

Make Poverty History

by Teresa Saunders

On 24 October 1984, musician Bob Geldof watched a television news bulletin that was to change his life for ever. Journalist Michael Buerk was reporting on a devastating famine in Ethiopia, and Geldof was so moved by the shocking news film that he vowed to do something to help.

He decided to make a record with all his rock star friends and to donate the money raised to Ethiopia. Just seven weeks later, on 13 December, 'Do they know it's Christmas?' went straight to No 1 in the UK charts and raised £5 million. The musicians called themselves Band Aid.

Seven months later, Geldof picked up the microphone again to help Africa – this time to front Live Aid, a live televised pop concert at Wembley Stadium. Celebrities from around the world took part in the event which raised £150 million. A year later, the Queen gave Geldof an honorary knighthood.

Geldof still campaigns on behalf of Africa's hungry and dispossessed. He publicises their plight constantly – urging diplomats, politicians and world leaders to help combat starvation and poverty.



In 2005 he took to the stage again for the Live 8 concert, to launch the *Make Poverty History* campaign. Its aim is to fight for a stronger and more prosperous Africa through:

- ▶ justice in trade;
- ▶ reducing Africa's debt to other countries;
- ▶ providing more, and better, aid packages.

In 2004, Geldof was appointed to the then Prime Minister Tony Blair's Commission for Africa.

Find out more on:

www.bobgeldof.info

www.commissionforafrica.org

www.makepovertyhistory.org



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