

# Self-Development of People Sunday

*People Investing in People*

**March 15, 2015**



## **SDOP celebrates its 45th birthday in 2015**

**Each year, on a Sunday in Lent, Presbyterians celebrate the ministry of Self-Development of People (SDOP), a ministry of the One Great Hour of Sharing.**

This resource provides materials to help you interpret the ministry of Self-Development of People in your congregation.



[pcusa.org/sdop](http://pcusa.org/sdop)



PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE  
**Self-Development  
of People**

## THE MINISTRY OF SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE



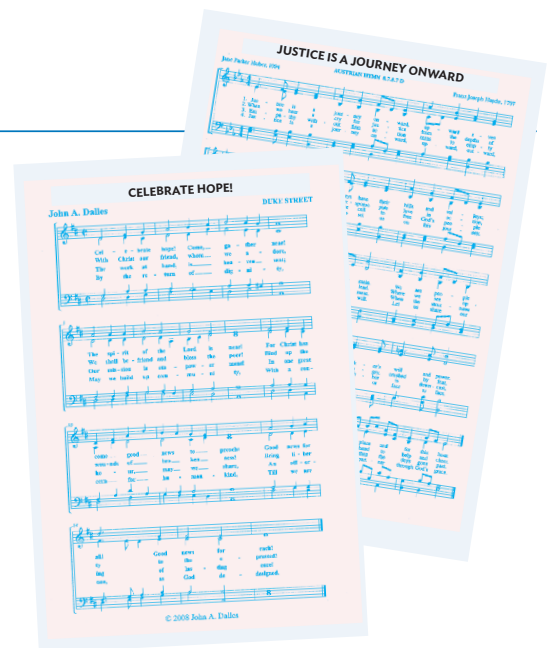
When Jesus read the scriptures in the Nazareth synagogue (Luke 4:14–21), he chose verses from Isaiah as his text: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Jesus of Nazareth befriended and assisted poor and oppressed people, and taught his followers the same responsibility. Through Self-Development of People (SDOP), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) lives out the primary responsibility taught by Jesus and demonstrates its solidarity with poor people here in the United States and around the world.

Self-Development of People affirms God’s concern for people by participating in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantage people by establishing partnerships with low-income community groups.

### SDOP HYMNS

Two hymns celebrate SDOP’s ministry. The first was written in 1996 by Jane Parker Huber; the second in 2008, by John A. Dalles. Both are included here, with permission to reproduce for ONE-TIME worship use.



## IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING SDOP SUNDAY IN YOUR CONGREGATION:

Invite participants in a nearby SDOP project to offer a “Minute for Mission” during your Sunday worship service. Contact the National SDOP Office to learn of projects that may exist in your area.

Share SDOP project stories as a “Minute for Mission,” or as part of the Sunday morning sermon.

If your Presbytery has an SDOP Committee, invite one of its member to speak during your worship service. Call the National SDOP Office to learn if there are National SDOP Committee members in your area who could be invited to speak to your congregation.



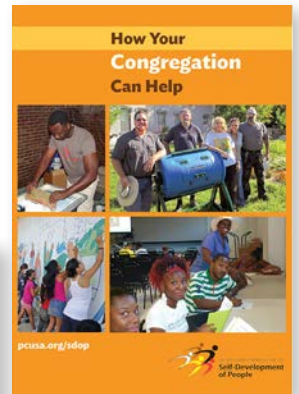
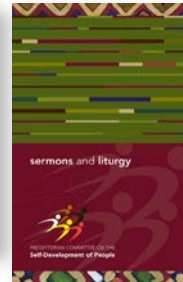
## FREE SDOP RESOURCES:

On the SDOP Website [pcusa.org/sdop](http://pcusa.org/sdop), you'll find stories about SDOP projects, and a variety of resources, including *SDOP: Sermons and Liturgy* (which you can use to plan your SDOP Sunday worship service), and *How Your Congregation Can Help*.

The following print resources can be ordered by calling the Presbyterian Distribution Center at 800-524-2612:

SDOP Booklet *People Investing in People*  
PDS #25422-12-002

Informational Brochure (6 pages)  
PDS #25422-14-001



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Self-Development of People's primary source of income is approximately one-third of the One Great Hour of Sharing. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program are the other programs receiving a portion of the offering.

We encourage all Presbyterians to generously support the One Great Hour of Sharing during the Lenten season. The three OGHS ministries depend on your contributions!



