

'I will build my church'

A 30-day guide to praying
for the church transforming
communities



tearfund



Introduction

Thank you for committing to pray for the global church and for Tearfund's work to transform communities around the world through the church. As you embark on this 30-day guide, we want to thank you for your prayers. We know that through them you will be a blessing to others. And we pray that you will also be blessed as you hear about what God is doing through the church around the world.

Each day features a Bible passage, a reflection, and either a written prayer or prayer points to guide your time with God. Through the stories we'll read and the images we'll see, we will go on a journey around the world and hear about the amazing things God is doing through his church. And we'll also pray for places where we need God to intervene.

We'll find out more about how Tearfund's life-changing Transforming Communities training run through local churches is helping to bring an end to extreme poverty in more than 50 countries around the world. And we'll pray bold but expectant prayers for even greater impact.

Poverty is not God's plan. You are. We believe in a loving God who hears and responds to our prayers. And we believe that joining together in prayer makes an enormous difference to communities across the world.

Thank you once again for joining us in prayer. We're excited to see what God has in store.



Please pray

Let's prepare our hearts for praying for the church with this prayer:

God of all seasons,

As we begin this time of praying for the global church, prepare us for the journey, we pray.

Help us each day to come before you with our hearts open to hear your voice.

Help us to pray with awe and celebration at what you are doing in communities around the world through local churches.

Help us to pray with courage where we see the church in need.

Help us to pray with persistence when life might get in the way of praying.

Help us to pray with strength for our sisters and brothers around the world.

Help us to pray with expectancy for what you have yet planned for the global church.

Help us to build your church through our prayers.

Amen.

📷 Cover image: Pastor Zabulon from Kimati Church, Anglican Diocese of Matana, Burundi

Photo: Paul Mbonankira/Tearfund

📷 Above: The women's group at Nazaré church, Angola, gather to worship and read the Bible

Photo: Tom Price-Ecce Opus/Tearfund

Day 1

'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.'

Genesis 12:2



Pray with us today for God's plan for the church

The church – God's Plan A for transformation

Throughout the Bible, we see that God has great plans for his people.

At Tearfund, we are passionate about the church – the local church and the global church. We believe it is the church that God has called and ordained to bring his good news. Around the world, the church is doing great things, supporting members of their communities and helping bring impact and change. We believe that the global church is God's Plan A for transformation in the world.

Tearfund currently works with approximately 25,000 churches in more than 50 countries. But God has given us a big, exciting vision to be working with 250,000 churches by 2030 – churches that will become centres of hope and transformation for their communities. A vision this big needs a large amount of prayer and so we want to thank you in advance for your prayers.

Today's prayer is written by Nigel Harris, Tearfund's CEO. Please pray today for a transforming church.

Please pray

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the church, both local and global.

We pray for your blessing on the work of your church, especially in the most challenged places.

May people hear your good news and experience transformation, including economic, social, relational and spiritual change.

We commit the church, church leaders and churches to you now.

In Jesus' name, amen.

📷 Above: Bible study and prayer is central to the women's group that Kamona (pictured here) attends at Pachuria Baptist Church, Bangladesh

Photo: Amit Rudro/Tearfund

Day 2

‘And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, [our struggle against the spiritual forces of evil] be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.’

Ephesians 6:18



Why we need to pray for the church

A member of Tearfund staff who leads our Transforming Communities work across Southern and East Africa recently had a dream. She was with a group taking candles to light up a dark church. When she got close, people came to attack her with sticks and clubs. They recognised her as the leader and tried to choke her.

As she cried out to Jesus to save her, a man appeared who stretched out long arms to protect her and the group was set free. They went to put the candles around the church and people started to flock to the church from everywhere, especially children.

The staff member woke up with an urgency from God that it is critical to pray for our staff and church partners who are working to mobilise local churches to transform their communities.

Pray without ceasing

Jesus came to bring fullness of life. One of the main ways he does that is through the community of believers, the church. But he also warns us of an enemy whose aim is to ‘steal, kill and destroy’ his kingdom purposes (John 10:10).

As Jesus’ body on the earth, we as the church use our energy and resources to see God’s kingdom extended. This includes the energy we and you and the rest of the church invest in prayer. In Ephesians 6, the apostle Paul makes it clear that we are in a spiritual battle. The mission of the church is opposed by evil powers, and so he calls believers to always pray for all God’s people.

We are excited about the vision God has given us at Tearfund to see 250,000 local churches become transformation centres in their communities. As you join us in prayer today for the church, we believe the purposes of the enemy will be thwarted and that fullness of life will be restored in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Please pray

Thank you, Lord, for the power of our simple prayers made in faith.

Please give us energy and motivation to ‘always pray for all of your people’, especially throughout this prayer guide.

We pray that you would protect and empower Tearfund and partner organisations to see 250,000 churches become centres of transformation.

May many flock to the church and meet with Jesus as a result.

Amen.

Day 3

'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5:14–16



Pray with us today for the church to shine brightly

It's not always easy, is it, to shine brightly in ways that can be seen by others? Our natural reaction can often be to try and 'fly under the radar' in life.

God's intention for the church was never to hide away and not be noticed. Instead, Jesus tells us to shine brightly so that those around us can see God's goodness, whether that's in our homes, our workplaces or in our wider community.

Tearfund works through churches and church partners in more than 50 countries around the world, supported by thousands of prayerful people like you.

Our innovative, life-changing community training programme (called Transforming Communities), begins by helping local churches have fresh vision from the Bible about God's role for them, so they can see fullness of life flourish in their community.

God's envisioning

It takes God to open the eyes of his people to see that they can be the light to bring transformation to those around them, which is why we use stories from the Bible as a foundation to the training. We called this part of the process 'envisioning'.

It's a journey on which they begin to imagine a better future, and they see the role of the church in bringing about this future.

'The church realised they had been asleep. The training motivated people and has caused revival in the church. People now understand their own value and also value what they have,' says Naba Lamoussa, Transforming Communities Facilitator, Burkina Faso.

Please pray today for vision for ourselves and for all God's people, so that the church will shine light into darkness across the whole world.

Please pray

- for God to give the global church renewed vision to see lives, families and communities restored and to rise to the call to shine brightly.
- for God to open the eyes of churches who are currently going through the envisioning part of the Transforming Communities process.
- that God will pave the way for Tearfund's vision to see 250,000 churches become centres of transformation.
- for ourselves, that God will show us where we are called to shine and demonstrate God's goodness.

Day 4

‘Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.’

