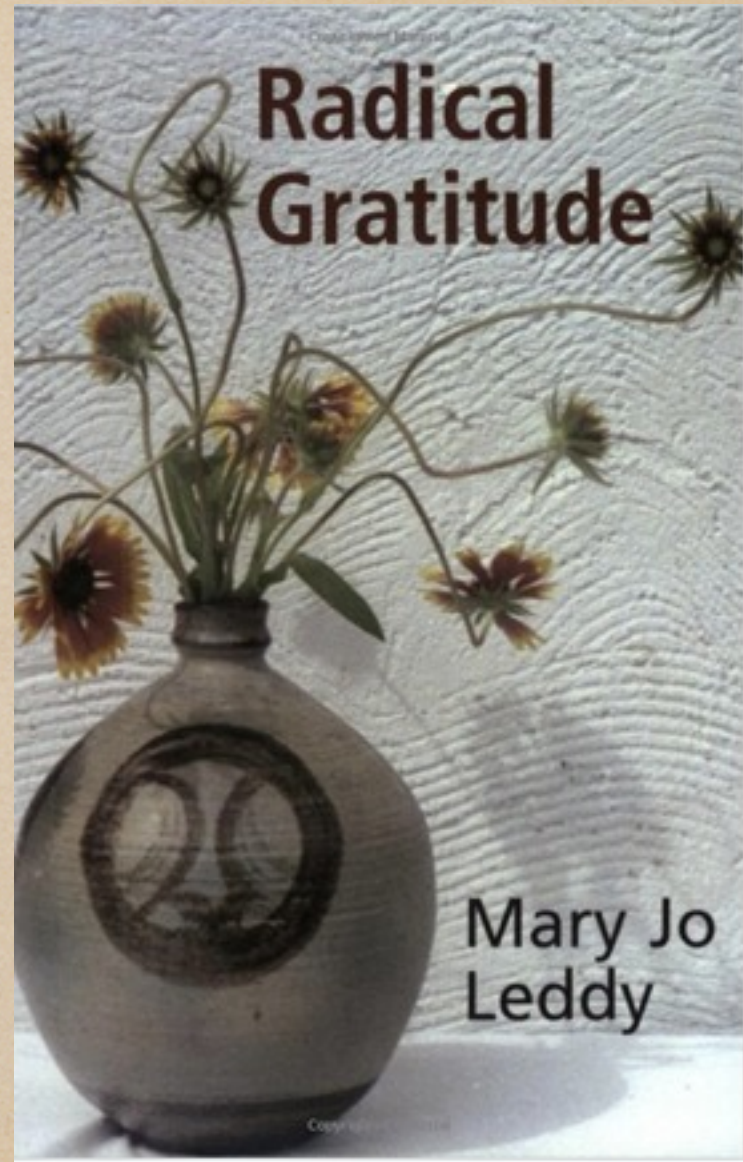


Radical Gratitude

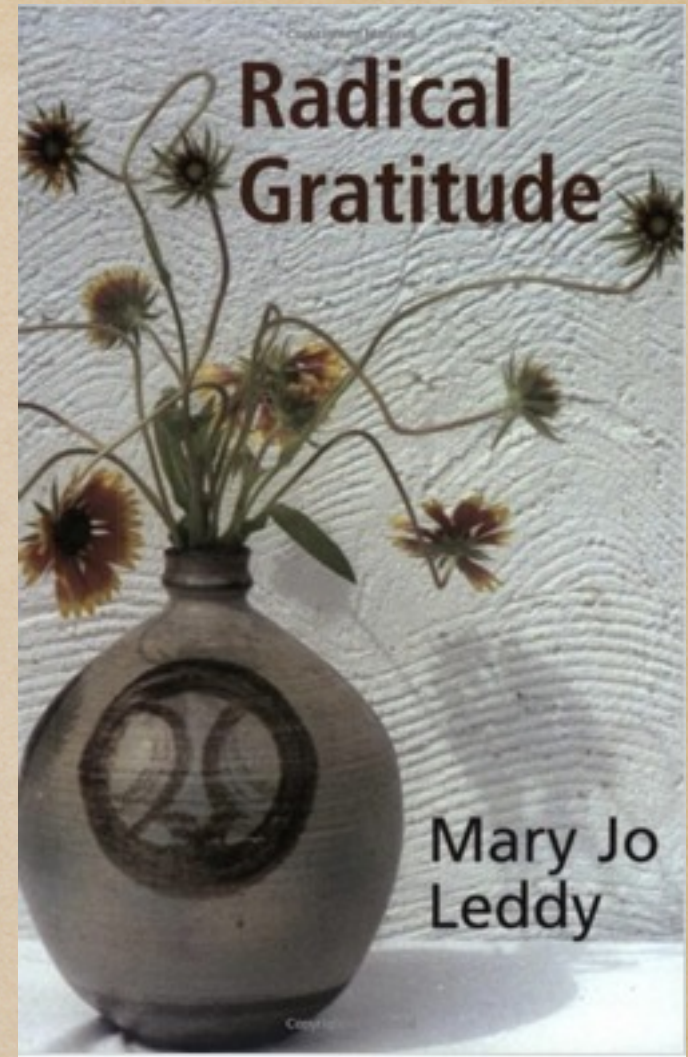
by Mary Jo Leddy

Holy Manners 30
Bookstudy - Winter 2013
ACTS Committee
St. David's United Church,
Calgary, Canada
rg.stdavidscalgary.net



Session 3
Chapter 3

Radical Gratitude



Additional resources are on site. <http://rg.stdavidscalgary.net>

I WANT
HAPPINESS!





FIRST REMOVE
'I', THAT'S EGO.
THEN REMOVE
'WANT', THAT'S
DESIRE.



NOW ALL
YOU'RE LEFT
WITH IS...

HAPPINESS!



ARTWORK © GAVIN AUNG THAN 2012

Aungthan

zenpencils.com

Radical Gratitude

- “We too can be moved to awe, to astonishment, and to gratitude. Such an awareness can make all the difference in the world.”
- “We will be liberated from the captivity of craving for more only by an attitude of radical gratitude.”
- “Then, if we will, we become witnesses, telling stories of grace.”

Stories of Gratitude (a few of them)

- Beginning Again. Involved in car crash w/o injury Leddy took the heron as a symbol of the holy spirit because of the kindness of a stranger named Heron.
- Overwhelming Goodness. A friend saved from the tragedy of 9/11 spoke about all the “overwhelming goodness we’ve seen in the face of evil.”
- Room for Gratitude. Etty Hillesum, a Dutch Jewess in the presence of the Nazi evil, yet found peace in the beauty of a jasmine.

The Dynamics of Gratitude.

- “Our lives are directed by the stories we choose to dwell on and in.”
- “Because of gratitude, death did not have dominion.”
- “These stories ... lead us to consider the fundamental dynamic of gratitude might be particularly liberating in a culture of perpetual dissatisfaction.”

Beyond Dissatisfaction.

- “The gift of life is enough. ... I am enough ... I am good enough ... I have enough”.
- “Slowly but surely the cultural chains that hold us captive will begin to drop.”
- “I do not have to be different or better than I am to find a measure of happiness and to be able to make a difference in the world.”
- When we stop taking the miracle of our birth for granted, it makes “an astonishing difference”.

The Great Economy of Grace

- “The economics of God’s love is not based on a law of scarcity but rather rooted in the mystery of superabundance. ... that there is enough for all is the beginning of social community, peace, and justice.”
- “Religious people are summoned to ... speak more about the WHY of economics rather than the HOW.”
- “It remains to economists ... to work on the construction of the kind of economics that is more graceful than greedy.”

Ingratitude

- “We are afflicted with ingratitude.
- The rich are seldom grateful.
- The destitute find it difficult to be grateful.
- The middle class have neither too much nor too little and remain dissatisfied.
- “Gratitude does not dispel the mystery of suffering and evil in the world and may even deepen it.”
- “We are creating the conditions in which we too may be taken for granted.”

