

## Challenging Poverty

'Challenging Poverty', a new campaign to tackle poverty in Britain, has been launched. An initiative of the Church Urban Fund (CUF), the campaign will raise awareness of the plight of the 11.4 million people living below the poverty line in this country and encourage action in local communities.

The 'Challenging Poverty' campaign will enable CUF to continue its pioneering work with the top 10 per cent of the poorest communities in England. CUF is one of the few national organisations that invest in grass-roots projects which work to eradicate the negative effects of poverty but find it hard to get funding to continue or start projects that transform people's lives. Visit the campaign's dedicated website: <http://www.challengingpoverty.org/>

## Church faces the challenge of Peacemaking: A Christian Vocation

Addressing matters of life and death, the Methodist Conference has commended a resource considering the ethics of modern warfare. Produced jointly by the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, "Peacemaking: A Christian Vocation" aims to help Christians reflect on Jesus' call to be peacemakers, love our enemies and pray for our persecutors.

Asserting that armed conflict should only ever be a last resort, it asks whether there can ever be a positive use of force in conflict and if so, who has the authority to pursue war? It explores the possibility of non-violent strategies for dealing with conflict and speaks of peacemaking on both local and international levels. It also addresses the economic, social, political and environmental factors that contribute to conflict in communities and between nations.

The book features the stories of soldiers, military chaplains and those unwillingly caught up in conflict. It considers how we can respond to terrorism in a volatile environment and calls upon the leaders of the nations to join Christians in seeking out the way of peace.

## And finally...

