



# Advocacy Update

Sent April 20, 2011

## **Take Action: Help to Prevent Obstetric Fistula** **Passover: A Time of Warmth and Social Justice**

Today is the second of seven days of Passover. Although, for most of us, our seders with family and friends are behind us, their warmth and meaning can continue to enrich our lives and the lives of others through the holiday and through the year. A reading early in the seder, “Ha Lachma Anya,” introducing the matzah, is one of the key texts of our tradition that call for social justice.

“Ha Lachma Anya

This is the bread of affliction, the poor bread,  
which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt.

Let all who are hungry come and eat.

Let all who are in want, share the hope of Passover.

As we celebrate here, we join with our people everywhere.

This year we celebrate here.

Next year in the land of Israel.

Now we are still in bonds.

Next year may we all be free.”

“Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in want, share the hope of Passover” calls on us to share our bounty with those in need. The social action article in the current issue of Reform Judaism, “Haiti: Acts of God?”, includes a harrowing description of the grave conditions caused by pre-earthquake poverty and the 2010 earthquake, as well as action you can take. The article's author, Rabbi Richard Jacobs, is currently the spiritual leader of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY. Reading his article and taking the recommended action is a good way to fulfill the mandate of "Ha Lachma Anya" as well as to begin to get to know Rabbi Jacobs, nominated to succeed Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, who will retire as leader of the Reform Movement in 2012.

This week's Torah and Haftarah readings are Exodus 33:12-34:26 and Ezekiel 37:1-14, respectively. Read the lively, thought provoking, and hopeful d'var Torah “On Passover, Hope Springs Eternal,” by Rabbi Naamah Kelman, dean of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem, as well as the response, “Carry Over the Feelings and Practices of Passover Throughout the Year,” by Avram Mandell, director of education at Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles, CA.

We greet one another during these seven days with the wish for a sweet Passover – let us try to make life a bit sweeter for those in the world around us who are hungry and destitute.