Loving God for Nothing

- “We will always be tempted to define God in contractual terms. We will always be tempted to break the contract if we don’t seem to be getting anything out of it. We will always be ungrateful.”
- “Nevertheless, even though our desire to love God forever and for free is only intermittent, such moments are the most blessed in our lives.”
- “We worship because we have a sense of having been blessed and, when we worship, our sense of being blessed deepens.”

Eucharist

- “Within the Christian tradition, Eucharist has become the great way of thanksgiving.”
- After a church service, when people always ask “What was it like? ... [Liddy answers] ...It was valid.”
- “... the impetus to worship is based on something radically different from the need to control. ... our worship will never be good enough and yet it is enough, enough to begin, enough to go on. ... And it is about living during the week ...”

Giving Ourselves Away

- “Grateful people give away their things, even their time and talents ... A given life is different from a driven life.”
- “Gratitude seems to replenish itself: as more is given, more is received. Guilt, in contrast, rather quickly exhausts itself in judgments.”
- from Dostoevsky’s “The Brothers Karamazov” - “The more you succeed in loving, the more you’ll be convinced of the existence of God and the immortality your soul.”
- “Gratitude may move us to giving, but giving may also lead us to a deeper sense of gratitude.”

Jesus, the Example of Radical Gratitude

- “The recognition that he had been born of God led him freely, and simply to give - to give of himself and of his things.”
- “One of his most radical teachings had to do with forgiveness. ... Forgiveness was meant to be not a denial of the past, but a way of guaranteeing that the past would not simply repeat itself again and again in the present and in the future. Through forgiveness, the new beginning, the cycle of from bad to worse can be broken.”

Acting on Gratitude.

- “Gratitude is the beginning of our faith and hope in the possibility of creating something new in the world, of becoming someone new.”
- “... We know our thank you is as fragile as we are - it can be crushed by the care of the moment - it can disappear in the heat of the day - it can be blown away by the winds of suffering.”

The Millennium Development Goals

Radical Gratitude in Action.

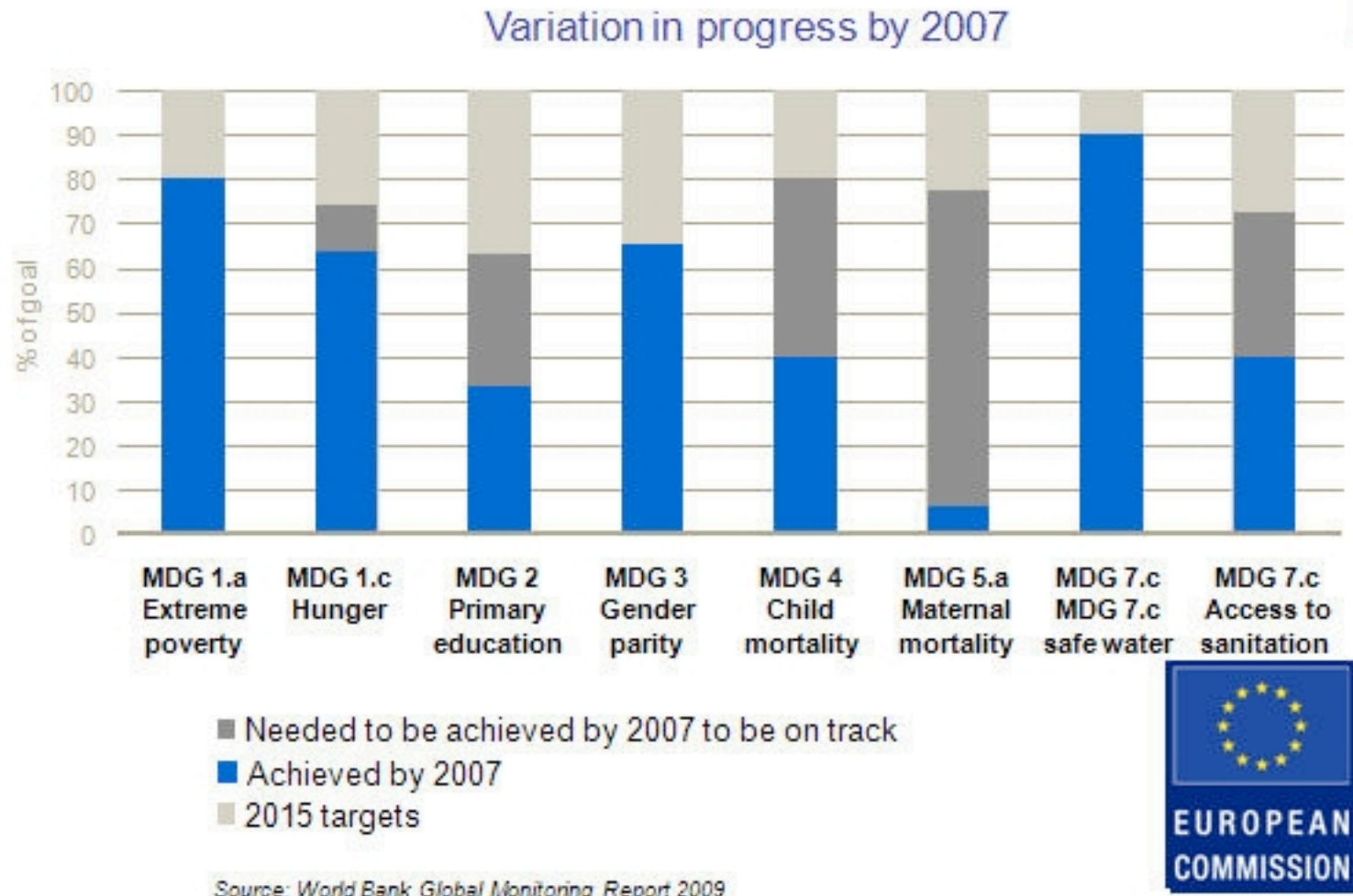
- In 2000, the United Nations laid out 8 goals to make the world better by reducing poverty and disease over the next 15 years. From 2000 to 2015.
- Tonight, we've got an uplifting yet challenging video on these MDG's.
- But first a little review: the goals themselves, the incredible half time progress, and the situation now in 2012.

