked in the

family business, this cannot be a Christian attitude.

It is incumbent on us to use to the best of our ability those talents with which we've been blessed, to meet our own needs and help meet the needs of others. Just as important is the need to use those talents to ensure that all our brothers and sisters in Christ have the same opportunity. And that applies as much to us as a society as it does to us as individuals. The way we conduct our trade, the demands we make on poorer nations, are, ultimately, a matter of personal responsibility.

And that is perfectly biblical – think of Jesus' parable of the talents and the master's rejection of the servant who hadn't invested his money wisely.

Of course, a plea for more and fairer trade can be difficult at a time of economic stringency and worries about unemployment but, in fact, it is in our own interest as well as that of the producers. For if we buy developing world products, such as honey, the producers will have money and will in turn buy what we produce – see Agustin Domingo's tale of buying equipment in Guatemala.

And, like honey, the benefit spreads even more widely. As a result of having money in their pockets, previously impoverished farmers have access to health care and education for their children, which not only increases the sum of human happiness, in the long term it will benefit every one of us. In the words of the adage: "Money is like manure; it works best when you spread it around."

As an example of the mutual benefits that fair trade can bring, honey is an obvious choice. It is a product much in demand

but, despite the recent expansion in bee-keeping as a hobby or a business here in the UK, we can only satisfy around 12 per cent of the domestic market from our own resources; we have to rely on beekeepers overseas for the rest.

The nectar gathered by bees is a sustainable natural resource, the exploitation of which has no detrimental environmental effects, indeed rather the opposite. And, after the initial comparatively modest outlays on training and equipment, bee-keeping is a skilled activity, producing a high-value product

that people want to buy.

For the Christian, honey also has great symbolic resonance. "A land flowing with milk and honey" is a recurring theme throughout the Old Testament, and it continues to the end of the New Testament. The angel's words to John in Revelation 10 compares the words of the scroll of God's message to it: "...in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey."

It is our duty as Christians to apply that sweet message of God's love practically to ensure His whole world flows with milk and honey and not just our small corner of it.

Guatemala

Agustin Domingo, lives with his family in the cerro (mountains) in the Cuilco area, at around 2,300 metres above sea level. Subsistence agriculture, growing crops like corn and beans, is his main activity and honey provides a significant income to the family. The honey has to be transported down the mountain by mule.



Agustin has been a member of Cipac since 1999. At that time he had around 20 hives and now has around 130. He has been supporting his son lately to learn about beekeeping and has given him 20 hives. Cipac has given him some support to build a new honey extraction room.

Agustin has already got a new extraction machine, made of steel, which, at a cost of around US\$250, has been quite an expensive investment for him. It is only because of the fair trade

guarantee and support that he has been able to take this step.

He says: "Fairtrade has allowed our family to have a better income than before. Furthermore, we know we have a market for our product every year. We are happy to know people (in the UK) like our honey. The co-op (Cipac) gives us a lot of support, such as cheaper food for the bees than there is in the local shops, a market for our product, and now there is a person (technical assistance) who is coming regularly to visit and support us."

Tanzania



More and better light – that’s the dream of 18-year-old Mwamvua Nassoro (above) as she studies at secondary school. She knows homework and studying for exams are important, but both of these must be done by the dim light of a kerosene lamp.

“My favourite subjects are biology, English, physics and chemistry,” she says. “I would like to be a nurse or a teacher but I need more and better light to study.”

Mwamvua is the oldest of eight children living in her family home and also has to help with family chores – all of which must be done before she begins her homework. This means that often she is starting to open her books when it is already dark.

Her father, Jabiri (right), is a beekeeper. He hopes that through workshops and training organised by Traidcraft and its partner organisations, he will be able to earn more for his honey and buy solar panels to provide Mwamvua with better lighting for her studies.

“My daughter studies and does her homework by kerosene lamp,” he said. “If I could make more money from beekeeping, I could provide a light for my children to study.”

“Education costs money and so does clothing. This season I have 25 buckets of honey and we harvest twice a year. But it takes 10 buckets of honey to pay for one child at secondary school. My children would not be going to school without money from honey.

“I hope that my children can get good employment in the government or teaching and also full employment because that could give them a good life.”

If she is successful with her studies, Mwamvua would like to help her father provide for the rest of the family. “I want to get a job so I can help my family,” she said, “especially the load carried by my father in providing for everyone.”



Prayers of Intercession:

O God:
Enlarge my heart that it may be big enough
to receive the greatness of your love.
Stretch my heart that it may take into it all
those who with me believe in Jesus Christ.
Stretch it that it may take into it those who
do not know him,
but who are my responsibility because I
know him.
And stretch it that it may take in all those
who are not lovely in my eyes,
and whose hands I do not want to touch;
through Jesus Christ, my saviour. Amen.

A prayer from Africa

Blessed are the poor...
not the penniless but those whose
hearts are true.
Blessed are those who mourn...
not those who whimper but those
who raise their voices.
Blessed are the meek...
not the soft, but those who are patient
and tolerant.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for justice...
not those who whine, but those
who struggle.
Blessed are the merciful...
not those who forget, but those
who forgive.
Blessed are the pure of heart...
not those who act like angels,
but those whose life is transparent.
Blessed are the peacemakers...
not those who shun conflict,
but those who face it squarely.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
for justice...
not because they suffer, but because
they love.

A prayer from Chile

Closing prayer:

Give us, O Lord, churches
that will be more courageous
than cautious;
that will not merely comfort the afflicted
but will afflict the comfortable;
that will not only love the world but will
also judge the world;
that will not only pursue peace but also
demand justice;
that will not remain silent when people are
calling for a voice;
that will not pass by on the other side
when wounded humanity is waiting
to be healed;
that will not only call us to worship but also
send us out to witness;
that will follow Christ even when that way
points to a cross.
To this end we offer ourselves in the
name of him who loved us and gave
himself for us.

Amen

Christian Conference of Asia

Suggested hymns & songs:

Beauty for Brokenness (*Graham Kendrick*)
Lord God, in whom all worlds,
(*F. Pratt Green*)
What does the Lord require? (*A. F. Bayly*)
Jerusalem the golden (*Bernard of Cluny*)
Christ for the world we sing (*S. Wolcott*)
Now join we to praise our creator
(*Fred Kaan*)
Praise God for the harvest of farm and of
field (*Brian A. Wren*)
Behold a little child (*W.W.How &
Donald McIlhagga*)

Donation Form

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Or please debit my credit/debit/CAF card:

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To qualify for Gift Aid, you must pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that Traidcraft Exchange reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 given).

- I am not a UK taxpayer.
- Traidcraft can sometimes benefit by allowing other like-minded organisations to contact you. Please tick if you would prefer not to hear from them.
- I do not want my details passed on to your trading company for marketing purposes.

* All donations within Traidcraft are received by Traidcraft Exchange, registered charity no. 1048752

Code: MBB/WM/1

If or when the time is right for you to include a charity in your will, please remember Traidcraft Exchange

Traidcraft plc, registered company no:1333367, Traidcraft Exchange registered charity no: 1048752.

Traidcraft, Kingsway, Gateshead NE11 ONE. Tel: 0191 491 0591.

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Option 1 Big Brew Food and Resource Pack

This pack contains everything you need to run a Big Brew for up to 50 people, from refreshing Traidcraft Fairtrade tea and coffee, to five packets of chocolate chip biscuits, 100 sugar sticks, our delicious squeezey honey and even fair trade rubber gloves for whoever washes up.

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Orderline: 0845 330 8900