

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

The 2007 **Africare**
Bishop John T. Walker
Memorial Dinner

A Salute to
Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

**The Empowerment of
Women in Africa**



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The 2007
Africare
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A Salute to
Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Hilton Washington Hotel
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC



Bishop John T. Walker

THUS, THE LATE JOHN T. WALKER, Episcopal Bishop of Washington, D.C., explained himself to us, not long before his death at age 64 on September 30, 1989, through Juan Williams of The Washington Post.

“I know some people get disheartened, and I know some people want to throw in the sponge and give up, but I can’t do that. My feeling is too strong that it’s God’s will that we live together in harmony and peace. It’s God’s will that we grow beyond our racial animosities and that we must commit ourselves to continue that work. That’s why I’m here. I am not here for any other reason.”

—Bishop John T. Walker

Born in Barnesville, Georgia, on July 27, 1925, Bishop Walker grew up in Detroit. He joined the Episcopal Church in 1947, earned a history degree four years later from Wayne State University and in 1951 became the first African American to attend the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. The Rt. Rev. Richard Emrich, former Bishop of Detroit, urged Walker to take that fateful step.

Bishop Emrich has described John Walker as “one of the greatest bishops in the history of the church... It’s hard to remember the Episcopal Church John

Walker came into in 1947 because he remade it so completely, yet so gracefully.”

It is difficult to remember Africare as it was in 1974 when John Walker agreed to chair its Board of Directors, a position he held until his death. As he was a builder and motivator of his church, so he proved a builder of Africare and a motivator of those Americans and Africans who carry out its work in Africa. He loved Africa and the great energy and beauty of her peoples. He dedicated years of his life to his vision of what he knew Africa could become.

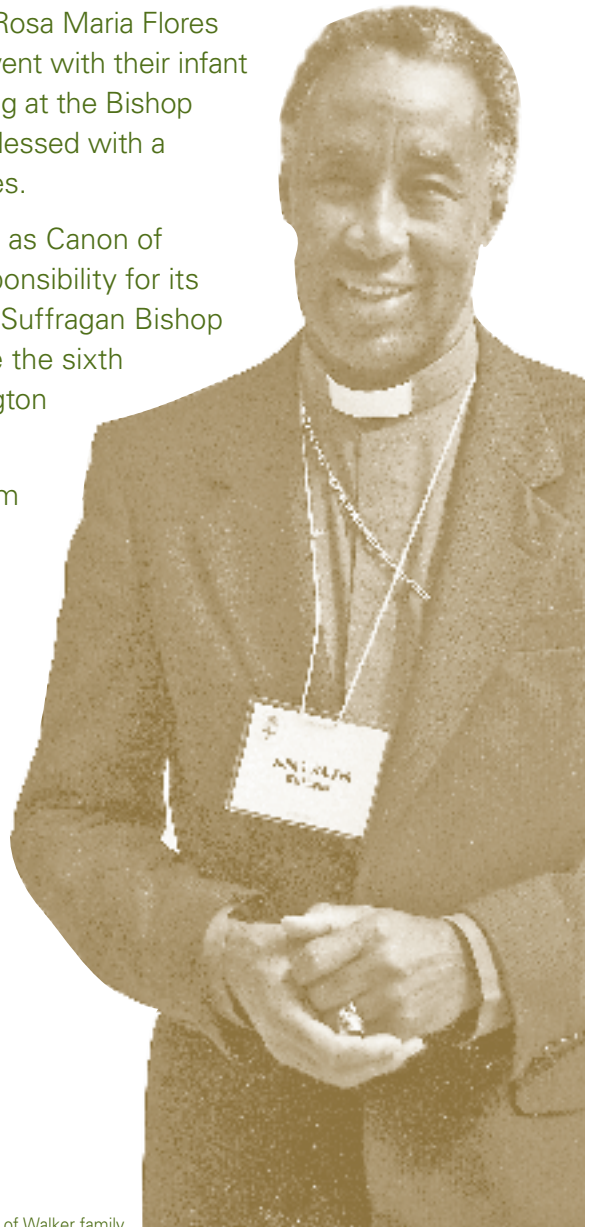
Whether it was his church or Africare, or any of the causes he served, Bishop Walker was concerned with people, with their welfare and with helping them grow as human beings. He used his gifts as a mediator and a peacemaker to bring about lasting changes within both institutions and individuals. And he accomplished much.



