

# Christian Social Responsibility Today: Reflections on the Lausanne Covenant

## Biblical Reflections

*Listen to what the LORD says:*

*“Stand up, plead your case before the mountains;  
let the hills hear what you have to say.*

*Hear, O mountains, the LORD’s accusation;  
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.*

*For the LORD has a case against his people;  
he is lodging a charge against Israel.*

*My people, what have I done to you?*

*How have I burdened you? Answer me.*

*I brought you up out of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.*

*I sent Moses to lead you,  
also Aaron and Miriam.*

*My people, remember  
what Balak king of Moab counseled  
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.*

*Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”*

*With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow down before the exalted God?*

*Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?*

*Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of oil?*

*Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

*He has showed you, O man, what is good.*

*And what does the LORD require of you?*

*To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6.1-8*

We are here to remember!<sup>1</sup> Not only to remember but also to be reminded. God's people both like and need to remember. "My people, remember" (v. 5), the prophet Micah records God telling his people.

Micah brings up the one story that God's people must remember over and over, the Exodus experience: "I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery" (v. 4a). This foundational story gives witness to the existence of God's own people.

Today we are here to remember in order to be reminded of several things. First, the memories of the biblical story of Micah and of our own history in the Lausanne movement will remind us who God is. We will be called to recognize the nature of his faithfulness and to see how he acts redemptively in history, surprisingly involving our own lives. We will realize anew that we are God's people, called to obey and to follow him. Finally, all the stories and recalled truths will humbly insist that we need to repent.

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<sup>1</sup> This article was originally presented orally at the 2004 Lausanne International Congress for World Evangelism in Pattaya, Thailand on October 4, 2004.