

Every two years, six million children die of preventable causes – a number comparable to the Holocaust. I often wonder, “Where are the Dietrich Bonhoeffers of our day? Where are those who courageously and sacrificially work to prevent such suffering?”

For the first time in history, we have the resources to eradicate extreme poverty. Yes, it is a complicated, daunting task. But it will not be accomplished without courageous and sacrificial leaders. I am honored and humbled to join this group of current and former college presidents who seek to provide moral leadership by publicly committing 5% of our income to address global poverty.

I became a grandmother this year. As I embrace my well-fed and well-protected grandchild, I ache for all the children who, through no fault of their own, lack the very basics for life: food, healthcare, education. And, I anguish for the parents and grandparents who face daily, excruciating choices about how to distribute scant resources – choices about life and death.

A public commitment of 5% is a good place to start. I hope and pray that others will join the pledge.



Ann Gennung