His first assignment as a priest was with a white parish in a racially changing neighborhood in Detroit in the mid-1950s. From there, he moved to St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, where he taught religion and history, counseled students and worked on special missions in the largely white Diocese. He led church conferences and training programs in Central America in the early 1960s. There, he met and married Rosa Maria Flores of Nicaragua in 1962. Two years later, they went with their infant son, Thomas, to Uganda for a year of teaching at the Bishop Tucker Theological School. They were later blessed with a daughter, Ana Maria, and another son, Charles.

Bishop Walker came to Washington in 1966 as Canon of the Washington Cathedral, with special responsibility for its ministry to the community. He was elected Suffragan Bishop of Washington on May 1, 1971, and became the sixth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington on July 3, 1977.

All who knew John Walker will remember him as a man whose inner flame burned with an unwavering intensity. It was a flame that cast warmth upon his family, his friends, his colleagues and parishioners. The memory of John Walker's light continues to guide us through the moral thickets of our times.



Bishop Walker photo courtesy of Walker family.



Dinner

Arugula Salad with Roasted Pepper, Asiago Cheese
Sun-dried Olives, Fresh Lemon Vinaigrette Dressing

Cumin Chili Rubbed Tenderloin of Beef
Paired with Tilapia and Tropical Salsa
Horseradish Mashed Potatoes
Asparagus, Carrot, Squash, and Zucchini
Roasted Corn Demi and Mango Buerre Blanc

Vegetarian Entrée (available upon request)

Assorted Dinner Rolls, Flat Bread and Butter

Chef's Trio
Mango Passion Fruit Cone
Chocolate Espresso Tea Cup
Chocolate Sponge Cake with Raspberry

Coffee and Tea

Wine with Dinner



Program

Entertainment

The Moga Band
Nimley Pan African Dance Company

Mistress of Ceremonies

Charlayne Hunter-Gault
Journalist and Author

Liberian and American National Anthems

Yvonne Sangudi
Sarah Lawrence Music Major

Invocations

Bishop John Bryson Chane
Episcopal Diocese of Washington
Imam Sheik Mohamed Cole
Avondale Islamic Center

Welcome

W. Frank Fountain
President of The Chrysler Foundation
Chairman, Africare Board of Directors

Dinner

Special Video Presentation Africare's Work to Empower Women

Charlayne Hunter-Gault

Tribute to Award Recipient

First Lady Laura Bush
Jacques Diouf
Director-General, Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations
H.E. Donald Kaberuka
President, African Development Bank Group
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Congresswoman, House of Representatives

Special Video Tribute to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Introduction of 2007 Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award

Robert L. Johnson
Founder and Chairman, The RLJ Companies

Presentation of Award

W. Frank Fountain
Julius E. Coles
President, Africare

Special Presentation

Barbara McKinzie
International President,
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Presentation of Africare Legacy Awards

Julius E. Coles
Jeannine B. Scott
Senior Vice President, Africare

Conclusion

Julius E. Coles

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

AFRICARE SALUTES HER EXCELLENCY ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF for her lifelong service in national and international public life, and especially for her contributions to the empowerment of women Africa-wide. As Africa's first elected female head of state, President Johnson Sirleaf is leading the Republic of Liberia through the challenge of economic, political, and national renewal. She embodies the progress of women achieving leadership positions in Africa.

Prior to her inauguration as President of Liberia on January 16, 2006, she had a career in national and international public service that spanned nearly four decades. After her early education at the College of West Africa, in Monrovia, she earned a BA in Accounting at Madison Business College in Madison, Wisconsin. She later obtained a diploma at the Economics Institute at the University of Colorado and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1971.



The Executive Mansion, Liberia

In 1979, as the first female Minister of Finance of Liberia, President Johnson Sirleaf spearheaded many innovations to curb the mismanagement of government finances. After the military coup of 1980, she was appointed President of the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI). President Johnson Sirleaf worked as Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau of Africa for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with the rank of Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations. She left that post in 1997 to run as presidential candidate of the Unity Party in the first postwar elections in Liberia.