James 2:15–17



Pray with us today for churches being a safe haven

What is your local church best known for in your community? Maybe the building is a striking landmark or maybe it’s a community hub.

For the Casa Blanca community in Nicaragua, their local Rains of Grace Church became known for being a safe haven.

After taking part in Tearfund’s Transforming Communities training, Pastor Freddy Roa came to understand the role that the church was able to play in the local area, helping those in need and being a place of refuge.

‘I learned that my ministry goes beyond the spoken word,’ he says. ‘I understand that God demands a lifetime of practical commitment to solving the needs of our community and beyond, that is why our building is available for community service, ready to be used as a safe shelter in time of need.’

Opening the doors

‘In 2011, our community suffered a flood and that was the opportunity to serve the community and especially the families who were in great need. Our church was opened to the community not only for worship, but also as a safe haven for those whose houses were flooded. We also managed food aid, house rebuilding and [provided] latrines for the affected families,’ he says.

‘One of the lessons learned [from the training] has been that, by opening the doors of our building for community service, it has allowed us to strengthen the testimony of the church and we have grown as a congregation.’

Will you praise God today for Pastor Freddy and the Rains of Grace Church? Let’s praise God for churches around the world with vision and commitment for their communities.

Please pray that

- more pastors like Freddy engage with Transforming Communities and reach out to their communities.
- the global church will see its call to help people holistically – mind, body and spirit.
- God will give us all a spirit of compassion to see the needs in our community and respond by releasing whatever resources we can.

Day 5

‘With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.’

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12



Pray with us today for churches putting prayers into practice

Your prayers are so important to us – that’s why we are glad you are using this guide to pray for God’s church.

Pastor Parmenas (pictured), from the N10 Lutheran Fellowship Church in a remote part of Chad, is also well aware of the importance of prayer. His church was planted in the area to make it easier for those travelling long distances to attend. But only a few families came along, which led to discouragement and numbers dwindling further.

‘We ourselves almost gave in to discouragement, but through prayer, we stayed the course to maintain the balance,’ says Pastor Parmenas.

Prayers into practice

Things changed after Pastor Parmenas attended Tearfund’s innovative Transforming Communities training and, in turn, trained his small congregation. More and more people became interested in the programme and, as a result of the Bible studies, change began to occur in their lives.

Through the word of God, people realised their skills and resources and used them to put their prayers for their community into practice. Prayer groups blossomed, children remained in school and food was shared ensuring no one went hungry.

The women of the congregation also started a savings scheme, enabling them to generate funds for various projects. And the church continues to grow, meaning more people are able to lift themselves out of poverty.

Pastor Parmenas feels blessed and happy. ‘God has opened the floodgates of heaven in our respective families and our goods are made available to the church for the work of the Lord without concern,’ he says.

Today, let’s thank God for churches being faithful in prayer and for bringing both practical and spiritual transformation to communities.

Please consider helping make further work like this possible. Donate now so more churches can sign up for Transforming Communities training:
tearfund.org/donate30day

Let’s pray

God of vision,
We thank you for your greatness.
Awaken and empower the church
throughout the world to reach out to their
communities,
so they can bring transformation to all areas
of life.

God of our hearts and minds,
make way for people to be reached through
Transforming Communities training so they
can hear your voice.

God of the impossible,
grow your church so they can address their
communities’ needs and help put prayers
into practice.

May your love be shown through the church’s
actions and may this bring many to Christ.
Amen.

📍 Above: Pastor Palou Parmenas, pastor of the Lutheran Church
in Pala, Chad, with wife
Photo: Peter Caton/Tearfund

tearfund.org/pray

Day 6

‘Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.’

Ephesians 4:3–6



Pray with us today for unity and peace

During recent elections in Burundi, Tearfund brought together leaders from different churches so they could unite over the role of the church in being peacekeepers where there could be political divide and unrest.

Messages of peace

As a result, ‘More than Peace’ training was run through their churches and the message spread through communities on the importance of voting and on being a good citizen during the election period.

Training participants shared messages of peace and hope on radio stations run by the churches. And events were organised to pray for election candidates. People remained calm and peaceful during the election.

‘I was reminded of the role which must be played by the church in order to maintain peace and security in the community,’ says Bishop Pontien Ribakare who attended the workshop.

‘From my experience, I have realised that people have trust in churches and their leaders regarding peacebuilding. Messages of church leaders are well received, and when different religious denominations work together for the same cause, their message is really powerful.’

Please pray with us today for unity and peace, for the church and for the world.

Please pray today

- for churches to work together in unity to see their communities transformed and bring peace.
- that there would be genuine love between churches within communities, that as they work together they would discern God’s will for their localities.
- for churches to see all they have in common in Christ rather than any differences.

Day 7

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

John 17:20–21



Pray with us today for unity in the church

We believe that prayer changes things. And we are sure that you do too, hence you using this prayer guide! Your faithful prayers are making a difference and God will use them to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

Today, we continue to pray for unity in the church alongside Lahai Amara, Influencing Programme Manager, from our team in Sierra Leone.

Let's pray

Lord Jesus, we thank you for praying for us to the Father, that we may be one just as you and the Father are one. That we may be perfected in the bond of unity, so that the whole world will know that the Father sent you to demonstrate the depth of his love for the world.

For your name's sake, Lord, we pray that you bring a spirit of unity to the church that will bring a lot of people to Jesus Christ.

Father, we pray that you help us to walk in the manner worthy of you and your call to the church.

Give us a spirit of humility, gentleness and patience so that we can show tolerance for one another in love.

Help us to be diligent, to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Father, we pray that you give the church one heart and one way.

Teach the church your way and let the church walk in truth.

Unite our hearts to follow you with all our being so that your name would be glorified.

Give us the forgiving spirit to quickly forgive every offence and to put on love which is the perfect bond of his unity.

Let the peace of Christ reign in our hearts, knowing that we are all called in one body.

We thank you so much, for in Jesus' mighty name we pray.

Amen.

📷 Above: Aksa, pictured here with her family, learnt conservation farming techniques through a self-help group run by the local church where she lives in Tanzania

Photo: Tom Price-Ecce Opus/Tearfund

Day 8

'And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.'

2 Thessalonians 3:2-3



Pray with us today for protection for churches

In August 2023, in the predominantly Christian community in Jaranwala, Faisalabad in Pakistan, an enraged mob of around 6,000 people burnt or vandalised 31 churches and more than 500 Christian houses. The homes of several pastors were destroyed and thousands of Bibles were set on fire.

The attacks started late one night after an act of alleged desecration of the Holy Quran. Fortunately, there were no casualties as people had fled their homes after becoming aware of public speeches by community and faith leaders calling for severe action against the entire Christian community.

