

Because We Can, We Must by BONO

My name is Bono, and I am a rock star. ...

An amazing event happened here in Philadelphia in 1985: Live Aid, that whole We Are The World phenomenon, the concert that happened here. Well, after that concert I went to Ethiopia with my wife, Ali. We were there for a month, and an extraordinary thing happened to me.

One man had this beautiful boy, and he was speaking to me, “Will you take my son? Please take my son. He would be a great son for you.” I was looking puzzled, and he said, “If you don't take my son, my son will surely die. If you take him, he will go back with you to Ireland and get an education.” I had to say no —— that was the rule there —— and I walked away from that man. I think about that boy and that man everyday and so I started this journey.

I became the worst scourge on God's green earth, a rock star with a cause. Seven thousand Africans dying every day of a preventable, treatable disease like AIDS? That's not a cause; that's an emergency.

So We Are The World, Live Aid, started me off. 20 years on, I'm not that interested in charity. I'm interested in justice. Africa needs justice as much as it needs charity.

(221 words)