In the private sector, President Johnson Sirleaf served on the Advisory Board of the Modern Africa Growth and Investment Company (MAGIC), the Hong Kong Bank Group. She was also Vice President of Citicorps's Africa Regional Office and a Senior Loan Officer at the World Bank. President Johnson Sirleaf was an initial member of the World Bank Council of African Advisors. President Johnson Sirleaf has shared her experience and competence on many advisory boards and committees, both in her home country and abroad. She was a founding member of the International Institute for Women in Political Leadership and has written widely on financial issues, development and human rights. She is a founder of Kormah Development and Investment Corporation, a financial management advisory consultancy firm as well as Measuagon, a community development NGO in Liberia.

After fighting for freedom, justice and equality, President Johnson Sirleaf is now entrusted with the most challenging task any leader has ever faced in Liberia. The woman that many have come to know as the "Iron Lady," is confident that she has the ability to "transform adversity into opportunity" for her country.

Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, you have dedicated your life to the progress, stability, and well-being of your nation and continent. From your childhood in Monrovia, to your studies in the United States, your various positions in the Liberian government and the United Nations, and now in your role as Africa's first elected female head of state, you have worked to bring democracy, justice, economic development and liberty not only to your beloved Liberia but to the continent of Africa as a whole.

Like your mother and father, you were born and raised in Liberia. You went to school at the College of West Africa and then chose to continue your education abroad. You came to the United States where you studied at and graduated from Madison Business College, the University of Colorado, and finally Harvard University's Kennedy School.

After you returned to Liberia, you entered public service, and began to devote your life and career to helping improve the quality of life for the people of Liberia and Africa as a whole. You became Assistant Minister of Finance in the administration of President William Tolbert. When that government was overthrown in a coup d'état, you were forced to flee your country and moved to Nairobi, Kenya where you used your financial expertise to increase investments for the African continent.

You returned to Liberia again in 1985 to run for public office, but when you spoke out against the existing military regime, you were imprisoned. When released, you were forced again to flee, and during your years in exile you worked for various organizations including the World Bank and the United Nations, where you held the post of Assistant Secretary General.

After Charles Taylor came to power, you returned to your country where you again spoke out against injustices and corruption and ran for the Presidency in 1997. Because of this, you were accused of

treason and yet again forced into exile but continued to speak out against the Taylor regime. When he was at last forced from office, you returned and took over the leadership of Liberia's Unity Party.

You ran for the presidency again, and on November 11, 2005, the National Elections Commission of Liberia declared you to be the democratically elected president of Liberia. International observers found the election to be free, fair, and transparent. On January 16, 2006, you were sworn into office as Liberia and Africa's first elected female head of state.

As President of Liberia, you worked tirelessly to build up Liberia's previously stagnant economy and have taken steps to heal the wounds of the nation's long and violent civil war. When the women of Liberia called out for change, for peace and stability in the country and the region, for opportunities for education, for work and for protection under the law, you heard their voices. You reached out across national borders to help your nation become, as you have said, "a brilliant beacon, an example to Africa and the world of what love of liberty can achieve."

For the people of Africa and the world, you yourself have become such a beacon. At the 2007 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner, the Africare Board of Directors proudly honors President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the 2007 recipient of the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award.



The Executive Mansion, Liberia

Frank Fountain
Chairman, Africare Board of Directors

Julius E. Coles
President, Africare



GEORGE BUSH

September 24, 2007

Barbara and I are pleased to serve as National Honorary Patrons for the 2007 Africare Bishop Walker Dinner. We had great respect and affection for the late Bishop Walker, and it is fitting, indeed, that he be remembered annually with this dinner bearing his name.

We join in congratulating Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, this year's honoree. Some said Liberia was not ready for a female head of state, but President Johnson-Sirleaf's accomplishments in her relatively short tenure have proved them wrong. Certainly, her inner strength and determination in the face of enormous challenges are an inspiration to all.

With respects to President Johnson-Sirleaf and best wishes for a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush".



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

September 21, 2007

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Washington, D.C. for Africare's 2007 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner. I am delighted to serve as National Honorary Patron and to join you in congratulating your distinguished honoree, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the President of the Republic of Liberia.