Praying for peace

Tearfund responded rapidly and was among the first to reach the impacted communities, helping those in need and organising prayer gatherings for peace.

Christians make up just under two per cent of the population in Pakistan and are often in the lower economic groups in the country. Most of the Christians are living below the poverty line meaning even just surviving is difficult. This makes the Christian population vulnerable to such attacks.

Tearfund works in the area through a network of local church organisations, helping people to join together to address poverty.

'We should not think that opposition or challenges are strange or abnormal,' says Jamshed Gill from our Pakistan team. 'The point here to be understood is how to deal with opposition as a faithful Christian. I'm of the opinion that we

should become persons of prayer, walk in humility, keep our hearts compassionate for others, keep following the word of God and trust the Lord.'

Please pray for protection for churches and our staff and partners around the world facing challenges as they work in their communities.

Please pray

O God, we thank you for your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23).

We ask for your strength and protection for your church across the world, for church leaders and members reaching out to transform their communities, and for Tearfund's staff and partners working to help churches become centres of transformation (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

We pray that you would watch over them (Psalm 121: 5-8) and put your protection around them (Job 1:10).

Be a shield around them and lift the heads of any who are feeling vulnerable (Psalm 3:3).

May they know you, sovereign God, as their refuge and fortress (Psalm 18:2) as they seek to be salt and light in their communities and demonstrate the love of God.

And bless them with peace, we pray (Psalm 29:11).

Amen.

Above: Community Transformation projects run at Pastor Sama's church in Ouarkoye, Burkina Faso, are bringing about real change
Photo: Jonas Yameogo/Tearfund

Day 9

'Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.'

1 Peter 5:8–9



Pray with us today for the church around the world to stand firm

We reflected on Day 2 of our guide that there are spiritual forces working in opposition to the purposes of God. But God is bigger and stronger – thank you for answering the call to always pray for all of God's people.

Today, we pray for safety for churches globally as they encounter challenges carrying out God's work in their communities. We ask God to protect them in the face of opposition or attack.

According to the World Watch List produced by Open Doors, more than 14,766 churches and Christian properties were attacked, looted or forcibly closed during 2023.

Pray today that churches and church leaders will be protected from the spiritual forces that seek to undermine their work. Pray that they will have the strength and resolve to stand firm and trust God.

Please join us in praying for protection over the places Tearfund works with this prayer, written by Anne Mumbi, Tearfund's Regional Influencing Lead in South and East Africa.

Please pray

Our Father and our God.

Creator of the universe and all that we can see and cannot see.

We thank you for the season we are in and the promises you have given us, that in hard times you will protect us and in good times you will prosper us.

As the enemy roars like a lion wanting to devour the vision you have given us, we choose to stand on your divine word and resist all his moves.

May your great right hand rest upon us and cover your church from every arrow from the kingdom of the evil one.

May your light continue to pierce the darkness.

May Tearfund continue to serve you, our king and our God, with grateful and joyful hearts to your glory and honour.

In the name of our saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Day 10

'If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right.'

James 2:8



Pray with us today for churches loving their neighbours

'We use the word of God,' says Rev Josephine Chavaseki from Nairobi, Kenya. 'We have seen transformation as the word of God goes into the community through small groups.'

Josephine is a big fan of Tearfund's Transforming Communities training. As a facilitator of the course, she has worked with many churches in the Nairobi area and has witnessed first-hand the effect it has on individuals and wider communities.

'As a Transforming Communities practitioner, I love participatory work when people discover who they are and have the right perspective... The word of God gives people the enlightenment to understand what God's purpose is for them,' she says. 'Through this we have seen a lot of people discover their divine purpose, their talents, their giftings and their interests.'

Being a good neighbour

As part of the training, participants learn what it means to be a good neighbour and how they can share God's love with others. For the Redeemed Gospel Church in Nairobi, love was put into action when a nearby slum area was demolished, leaving 40,000 of their neighbours homeless.

During this time, the church community came together across approximately 15 churches to provide clothes, food, shoes and blankets to give to those affected. And the church school opened its doors to an extra 100 children who had been left without a school.

Josephine says, 'We have been able to achieve this transformation through Bible studies. The power of the word of God. The church is the hope of the world today and the church is transforming the people. Transforming Communities is a powerful tool.'

Please pray

As we pray today, let's also consider our own neighbourhoods:

- Thank God for the ways that the church shows God's love to others in your area and around the world.
- Ask God to identify opportunities for churches locally and globally to show love to their neighbours.
- Pray that God would bless people and churches who sacrificially give time and resources to practically demonstrate God's love to others. Perhaps you can think of someone from your area to pray for who does this, or pray that God will bless the work of the Redeemed Gospel Church in Nairobi.

📍 Above: Pastor Jose and Pastor Geybson stand together in Coqueiral Baptist Church, Recife, Brazil

Photo: Ruth Towell/Tearfund

Day 11



‘Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.’

Romans 12:2



Pray with us today for mindsets to change

Have you ever discovered that you can do something that you thought you weren’t very good at? It’s a wonderful, empowering feeling.

One of the most incredible parts of Tearfund’s innovative community training is how it changes mindsets so people start to recognise the skills they have and the things they can do.

Created in God’s image

In many parts of the world where Tearfund works, people are stuck in a trap of believing that they are poor, worthless, hopeless and will never amount to anything. But the training helps participants see themselves as God sees them – as people created in his image with all sorts of abilities. This frees them to fulfil their God-given potential, which is Tearfund’s vision.

Changing mindsets

‘The first thing that changes is that we remove from our minds the idea that we are condemned by God to be poor,’ says Djerabe Paul, a Transforming Communities training facilitator from Chad.

‘Through study of the Bible, we finally realise that what we were thinking about ourselves is not true. At first we think we cannot do anything to change. But once we begin to think about what we can do to improve, we start to use all of the resources God has given us in our own locations to change.’

Praise God today for mindsets changed and lives transformed.

Please pray

God of love,

Thank you for creating us in your image, each with our own skills and abilities.

We thank you that the Transforming Communities training has helped so many people see themselves as you see them.

We pray for anyone going through the training right now, that they will be transformed by the renewing of their mind; that they would know they are important and worthy of your love.

We pray that, with their renewed sense of worth, they would dare to dream new dreams for their future.

Please remove any fear from people and replace it with confidence in themselves and in their ability to transform their lives and communities.

And, Lord, help us too to be reminded daily that we are fearfully and wonderfully made and capable of doing great things in your name.

Amen.