First, here's a chart identifying the 8 MDG's.

The 8 Millennium Development Goals



Then, here's a chart of 1/2 time progress.



And here's 2012 - with some key sub-goals.

Indicator		Developing Regions	Northern Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	Latin America and the Caribbean	Eastern Asia	Southern Asia	South-Eastern Asia	Western Asia	CHINA	INDIA
IND 1.1	Proportion of population living below \$1 (PPP) per day (2008)	-6.3	TA (2005)	10.0	-5.4	TA (2005)	1.4	TA (2005)	-1.6	TA (2002)	1.8
IND 1.8a	Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age	1.0	0.0	7.9	TA (2010)	TA (2010)	1.4	-2.6	TA (2010)	TA (2005)	5.9
IND 2.1a	Net enrolment ratio in primary education	6.4	-0.5	5.5	2.6	N/A	1.5	9.9	6.2	N/A	-5.5
IND 3.1a	Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	0.3	1.2	5.0	N/A	TA (1999)	-3.2	2.9	5.7	TA (2001)	TA (2008)
IND 4.1	Under-five mortality rate	6.9	TA (2010)	8.6	-1.5	-3.4	3.7	-0.6	0.4	-3.4	3.0
IND 5.1	Maternal mortality ratio	4.9	-2.0	6.3	5.7	-3.1	-0.9	-1.1	0.6	-3.1	-2.2
IND 6.10b	Tuberculosis patients successfully treated under short course (2009)	4.2	7.1	3.2	6.7	2.4	2.9	5.2	3.6	5.4	8.4
IND 7.8t	Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source, total	TA (2010)	0.6	6.9	TA (2010)	TA (2010)	TA (2010)	TA (2010)	6.4	TA (2003)	TA (2003)
IND 7.9t	Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility, total	2.6	TA (2010)	16.0	0.8	TA (2010)	5.9	-2.0	7.1	TA (2009)	6.6
IND 8.16	Internet users per 100 inhabitants (2011)	-3.9	TA (2011)	-1.5	TA (2011)	TA (2011)	-0.7	-3.8	TA (2011)	TA (2009)	-1.1