## SDOP in the United States



Self-Development of People regularly enters into partnerships with economically poor groups here in the United States. In 2013, SDOP provided a grant to Chainbreaker Collective, a project in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The story follows:

### CHAINBRAKER COLLECTIVE'S BICYCLE RESOURCE CENTER

In 2004, transportation costs were a major problem for low-income adults and youth in Santa Fe, New Mexico. There was simply no inexpensive way “to get from here to there.” A lack of affordable transportation made it difficult for them to get to work, to school, to the doctor, or to any of the other places to which most of us usually go.

A group of Santa Fe residents who had transportation difficulties began to talk about how to solve it, and came up with a great idea! As Tomas Rivera, one of the founders, tells the story, the group formed “when a core group realized we had the common problem of a lack of transportation, and decided to work together toward a common solution. Many of us rode our bikes as a way to get around and



found it to be a first step toward solving that problem in an economical and environmentally friendly way. However, we also found that because we couldn't afford to buy a new bike or pay for repairs on our own, that without the ability to do our own maintenance, bicycle riding was not as reliable as we need it to be. Inspired by recycle-a-bike programs around the country, we began teaching ourselves bicycle mechanics and gathering donations of bicycles that would otherwise go unused. Interest in what we were doing grew rapidly and we saw the need to find our own pace and work with a broader community. We solicited a local non-profit to allow us to use a small piece of their parking lot to operate out of. In six months, we gathered materials and constructed a small but functional bike shop. We use the model we began with to meet other people in our situation and to get them involved in the program.

When the economy collapsed in 2008, it became clearer than ever that we had to expand our focus past bicycles to deal with transportation issues at the root cause. The Bicycle Resource Center provides an immediate and direct solution to the lack of transportation for our community and serves as an entry point to begin collectively addressing poor transportation policies and outdated city planning at their root. Chainbreaker members worked with local officials to develop a program that provides free bus passes to people who purchase a bicycle or receive one through the Bicycle Resource Center.”

Members of the Bicycle Resource Center say that the project has changed their lives. For example, Rivera tells the story of a man who was homeless and without transportation when he first encountered the Bicycle Resource Center two years ago. He was working as a day laborer and the place he needed to be each morning to get work was too far to walk from where he was staying. In addition, the nature of day laboring required him to be mobile to get to work sites. He was losing work each day because of his lack of transportation. He received a bicycle and learned enough mechanical skills to keep it functioning as a safe and reliable means of transportation. Through the Bicycle Resource Center, he was able to continuously obtain work and save enough money to move into an apartment. Today, he remains active in the Bicycle Resource Center as a mechanic instructor, also serves as a board member, and has become a leader in campaigns to support public transportation.”

## SDOP’s International Partners

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Since 1970, the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People has been a partner in grassroots projects around the world that seek to improve the lives of poor and underserved people. Our mission has been, and continues to be, a God-inspired work “toward the self-development of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people who own, control and benefit directly” from such projects.”

In Argentina, SDOP works with *Centro Regional Ecumenico de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS)*, a Christian organization organized to support actions taken by local churches and community groups in the context of the social realities in Argentina. The “Ecumenical Fund for Support to Small Projects” focuses on strengthening and nourishing grassroots initiatives.

In Dominican Republic, we partner with *Centro de Solidaridad Para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (CE-MUJER)*. *CE-MUJER* is an organization committed to improving the quality of life for women and communities by assisting in their empowerment for gender equality through self-management, education, training in non-traditional technical skills, income generation, health and public politics with influence on both the national and local level.

In India, SDOP’s partner is Development Promotion Group (DPG), which supports social development activities among women, children and neglected minorities in South India. Most of DPG activities are in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, with a smaller presence in Andhra Pradesh. The projects, both urban and rural in nature, range from development to sanitation to housing to education.

Currently, SDOP (in collaboration with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program) is assisting in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The program is being implemented by Agricultural Missions. The primary goals of the collaboration are to improve food security and economic status of individuals, families and communities, to develop and strengthen community-based organizations, and to develop the technical and management capabilities of the Councils of Churches.

SDOP is currently focusing some of its international funding in Belize, the northern most Central American nation—bordered on the north by Mexico, on the south and west by Guatemala and on the east by the Caribbean Sea.

Belize is a country of contrast. The initial tourist image quickly fades into a much more complex image dealing with issues of urban squalor and rural poverty. The rural poverty is especially prevalent in the southern part of the country. The two southern most districts are Stann Creek and Toledo, home to the indigenous cultures of the Mayan and Garifuna (descendants of Carib Indians and African slaves) people. This is a country rich in culture. The people are warm, friendly and confident in their ability to face life's challenges, both old and new ones, together making a better world for themselves, their children, communities, and country. We share the story of one of our partners in Belize below:

## **SANDY BEACH WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE, BELIZE**

Twenty-eight years ago a group of economically poor women in Belize started the Sandy Beach Women's Cooperative in Hopkins Village. Three years later they opened a small hotel with two small cabanas and a restaurant. Working hard and reinvesting their money, they added three more cabanas. Fully employed, the women were now able to care for their families.