📍 Above: Pastor Sounkimsin and his family outside their church in Cambodia, built through Tearfund’s Transforming Communities process
Photo: Karen Shaw/Tearfund

Day 12

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.'

1 Peter 4:10–11



Pray with us today for self-belief in communities

Is there a skill or talent that you wish you had but feel that you'd never be able to master?

Our minds, incredible as they are, can sometimes be such a barrier to us achieving things. We can be guilty of telling ourselves that we can't do something or change a situation. Sometimes we really can't, but there are times when it's our mindset that's stopping us.

A church with many challenges

This was the situation for Rev Colette Musabyemariya from Rugote Anglican Parish Church, Rwanda, until Transforming Communities training changed everything.

Colette was sent to lead a church with many challenges in Rugote in 2012. The church building was very run down, there was much poverty, and the congregation was tiny. People didn't think they had anything to offer or that anything would change. Nor did Colette.

Dreaming big dreams

But after attending the facilitator training, Colette realised that she and the church members were surrounded by God-given resources, including the abilities that God had given each of them. Through running the training, Colette gathered people together to dream big dreams and they set about planning.

Together, the community have since built a primary school and a meeting hall. They've brought a water supply to the village and many people began income-generating projects. The congregation has increased and their self-belief has grown.

Colette has recently been transferred to minister in another very poor community. But she is happy because she now knows that, with God's help, she can help bring about change.

Praise God today for mindsets changed and lives transformed.

Praise God today

Awesome God,

We praise you for your greatness.

We thank you for all the places in the world where you are changing hearts and minds through Transforming Communities training.

We thank you that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, capable of doing great things with your help.

We thank you for Rev Colette and we lift her up before you now.

Please bless her work in the community and raise up many more like her.

We know that poverty is not your plan, so help us persevere in prayer for others and be confident that change is possible.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 13

'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.'

James 1:5



Pray with us today for wisdom for churches

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you just didn't know what to do for the best?

We've probably all got examples that we can think of. Thankfully, as James tells us, we have a God who always knows the best way to approach something and who offers us wisdom when we ask.

Going through Tearfund's Transforming Communities training process relies on a lot of wisdom.

Tearfund's global staff need wisdom to know how best to adapt the training for their region and wisdom for how to involve more churches. Wisdom is required to identify the right people to be involved. And training facilitators need wisdom to know how best to make the course work in their church.

Wisdom at every stage

The church and community doing the training then need wisdom to know how best to use their resources to meet the needs of their local communities.

For lasting transformation to occur, we need God to give us wisdom at every stage of the process.

Please pray for wisdom

- for Tearfund staff as they plan to scale up their work with churches in each region and country. Pray that God would give them insight into his plans for the future.
- for how to listen and adapt our training to each region and situation. Pray specifically for Tearfund staff and partners as they explore how to shape the work in many complex areas.
- for church leaders and facilitators as they seek to transform local communities. Pray that God would fill them with the knowledge of his will and that they would be guided by the Holy Spirit in all their decisions.

📷 Above: Churches like this one in Tanzania are often at the heart of their community

Photo: Tim Ingram/Tearfund

Day 14

'I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.'

Ephesians 3:16–17



Pray with us today for Spirit-filled facilitators

As we come towards the middle of these 30 days of prayer for the church, we want to thank you for your commitment and faithfulness. We know God hears our prayers and acts on them – so you can have confidence you are making such a difference.

Praying for facilitators

Today we are praying for people in the vital role of facilitators in Tearfund's Transforming Communities programme.

The volunteer role of facilitator is at the heart of the process. Often church leaders or church members, facilitators work tirelessly to encourage, influence and persuade people to get involved. They gently encourage everyone to contribute ideas and help the group to embrace their joint projects.

They engage with members of their congregations and community to help them see that they can make life better for themselves, their families and their neighbours if they take part. They model Jesus, ensuring that no one in the community is overlooked.

Motivation for transformation

'Personally, I really feel like helping people who are struggling. And when I am happy I want others to be too. I want to share that happiness... We have to train others, so that others acquire knowledge too... This is what motivated me,' says Madame Kouassi, a Transforming Communities facilitator from Ivory Coast.

Tearfund equips facilitators with the knowledge and skills to adapt processes to their own community. They come with the commitment and vision to take their church on a journey of transformation. But we need God to sustain them with his strength through his Spirit so that many people and communities are transformed.

Please pray that God will

- bless and strengthen facilitators with his power so they can successfully lead churches and communities through the training process.
- help facilitators to be catalysts to transform mindsets, help communities identify their needs and bring community transformation.
- help facilitators to share their passion for transformation with the churches and communities that they are working with. May their passion be infectious and inspire everyone they work with.

📍 Above: Pastor Leng at the Thung Na Noi Church building, Noen Kham District, Thailand

Photo: Freedom Film Productions/Tearfund

Day 15

‘Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”’

Matthew 9:37–38



Pray with us today for more workers for the harvest

Travelling between villages and communities, Jesus saw that there was much work to be done to bring the good news of God’s love to the poor. More people would be needed to spread the message and Jesus calls on his disciples to pray for workers to be sent. God already had a plan for this, of course – the church.

Workers for the harvest

Tearfund’s vision to increase the number of churches around the world that we work with from 25,000 to 250,000 makes today’s reading particularly relevant. The potential harvest from our innovative community training is plentiful but it means that we need more workers – more facilitators and regional trainers – too.

‘When ordinary people become true facilitators, they become people that empower,’ says Francis Njoroge, a Transforming Communities facilitator from Kenya. ‘People that are able to show how everyone should be valued and how everyone is helped to become what God has wanted them to be... Quality facilitators are the means to achieving the 250,000 goal.’

God has a plan

While Tearfund’s vision may be bold, we believe it is God’s calling on us and that he will make it possible. So, today let’s focus on Jesus’ invitation to ask the Lord of the harvest for the workers. And, as we do, trust that more volunteers will be raised up in their communities to lead thousands through life-changing training.

Pray with us

God of big visions,

We thank you today for the thousands of men and women who have already taken up the call to become trainers and facilitators in their communities around the world.

We pray that you would bless them with everything they need to succeed in their roles. Give them the skills and capacity needed to equip and inspire new facilitators.

Please send more workers to be trained in the Transforming Communities process so that more and more churches can become involved. We pray that you will bless them with a plentiful harvest of lives and communities transformed.

Equip Tearfund staff too with the resources needed to fulfil the vision to reach 250,000 churches, we pray.

Amen.