S-time-distance measure: deviation in time from path to target, (+) time lag, (-) time lead

TA (xxxx) – 2015 target already achieved in year xxxx

An overview of the situation in the 7 world regions:

2015 Target achieved	18 cases
Time lead	17 cases

Time lag less than 6 years	21 cases
Time lag 6 years or more	12 cases

Source: Own calculations based on data from UN, The Millennium Development Report 2012, New York

© P. Sicherl, 2012

TED Video - 12 m

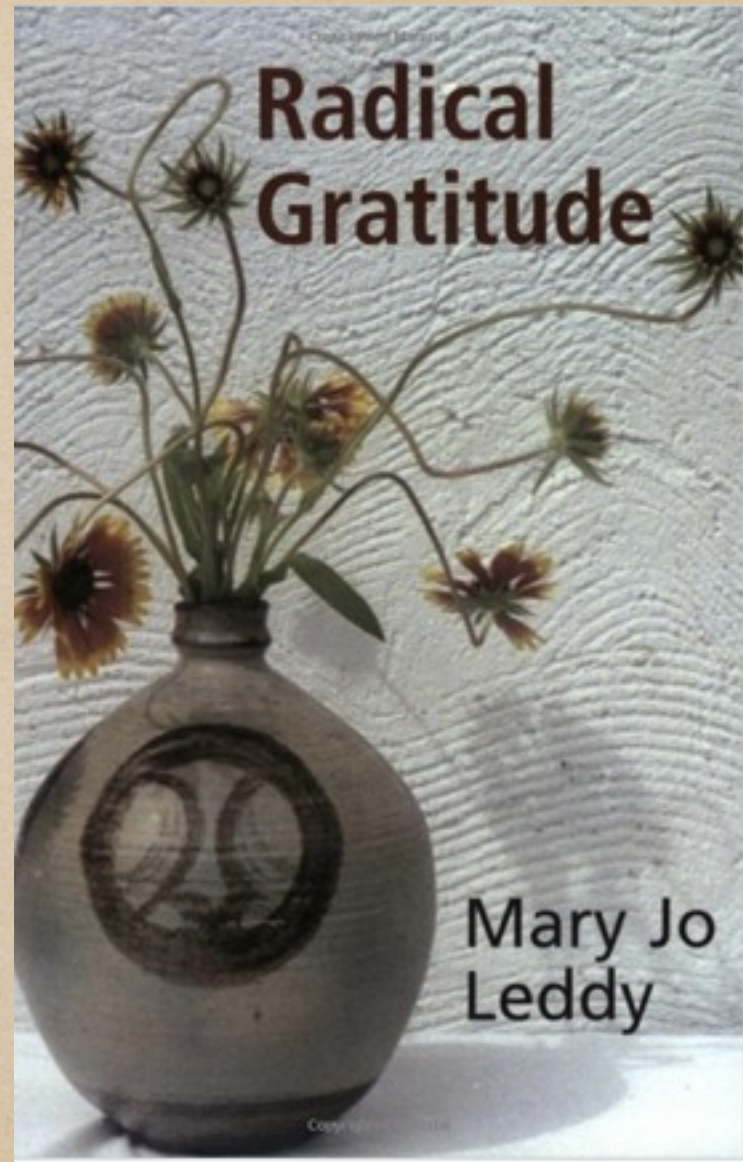
- As the 2015 deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) approaches, Jamie Drummond of ONE.org reviews the surprising progress.
- Then Jamie suggests a new idea to set new 15 year goals.
- Setting goals leads to progress.
- We need to end poverty.
- Radical Gratitude leads us to action.

http://www.ted.com/talks/jamie_drummond_how_to_set_goals_for_the_world.html

Break

Discussion Questions:

1. Is Leddy right to suggest that only by experiencing gratitude, that we are liberated from craving more?
2. For Leddy, Radical Gratitude is first expressed in religious terms . What is the role of religion for ourselves in this?



Stay with us through the night
Stay with us through the pain
Stay with us, blessed stranger
Till the morning breaks again.