Disaster struck in May 2005. A fire destroyed the cooperative's thatch buildings, leaving only two cabanas standing. Discouraged but not defeated, the women began to cook meals in their homes for both tourist and local people, again investing their profits in a fund to rebuild the hotel's restaurant. It took a year to rebuild the kitchen, but they did, and for the next two years their profits from the restaurant were all invested in rebuilding the hotel complex.

Just as the women thought things were beginning to look up for them, disaster came a second time, in the form of a bush fire that destroyed nearly all their buildings. Once again the women were back at the starting line.

This time Presbyterians were there to help! The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, a ministry funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing, made a grant of \$20,038 to the Sandy Beach women to rebuild their restaurant. Thanks to Presbyterians, the women of Sandy Beach are once again able to support their families and to generate profits that will be used to slowly but surely rebuild the hotel.

## WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR SDOP SUNDAY

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** As we gather in God's house on Self-Development of People Sunday, we give thanks for our blessings and for the opportunity to share them in God's name.

**People:** We give thanks for the spirit of generosity and partnership embodied by Self-Development of People.

**Leader:** Let us always work for the empowerment of those whose needs are great.

**People:** Wherever there is poverty, hunger, injustice or oppression, we are called to serve.

**Leader:** We pledge to partner with those who see better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

**All:** With God's help, we can find ways to make the world a better place for all people.

### INVOCATION

God of justice and compassion, we come before you this morning in a spirit of gratitude and praise. As we gather in our communities of faith, we give thanks for the gifts of calm hearts and still minds, given to us through the presence of your Holy Spirit, as we hear your message and receive your guidance. Remind us, Lord, of our connectedness and our responsibilities to each other. As we gather in worship, may your divine love inspire us to lead lives of peace and justice, and may your Holy Spirit bring hope and empowerment to communities of need everywhere, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### CHARGE

Go now in peace. Be a servant to those you know and love, and to those who are strangers. Be a witness to God's compassion for all people. Be a worker for God's justice, and a partner in the self-development of people.

### BENEDICTION

Go now in the name of God, in whose image we are all made; in the name of Jesus Christ, who knew everyone as a neighbor; and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who gives equal comfort to those who have all that they need and to those who need much. Amen.





# CELEBRATE HOPE!

John A. Dalles

DUKE STREET

Cel - e - brate hope! Come, — ga - ther near!  
With Christ our friend, whom — we a - dore,  
The work at hand, is — hea - ven — sent;  
By the re - turn of — dig - ni - ty,

The spi - rit of the Lord is near! For Christ has  
We shall be - friend and bless the poor! Bind up the  
Our mis - sion is em - pow - er ment! In one great  
May we build up com - mu - ni ty, With a con -

come — good — news to — preach: Good news for  
wou - nds of — bro — ken — ness! Bring li - ber  
ho - ur, — may — we — share, An off - er -  
cern — for — hu - man - kind, Till we are

all! Good news for each!  
ty to the o - pressed!  
ing of las - ting care!  
one, as God de - signed.

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# JUSTICE IS A JOURNEY ONWARD

Jane Parker Huber, 1994

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

1. Jus - tice is a jour - ney on - ward, up - ward e - ven  
 2. When we hear a cry for jus - tice from the depths of  
 3. Em - pa - thy with - out firm ac - tion turns to emp - ty  
 4. Jus - tice is a jour - ney on - ward, up - ward, out - ward,

through the pain. Jour - neys have their hills and val - leys;  
 hu - man need, Our re - sponse puts love in ac - tion,  
 sen - ti - ment, But the call to free God's peo - ple  
 spread - ing still. Christ has set us on this jour - ney,

still the dreams and goals re - main. We are peo - ple  
 fol - low - ing our Sav - ior's lead. Where we see op -  
 leads to self - de - vel - op - ment. When the struc - tures  
 claim - ing us for God's own will. Let us share our

freed from bond - age by our Mak - er's will and power.  
 pres - sive sys - tems, peo - ple hun - gry, crushed by fear,  
 need re - shap - ing, or our neigh - bor is down - cast,  
 neigh - bor's bur - dens far a - way or face to face.

We must now re - spond with ac - tion, in this place and for this hour.  
 We must be the voice of jus - tice, and the hand to help and cheer.  
 Let us seek a bright - er fu - ture, fair - er than the days gone past.  
 So may we, by tak - ing ac - tion, be a part - ner through God's grace.