📷 Above: Jaman Singh, from Rukum Easter district in Nepal, works in his garlic field

Photo: Rabi Rokka (Ray Of Hope Productions)/Tearfund

Day 16

‘Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.’

James 1:2–4



Pray with us today for perseverance

One of the great outcomes of Tearfund’s Transforming Communities programme is that it develops self-sufficiency by helping people stabilise or grow their income year on year. And nine out of ten communities who receive our innovative training go on to improve or build facilities like water points, schools and health clinics.*

We’ve seen some amazing results. But it’s not a quick fix. Things don’t always go to plan and communities require perseverance to see the fruits of their hard work.

Deflated but persevering

This was the experience of the Pu Dos church in the south of Cambodia. As they began going through the process, changes to facilitators, postponed meetings and tight schedules left participants deflated and unable to see the benefits of the training. But they didn’t give up.

The church took time to reflect on why things weren’t working out. They also took advice from other churches who had been through the process. And they tried again.

A result at last

This time it all fell into place. The church leaders reported significant changes in the livelihood of both church members and the pastors. Health and relationships in the village improved too.

One of the pastors says, ‘We are grateful for the programme and staff who have always been patiently encouraging us to keep the fire burning. We owe this satisfactory result to you. We will keep this fireball burning in our lives and the church forever. Thank you. May God bless you!’

Please pray

For everyone involved in the Transforming Communities process, pray for:

- strength and endurance to persevere when they hit obstacles.
- patience to keep walking the road that leads to long-term change.
- wisdom and guidance on how to deal with barriers or difficulties.
- encouragement: that God would lift them up when they need it. And that they would remember God’s promises and faithfulness during moments of doubt or weariness.

*tearfund.org/impactstatements



'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.'

Romans 12:18



Pray with us today for places of conflict

There are times when churches are trying to run Transforming Communities training in places where tension and conflict exists, including between people of different faiths. It can add an extra layer of difficulty, especially when the church wants to help impact the wider community. But it can also mean God working in incredible ways.

Today, Isaac Danung, Tearfund's Church and Community Transformation Project Officer in Nigeria, tells us his amazing story of how being a training facilitator saved his and his family's life when conflict broke out between Christians and Muslims in his community.

Warning: some readers may find this story upsetting.

Isaac tells us, 'Out of the crowd of the Muslims that captured me, I heard some people saying, "We remember this man. This is the man that brought us together for community engagement. This is the man who was treating us when we were sick. This is the man that was telling us about how we should live as Christians and Muslims in a very good relationship. Therefore, we should release him to go."

'At that point, surprisingly, we were taken to a very safe place and we ran to a community.

'A few weeks after that, I began [the training] in that same community where I ran to as a displaced person. We began Transforming Communities, we continued with it for seven years where we delivered babies [at our clinic].

It's a very big community of more than ten thousand people. In every household, you could find a baby delivered from the clinic established by the community through the training... Not only that, I made the decision again to go back to the same community where I was almost killed and began the training. It's lovely to go and see what is happening there.

'I wouldn't have been alive to say this story if not because of the gift of Transforming Communities. I want to appreciate God for that. Thank you.'

Thank you for continuing to join us in prayer.

Today, pray for

- protection for Tearfund staff, partners and churches working in areas of conflict. Pray that they would be kept safe and shielded from harm.
- wisdom for church leaders and facilitators engaged in places of conflict. May they be respected voices within their communities and catalysts for change.
- transformation of hearts and minds in communities experiencing conflict. May the church show the love of Christ to promote peace and unity and bring about a lasting change.

📍 Above: Tearfund currently works with around 25,000 local churches around the world, like this one near Nawalparasi, Nepal

Photo: Chris Hoskins/Tearfund



‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.’

Matthew 5:9



Pray with us today for peacemakers in communities

In Twic East, South Sudan, years of food insecurity, trauma from war and disease had left people heavily relying on humanitarian aid and without much hope of change. Conflict between communities was adding to the challenging situation.

But in 2020, Tearfund’s partner African Inland Church was able to run Transforming Communities training in the region. Through the training, the church was inspired to become a peacemaker in their area.

Bringing peace

As well as learning to make better use of their skills and resources, churches also held peace-building activities. They ran trauma healing sessions and organised peace conferences to resolve local conflicts. Peace Champions were identified and trained from the community, and sports and peace clubs created to aid reconciliation.

‘This training has opened our eyes to see the current situation we are in,’ says Rev Andrew Thuchkuiir, who participated in the training. ‘We don’t need to remain in poverty but can mobilise people to discover their God-given potential and the available resources to change our situation and give a better life for our families.’

The training helped local churches to address the needs of their communities and play a pivotal role in restoring broken relationships to bring peace to their community.

Please pray with us today

For healing

Lord, we ask you to heal wounded hearts and minds in the conflict-affected communities Tearfund is working with. Bring emotional, physical and spiritual healing to those who have experienced hurt.

For reconciliation

Father, help your church to be an ambassador of reconciliation, bridging gaps and mending broken relationships.

For peacemakers

Lord, bless and empower your church to be a peacemaker across the world. Give church leaders and members the courage, strength and love to be instruments of peace.

For the Transforming Communities process

Our God, may more churches become involved in life-changing community training in areas that need peace and reconciliation.

For strength and endurance

Lord, grant your church the strength and endurance to persevere in efforts to bring reconciliation in communities.

For us all to be channels of peace

As St Francis prayed, Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring love. Where there is offence, let me bring pardon. Where there is discord, let me bring union.

Amen.

📷 Above: Delegates from South Sudan and the local region attend a peacebuilding workshop in Kenya
Photo: Diane Igrimabazi/Tearfund



**‘Have mercy on me, my God,
have mercy on me, for in you I
take refuge. I will take refuge
in the shadow of your wings
until the disaster has passed.’**

Psalm 57:1



Pray with us today for churches to be resilient in times of crisis

Tearfund has been working alongside churches and communities in some parts of the world for many years to help them become more resilient to disasters. In simple terms, resilience is the capacity to cope despite problems and recover quickly.

With an increase in extreme weather due to the climate crisis, these churches play an important part in their community when disaster does hit. And they are being called upon more often.

Hit by hurricanes

In November 2020, Honduras was hit by Hurricane Eta – and two weeks later by Hurricane Iota.

Darwin Hernandez is a Church Youth Leader in the area. ‘Since Hurricane Mitch in 1998, we hadn’t experienced another hurricane of such magnitude,’ he says. ‘Now, we have had two hurricanes in less than 20 days. Without doubt this is a warning that something is happening in the world and we have to be aware that we’re facing a new reality.’