In this interdependent world, we must meet our challenges not as isolated individuals, but as members of a true community, with all of us working together. Upholding this fine tradition of compassion and unity for 37 years, the members of Africare have given hope and help to countless individuals and families in Africa, and, with the help of responsible world citizens like all those present at this dinner, Africare will continue to do so for many years to come.

As you honor President Johnson-Sirleaf, I am reminded of the importance of forward-thinking leaders who, like her, work with energy, creativity, vision, and determination to address the pressing issues that our communities face. She is a leader who understands the diverse needs of her people, and I take special pleasure in commending her dedication to reviving her country after so many years of civil conflict and insecurity. Through legislative, economic, and health reform, President Johnson-Sirleaf has brought new life to Liberia. I am particularly impressed by her leadership on HIV/AIDS, which she is actively tackling in partnership with my Foundation's HIV/AIDS Initiative and which is evidenced by her recent decision to reconstitute the National AIDS Commission. As a woman of strength, intelligence, and passion, and as the first female African President, she is a magnificent example and inspiration for women in Africa and beyond, and she is living proof of the power that hope, love, and leadership has to improve our global community.

Our world is so fortunate to have organizations and individuals like Africare and President Johnson-Sirleaf, who devote their time, talents, and energy to ensure a brighter future for all people, especially by empowering the people of Africa. Best wishes for a memorable celebration and for continued success in your important work.

Bill Clinton

Health

The women of Africa are the primary healthcare agents of the family. Improving their overall health and providing nutrition education enhances family vitality. Healthy mothers give birth to healthy infants thus infant and child mortality rates continue to fall. When combined with education and employment or income-generating opportunities, research shows that improved women's health can also accelerate economic development and enhance chances for personal and family prosperity.

As her nickname suggests, Amie "Small" Braima was always small. Several weeks premature, Small was only three pounds when she was born in the Sierra Leonean village of Niahun Gbuyama in Kailahun District. Fortunately, Small's mother, Miata Mohamed, had attended Africare's antenatal clinic regularly during her pregnancy and knew the importance of exclusive breast feeding to help her baby grow. After six months, Small has gained weight and is crawling with her peers — on track for a healthy future.

Women in Miata's village traditionally alternate between breast milk and lukewarm water when feeding their babies, which increases the risk of diarrhea and other water-borne diseases. "Before Africare's project there was lots of diarrhea," said the community's nurse, Mary Vandj.

"There was no clean water, so the mothers would get water anywhere they could, even if it was not clean. The women are now practicing exclusive breastfeeding and the children are not as sick."

Africare's comprehensive approach to improving child health — from encouraging breastfeeding and training traditional birth attendants, to improving diets and hygiene — should help ensure a long and healthy life for all the children in the community, even those who are born "Small."



Photo by Elizabeth Williams

Food Security

Food security becomes a reality “when all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs in order to lead a healthy and productive life” (USAID). Africare’s programs in food security encompass two major objectives; improving the nutritional status of mothers and their children as well as promoting income-generating activities which encourage entrepreneurship. These two objectives are connected to the level of household food security in the communities of intervention.

Mrs. Mahubane and other women in her South African village had a dilemma. There were very few jobs available in their village, but they did not want to leave their children behind to journey to the big cities in search of work. Their solution was to start their own business in their own village, which would provide local jobs, as well as produce a food product in great demand: peanut butter.

Africare assisted to make these women’s dream a reality. Africare provided both manual and engine-powered grinding machines to the women’s group, and trained the women in business planning, personnel management, record keeping, budgeting, marketing, and cash flow analysis. Today, Mrs. Mahubane is Chairperson of the Kodumela Peanut Butter Project, which produces nearly 900 pounds of peanut butter a month, is operating out of a new factory provided by Africare, and will soon start growing its own nuts on land donated by the local chief.

In neighboring Zimbabwe, Mrs. Chauke attended a demonstration by an Africare field worker of a peanut butter grinding mill. She realized immediately that this mill was definitely an improvement over the stone grinding method she had been using. With the use of the new mill, her output increased from nine pounds of peanut butter a day to 22 pounds. Mrs. Chauke’s children now eat foods fortified by the highly nutritious peanut butter, and Mrs. Chauke is able to earn income through selling the peanut butter directly or by charging others in the community to grind their nuts for them.

