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The Methodist Church
Birmingham District

Dear Friend,

At the meeting held on 10th September of the Synod of the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church we passed unanimously the following resolution regarding the Christian Aid campaign 'Tracing the Tax'. I know that successive Governments have seen our responsibilities toward the alleviation of poverty in the world as important and would want this to continue as we work together. However, as the campaign and our resolution indicate this responsibility must be carried through at every place in the complex economics of our world. From a Christian point of view, not to do so would indeed be a sin. I thank you for your careful engagement in these matters as our representatives.

Please be assured of our continued prayers for all who govern in our society.

Yours in love,

Bill Anderson - District Chair.

Christian Aid calculates that the amount poor countries are losing by tax dodging may be as much as \$160 billions a year (more than the entire global aid budget), that more money flows out of Africa annually than goes in (partly through tax evasion), and that the taxation that poor countries lose could pay for reaching all the UN's Millennium Development goals.

Therefore the Birmingham Methodist District Synod urges

- 1) the UK Secretary of State for International Development, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, actively to encourage the G20 Development Ministers meeting on Sept. 23rd, and the Finance Ministers meeting on October 14th, to put to the G20 Summit in November detailed plans for ending the kind of financial secrecy which enables this ongoing avoidance and evasion of tax to take place;
- 2) Circuits and Churches in the Birmingham Methodist District to support Christian Aid's 'Trace the Tax' campaign and to make their own views known to the Secretary of State and to the Chancellor, via their own MPs.

Revd David Haslam
Revd Nichola Jones