‘The church’s response was immediate and it was a place of refuge. People literally ran towards the church since we have two two-storey buildings where they could take refuge and wait for flooding to recede. Three meals a day were served for all the people in the community.’

Response and resilience

Tearfund responded to the emergency by distributing food, hygiene kits, tools and other items such as fans and stoves.

And, as part of the Transforming Communities training in the area, churches have identified the

need to be resilient when disaster strikes by being prepared and planning for the worst.

‘As a church, we are thinking of sending our young people to training with the Red Cross and our local firefighters, so that they can be first aid responders to provide first aid to people who need it at any time,’ says Darwin.

Let’s thank God today for churches preparing to be a place of refuge at times of disaster. And let’s pray for strength and resilience for churches when storms, disaster or conflict hit.

Pray with us today

Today’s prayer requests are from Tearfund’s Disaster Risk Management Team. Please pray for:

- encouragement for churches in areas prone to disaster. Pray that God will bless their preparations.
- church members to have the strength and resilience to support their communities during times of great loss and grief.
- local churches to work well with communities and local authorities so that those most affected by disasters are listened to and good, inclusive contingency plans are developed.

 Above: Pastor Jean Bournenbe uses counselling to advise and encourage church members to implement Transforming Communities training in Makeure, Chad

Photo: Peter Caton/Tearfund

‘Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.’

Isaiah 1:17



Pray with us today for people’s voices to be heard

How loud would you say your voice is? Do you find it easy or difficult to be heard?

Tearfund’s innovative training programmes help communities to stand up and make their voices heard. In fact, our research* shows that, through our bespoke community training, people are 46 per cent more likely to speak up and raise issues with decision makers.

As people going through the training become aware of and start to use the resources they have locally, they also become aware that local authorities have a vital role to play in the development of their community too.

Local churches and denominations are then able to equip their communities to influence the plans, policies and practices of powerful local decision makers and government.

Voices amplified

This process, known as Transforming Communities advocacy, can be particularly useful for local communities who have identified issues that can only be resolved with the intervention of local authorities. Issues like bringing water or electricity to communities, or building health centres.

It also provides an opportunity for communities to amplify their voices – to defend the oppressed and plead the case of those around them – at a national level. And it gives an opportunity for the kind of change that once seemed impossible.

This was the situation for people living along the Tejipió river in Brazil after the river flooded many times due to all the rubbish in it. Pastors from

local churches organised a peaceful protest and a petition that gathered nearly 14,000 signatures calling on local authorities to respond to their concerns about the waste and flooding.

As a result of this campaign, the local government allowed community members to participate in public policy consultations and started to take steps to protect the flood-affected communities.

You are helping give people a voice through your faithful prayers. Thank you and please keep praying.

Pray with us today

Please join us in prayer today with these requests from Tearfund’s Transforming Communities Advocacy Team. Pray for:

- courage and wisdom for church leaders as they carry out advocacy work with national governments.
- protection and wisdom for churches doing advocacy projects in situations where Christians are in the minority and are often persecuted.
- churches to have excellent, collaborative relationships with local governments that lead to improvement in the services delivered to their communities.

[*tearfund.org/impactstatements](https://tearfund.org/impactstatements)

 Above: Marie from Chad was taught how to diversify her crops through training at her church

Photo: Peter Caton/Tearfund

Day 21

‘The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.’

Genesis 2:15



Pray with us today for churches caring for the land

One of the countries Tearfund works in is Chad where, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, churches are transforming their communities so there's no going back to extreme poverty. Churches like Rosalie's.

Search for water

Rosalie Mabrao (pictured) is a busy mum to five children. Every day, she would wake up very early and do a 6km round trip in search of clean drinking water for her family. When there wasn't any, they would have to resort to drinking pond or rain water. And in the dry season, even that was sometimes not available. It often made them ill.

After Transforming Communities training was run in Rosalie's village, the community decided that they needed to address the problem of lack of water. They worked together and drilled two boreholes in the village providing clean water to hundreds of families.

Working the land

But that's not all. Thanks to the availability and proximity of water in the village, plus the training she received, Rosalie developed her own market garden and is able to take care of the land around her through climate-resilient farming. And the sale of products from her garden have improved her family's income and diet.

Let's thank God today for his creation and for communities able to enjoy what the land can provide.

If you are able, please donate now to help churches work with their local communities to find a way out of extreme poverty: tearfund.org/donate30day

Donations like yours provide bespoke training for communities living in poverty, with nine out of ten going on to build shared services like water points, schools and health clinics.* Thank you.

Let's pray

- Thank God for his creation and for access to clean water.
- Pray that the church and its members may recognise their responsibility to care for God's creation, taking care of it with love and wisdom.
- Pray that churches going through community training now and in the future would be inspired with ideas to care for creation that would also help them out of poverty.

*tearfund.org/impactstatements

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.'

Matthew 25:35



Pray with us today for churches reaching people away from home

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Take a moment to consider what yours looks like. Sometimes they remain the same for ages. And sometimes events can cause a community to change.

This is true all around the world. And this can mean churches need to adapt how they reach out to those around them.

A difficult decision

For mum of three Zuleima (pictured), the church in Colombia was a lifeline when economic crisis forced her to leave neighbouring Venezuela.

Leaving behind everything you know isn't a decision anyone takes lightly. For Zuleima, it came when she could no longer find food for her three children. Along with more than two million other Venezuelans, Zuleima made the decision to flee to Colombia.

The church changed everything

At first, life wasn't any easier for Zuleima. Job opportunities for migrants and refugees in Colombia were few and far between. Then the coronavirus pandemic hit, and things went from bad to worse.

But the local church changed everything.

'The church opened their doors, and they helped me,' says Zuleima. 'Not only giving me food and a place to live, but also taking care of my emotions, giving me words of hope, giving me words of faith.'

As well as providing support for migrants' and refugees' immediate needs, Tearfund's local church partners have been setting up support groups that help people like Zuleima find new income opportunities.

'I am very happy because this has been the answer to my prayers,' Zuleima shares. 'The church has helped to restore my faith and my hope.'

Today, let's pray for churches looking out for the needs of changing and temporary communities.

Please pray

- that refugees and migrants, including children and young people, continue to find a home in churches, meet with Jesus and be transformed.
- that new churches will be inspired to reach out to people away from home. Pray that they can build relationships, show God's love, meet needs and see lives and communities transformed.
- for all churches to have the resources necessary to adapt to changing communities and for the wisdom to know how best to do this. May they support those who have been through trauma and be a channel for God's healing.