Now, thanks to Africare, the women have the skills to grow, process, package and market as well as reap the profits themselves.



Photo by Elizabeth Williams

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO THE 2007 AFRICARE BISHOP WALKER DINNER
Washington, D.C., 18 October 2007

I am delighted to join in this tribute to Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and an inspiration to Africa, to the United Nations and to the world.

President Johnson Sirleaf, in leading by example, with vision and commitment, you have demonstrated the qualities needed to heal wounds caused by decades of violent conflict. Under your leadership, and with the support of the United Nations, the people of Liberia have an opportunity to join together, to build a just and inclusive society, which assures the participation of all people, irrespective of political or ethnic affiliation.

In this way, Liberia can continue to build on the many contributions it has already made to Africa and to the world. And it can blaze a trail for the empowerment of women in Africa. President Johnson Sirleaf, your election as Africa's first woman President speaks more eloquently about advances in the rights of women than any words of mine ever could. Under your leadership, Liberia is giving life to the understanding that empowering women is not only a goal in itself -- it is a prerequisite for our ability to reach all the Millennium Development Goals, the common vision agreed by all countries for building a better world in the twenty-first century.

President Johnson Sirleaf, please accept my warmest congratulations on this award. It is richly deserved. To all those honouring you at the 2007 Africare Bishop Walker Dinner, I also send my best wishes for a memorable evening.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ki-moon Ban".
Ban Ki-moon

Water

Visit an African village and ask the people what they need more than anything else: they will tell you: water! “Our well has gone dry,” they may say. That is, if they have a well. One of the greatest returns to improved access to water is time savings for women and girls. Being able to access clean water frees especially women and girls substantially to participate in many other activities, which in turn lead to their overall empowerment in society. Access to clean water means that there is more time to devote to the care of children and the family; and it means that families, especially children are less prone to endemic water-borne diseases that are so often life threatening. It means there is more time to grow food for family consumption, thereby enhancing family food security. And it means that with more free time, women and girls are able to participate in opportunities to gain skills and training, as well as in other income-generating activities — all which positively impact their personal and general family welfare.



Photo by Elizabeth Williams

In the village of Lowoma Mandu, in the Kailahun District of Sierra Leone, there was a time when the village depended on a scummy pond in the woods as the community’s only water source for drinking, cooking and bathing. Even gathering the water was a challenge. Women had to walk into the forest down a narrow path and carry the water in plastic containers on their heads back to the village. Members of the community, especially children, often suffered from diarrhea and other diseases they caught from the dirty water.

Africare helped the community leaders organize into a Village Development Committee (VDC), where they identified clean water as the community’s priority. They made a plan to install a water pump in the village, and Africare was able to provide the support to allow the community members to follow through with their plan. The community has seen a drastic improvement in the health and quality of life since the pump was installed. “There is no more diarrhea among the children,” said Watta Momoh, one of the community’s women leaders. “The water is clean, even straight from the tap. The community is producing more food. We no longer walk a far distance to get water.”



October 18, 2007

Dear Friends of Africare:

I am honored to serve as National Chair for the 2007 Africare Bishop Walker dinner.

A year ago, I heard President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf speak at the Clinton Global Initiative about her strategy for reconstructing Liberia. I was deeply impacted by the strength of her convictions and clarity of vision for a new Liberia. Together with several colleagues, I made three commitments to support President Sirleaf and her government.

The first was to mobilize capital that would help Liberia's private sector recover its vitality and ability to create jobs, generate revenue and provide sustainable development. To this end, The RLJ Companies, together with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and CHF International, created the Liberia Enterprise Development Finance Corporation. This \$30 million fund is structured to make loans to small and medium Liberian businesses and to provide technical assistance as needed.

Our second commitment was to revitalize the ties between Americans, especially African Americans, and Liberians. To that end, I had the privilege to lead a 25 person trade and cultural mission to Liberia in April. Participating on the trip were some of the leading African Americans from the professions of business, education, the arts and health, among others. We are working to follow up on a number of ideas that originated on the trip.