Day 23

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’

Romans 15:13



JESUS



Give thanks with us today for the hope Jesus brings

Jesus came to bring love and hope to the world, and to restore our relationship with God. And thanks to this, the church today continues to restore hope and purpose to many all around the world.

Living with a disability

‘Let’s lift each other as disabled persons’ is the name of a self-help group of 15 women and five men from three different churches, all living with disabilities, in Rutunga, Rwanda.

Before Transforming Communities training brought the group together, the members felt they were without a purpose. Many were unable to find accessible work to help them contribute to their household income. Most of them didn’t feel valued by society. They felt marginalised and rejected by their community.

Abilities not limitations

‘Once we came together,’ says Leonille, leader of the group, ‘we were able to discover our abilities. Disabilities don’t necessarily mean limitations, we complement each other depending on abilities and disabilities.’

Coming together has helped group members achieve a lot, mentally and physically. They feel a new worth and can contribute financially to support their families through making and selling handicrafts. Their feelings of loneliness have also gone, as they meet regularly as a group, pray together and support one another.

Just as we reflect on the hope Jesus brings, so the group members are now ‘overflowing with hope’ that a better future is possible thanks to prayer and local church support.

Please pray

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you for Jesus, the greatest gift, the source of hope.

Thank you that, through him, you bring hope to the hopeless, comfort to the afflicted, and healing to the brokenhearted.

Thank you for the church. Let it be a beacon of light, bringing transformation to the hearts and lives of those who are feeling hopeless, and let them find hope in Jesus Christ.

Father, I pray that the Transforming Communities process will continue to reach more people feeling hopeless, that everyone might know just how precious they are to you.

Father, I pray that you will fill the church leaders and the Tearfund staff with a fresh sense of hope and vision for what is possible through you.

In the mighty name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



‘Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.’

Ephesians 6:19–20



Pray with us today for fresh boldness in the gospel

Today we pray for the church to have fresh boldness to proclaim good news about Jesus in their communities.

This prayer is written by Chris Thompson, Tearfund’s Northern Ireland Director, and Clive Parnell, Teaching and Development Pastor, Kirkliston Community Church, Scotland.

Please pray

Father God,

We ask that your church would be given the words to fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. We thank you for the gift of Jesus, ‘Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing’: for the precious and transformative truth that his presence in our world has brought, and continues to bring. May we share this with those around us with boldness and grace.

Empower us with your Holy Spirit that we might share the good news of Jesus. Help us to speak of the saviour who came into a world that is broken, that is lonely, that is grieving, that has heartache. Help us to tell of this saviour who is the hope of the world and to be fearless in proclaiming his name. Give us a passion for your name and a passion to share this good news.

We pray for the churches around the world that are going through Tearfund’s Transforming Communities process; that they would be cities on a hill that cannot be hidden. May they live out the good news, both spiritually and physically, for their communities.

May we see more churches around the world rise up to be the light in their communities, changing the lives of those around them forever. May we see people come to know you and be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. Help us, we pray by your Spirit, in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

📍 Above: Tearfund works through local churches of all shapes, sizes and denominations, like this one in Comunidade Quilombola Fonseca, Brazil

Photo: Tom Price-Ecce Opus/Tearfund

‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.’

Acts 2:42



Pray with us today for God’s light to shine in your community

Thank you for devoting yourself to praying for the global church. Your powerful prayers are bringing change and transformation to communities around the world.

As we pray today, take a moment to think about the needs of your own community. Where does God’s light need to shine?

Ask God to show you your role in sharing God’s love with those around you.

Then lift your community before God as we pray for transformation, with a prayer written by Owain Edwards, leader at Eglwys Emaus Church in Bala, Wales.

Please pray

Thank you, Lord, for the incredible privilege we have of coming before you now.

Thank you, Lord, for the way you have transformed our lives and, Lord, thank you for the way you are still in the business of transforming our lives.

Lord, thank you that you choose to do so through us, your people, and therefore through us as your church.

Therefore, our prayer today, Lord, is for you to come and just give your church the strength to go out and be agents of change in our communities.

Lord, we pray that you will give us, your church, wisdom and the spiritual discernment to know how we can best serve our communities, how we can love our communities with your love and see our communities being transformed for the glory of your name.

Amen.

Diolch, Arglwydd, am y fraint anhygoel sydd ganddon ni o ddod ger dy fron di rŵan.

Diolch, Arglwydd, am y ffordd rwyd ti wedi trawsffurfio ein bywydau ni ac, Arglwydd, diolch i ti am y ffordd rwyd ti’n dal yn y busnes o drawsffurfio’n bywydau ni.

Arglwydd, diolch i ti dy fod ti’n dewis gwneud hynny trwon ni, dy bobl, ac felly trwon ni fel dy Eglwys di.

Felly, ein gweddi ni heddiw, Arglwydd, ydi i ti ddod a jest nerthu dy Eglwys di i fynd allan ac i fod yn agents of change yn ein cymunedau ni.

Arglwydd, ‘da ni’n gweddio i ti roi doethineb a deall ysbrydol i ni fel dy Eglwys i wybod sut fedrwn ni orau wasanaethu ein cymunedau, sut fedrwn ni garu’n cymunedau gyda dy gariad di a gweld ein cymunedau’n cael eu trawsffurfio er clod i dy enw di.

Gweiadur.



‘And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.’

Colossians 4:3



Pray with us today for opportunities across many denominations

Think for a moment about the churches in your area. If you live in a village then maybe there's just one church of one denomination. Or if you live in a city, there might be many churches of many traditions.

For Tearfund to achieve the vision to be working with 250,000 churches around the world, it's vital that our Transforming Communities training is relevant and adaptable to all denominations. And it's imperative for the vision that more denominations become involved.

By also working with theological colleges across the denominations, we can introduce Transforming Communities to new pastors and church leaders before they even start ministering in their communities.

‘We pray that denominational leaders will see the need to embrace this vision and bring change in their churches,’ says Dr Abraham Gaga, theologian and secretary of the Church and Community Advisory Board in Nigeria.

‘We pray for theological institutions, that God will open their doors to be able to accept the Transforming Communities curriculum so that pastors in training can be equipped well ahead of time for the work of the ministry.’

So, please pray with us today for God to open doors to bring Transforming Communities training to new denominations, church networks and theological institutions around the world.

Pray for

- Tearfund staff and partners to form connections and partnerships to expand the awareness and vision of Transforming Communities across denominations, church networks and theological institutions.
- church networks and denominations to work together in unity to see lives and communities transformed.
- any denominational barriers to be broken down so Tearfund can achieve the vision to work with 250,000 churches by 2030.
- students in theological colleges to be well trained and catch the vision to lead Transforming Communities in their churches.