Finally, we pledged to develop an ongoing advocacy effort to ensure that the United States is as supportive of Liberia as possible, given the special relationship between our two countries that spans 160 years. Moreover, I believe that the African American community should be at the forefront of this advocacy effort and do for Liberia what Jewish Americans do for Israel.

Tonight is a very special evening and we are honored to be paying tribute to one of Africa's great leaders. President Sirleaf embodies Africa's unlimited potential and is an enduring inspiration to women and girls across the continent striving for a brighter future for themselves, their communities and their nations.

And thank you, Africare, for your extraordinary work in Africa over the last 37 years. You have made a significant difference in the lives of millions of people, and we are all better for it.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Johnson
Founder & Chairman

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Education

February first had a special meaning for 60 girls in the Viana Municipality of Luanda. They were the first of 180 girls to graduate from a Vocational Training Program that was developed in 2006 to address the educational needs of young girls victimized by Angola's 30-year civil war— one of the longest civil conflicts on the African continent.

The vocational program is organized into three phases: Phase one includes three months of instruction for the girls in basic literacy, math, and domestic arts—including Cooking, Decoration, Sewing, Flower Preparation and Hairstyling. Outside these core courses, instructors focus on promoting life skills like goal-setting and developing healthy relationships, as well as HIV/AIDS



Photo by Elizabeth Williams

awareness and family planning methods. Upon graduation, the girls enter phase two of the program with 45-day internships where they can practice and utilize their specialized skills. Phase three follows with a fifteen-day evaluation of their performance. To date, over 75% of the first graduating class of students are now employed.

Female education is gradually increasing in Africa, however the gender differences remain significant. Roughly 60% of the 40 million African children who are out of school are girls. More than 50% of women over the age of 25 in Africa are illiterate. There is strong evidence that there are high private and even higher social returns from female education. If to achieve sustained development, these gaps must be closed and women must be more systematically integrated into development.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate

October 18, 2007

2007 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner
Washington, D.C.

Dear brothers and sisters:

It is an honor to greet all of you as you gather together for Africare's Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner. This is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate Africare's tireless advocacy on behalf of women, families, and communities living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since 1970, Africare has addressed the needs of this region through creative partnerships. Bishop John T. Walker, in whose name you gather today, served both the Diocese of Washington and as President of the Board of this organization.

Africare continues to address food security, agriculture, water resource development, environmental management, basic education, microenterprise development, and emergency humanitarian aid. The work of Africare is pivotal in the ongoing struggle to provide adequate care for those living with HIV/AIDS. I trust that this year's focus on the needs of women will strengthen efforts to address gender inequalities in education, reproductive health, and business ownership. These efforts will go a long way in achieving the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. They also serve in bringing about Isaiah's vision of shalom.

Shalom invites us to a rich and multihued vision of a world where no one goes hungry because everyone is invited to a seat at the table, and where no one is sick because diseases have been healed. Shalom means that all human beings live together as siblings, at peace with one another and with God, and in right relationship with all of the rest of creation. It is that vision of the lion lying down with the lamb and the small child playing over the den of the adder, where the specter of death no longer holds sway. Jesus points to this vision when he says, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." To say "shalom" is to know our own place and to invite and affirm the place of all of the rest of creation, once more at home in God.

I am very grateful for the ministry and witness of Africare. You have my prayers and warmest wishes for all continued success. I remain,

Your servant in Christ,

Katharine Jefferts Schori

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Change Course, Confront Crises, Continue the Legacy

September 11, 2007

Dear Friends of Africare:

On behalf of the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, welcome to the 2007 Africare Bishop Walker Dinner. For 37 years Africare has been a trailblazer in making the life better for the people of Africa. Through hard work, creativity and sheer determination the many foot soldiers in the Africare organization are an inspiration to us all. We appreciate your commitment.

We join you in congratulating your award recipient, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. The CBC applauds her commitment to continued peace, promoting democracy and rebuilding Liberia's economy. With stand ready to work with her.

We know that the efforts of organizations such as Africare, and individuals like President Sirleaf, can have a tremendous impact on poverty in Africa. I pledge the continuing efforts of the CBC to be with you in these important fights.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick
Chair
Congressional Black Caucus



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