‘Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will.’

Hebrews 13:20–21



Thank God today for evidence of impact

Through the course of these 30 days of prayer, we have reflected with thanks on the long-lasting impact the church is having around the world. And we can see from our research that there is much to be grateful for.

We know that nine out of ten communities that have been through our Transforming Communities training have gone on to improve or build facilities like water points, schools and health clinics.*

And we can see the training has developed self-sufficiency by helping people stabilise or grow their income year on year. Without a doubt, our bespoke community training brings hope and belonging through the local church, for people who need it the most.*

We can see that Transforming Communities training empowers communities to rewrite their own stories, building a future filled with hope and opportunity, which is why we long to see the programme happening in so many more churches around the world.

God is doing great things and we believe there will be even further transformation to come. So we approach the future both excited and aware of the scale of the task ahead to reach the goal of working with 250,000 churches by 2030. But we also approach the years ahead in confidence that God will be with us and give all of us everything we need to do his will.

Please join us in prayer

- Thank God for what he is already doing across the world through Transforming Communities, and for the lives that have been transformed in every way – physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- Pray that God would build his kingdom and give new opportunities for community transformation in the coming months and years.
- Pray that God would equip churches to become centres of hope and transformation.
- Pray that God would continue to use Transforming Communities to transform lives and communities and for an even greater impact to be seen in the future.

*tearfund.org/impactstatements

Day 28

‘They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.’

Isaiah 61:3



Pray with Graham Kendrick today for Tearfund's vision

After a recent visit to Tearfund Scotland, worship leader Graham Kendrick – who wrote the beloved songs, ‘Shine Jesus Shine’, ‘Knowing You’, ‘The Servant King’ and ‘God of the Poor’ (for Tearfund) – wrote this prayer.

Please pray alongside Graham for the global church and for Tearfund's vision to be working with 250,000 churches around the world, bringing transformation and change.

Please join us in prayer

Lord, this is your work. It can only be done in the power of your Spirit, but we thank you for calling us to participate in your work. In these extreme times, send your mighty Holy Spirit to awaken us.

Create a Spirit who causes tiny seeds to grow into great trees in their proper time. Give your servants in Tearfund discernment, wisdom and patience to plant and tend saplings which can grow into great oaks of righteousness.

Raise up new generations of Spirit-filled leaders equipped to multiply works of love, and establish centres of transformation on the front lines of need. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Day 29

‘And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.’

Hebrews 13:16



Pray with us today for God's provision

We have almost reached the end of 30 days of prayer for the global church. Thank you for your amazing commitment and your faithful praying.

We may never know everything that your prayers have achieved, but we know that God will do immeasurably more than we can ever imagine. And it has meant the world to our staff, our partners, and the communities we work with to know they have been prayed for.

We believe 'life in all its fullness' is not just a distant dream but an achievable reality for every person around the world experiencing the overwhelming effects of extreme poverty.

Throughout this guide, we've heard of the great impact that churches are making in their communities through Tearfund's Transforming Communities training, ensuring that the outcomes are locally owned and enduring.

And the ripple effect is profound. From bringing water to villages, to ending hunger in communities, to restoring relationships, the church is making a huge difference.

This is all possible because of the prayers and generosity of supporters like you. Poverty is not God's plan. You are.

Please continue to pray for us beyond these 30 days and, if you can, please donate now to help local churches lead their community out of poverty and into a sustainable future:
tearfund.org/donate30day

A little goes a long way with your donations, helping communities contribute seven times for every £1 invested in our innovative training.*

'Once Transforming Communities training comes into your community, the community is never the same,' says Anne Mumbi, Tearfund's Regional Influencing Lead in South and East Africa.

Please pray with us today for God's provision.

Pray with us

We thank you for the support and generosity that has enabled so many communities to be transformed. Bless all who have given over the past 55 years of Tearfund. We pray that their gifts will have an impact for generations to come.

Lord, please release the resources needed to expand the number of churches involved in Transforming Communities, to equip more facilitators and trainers, and to allow Tearfund to provide churches with all they need to transform their communities.

Father, we pray for funding to come from unexpected places and through fruitful partnerships to allow more churches to become involved in Transforming Communities.

Thank you that, as we pray, we can all be part of your transformative work in the world.

Amen.

*tearfund.org/impactstatements

Day 30

**'I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades
will not overcome it.'**

Matthew 16:18



Pray with us today with expectancy for the future

Thank you for your commitment to praying for the global church through this guide. We hope that you've been inspired and encouraged at what God is doing around the world. We thank God for you and for your support.

On this final day, please join with this prayer written by Tearfund Scotland's team as we pray with expectancy and boldness for all that God will do through the church in the future.

Please join us in prayer

Father God, we thank you that Jesus is actively building his church and nothing can stop it.

We thank you that we are called to partner with you in building your church.

We know that poverty is not your plan, but that we are and every church can play a part in ending extreme poverty and injustice.

We thank you for Tearfund's work to bring good news to people living in poverty around the world.

We thank you that, at the heart of its mission, Tearfund equips churches to reach out to be the hands and feet of Jesus, so that communities are transformed from within and people are empowered to reach their God-given potential.

We thank you for the churches who are already centres of transformation in their communities in some of the poorest places of the world.

We thank you for the bold vision that you have given to Tearfund to see 250,000 churches become catalysts for transformation in their communities over the next few years.

We know that we cannot achieve this vision in our own strength, so we call out to you, O God.

We trust that you will move through your church and millions of people will be impacted.


While we thank you for the difference you are already making in communities across the globe through Tearfund and your church, we also believe that you have more work to do and more lives that you want to see transformed.

We want to be part of it. Please use us, Lord.

Fill us with compassion and show us how to practise what we pray, serving others, and building your kingdom here on earth, as it is in heaven.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

 Above: After losing her child due to no direct access to a health centre, Aline and her church in Kimati, Burundi, decided to build their own
Photo: Paul Mbonankira/Tearfund



Continuing the journey...

We want to equip you so that you and your church can join us in prayer for an end to extreme poverty. Visit tearfund.org/pray for more resources and opportunities to pray.

One Voice in Prayer

We would love to continue praying with you for an end to poverty through our *One Voice in Prayer* email, which is sent out every Friday. In it you'll find the latest updates from where Tearfund is working around the world, and how you can pray for specific situations, including prayers for the church. We also share prayer guides and resources from our global team to help you explore different ways to pray for people living in poverty.

Sign up to receive *One Voice in Prayer*:
tearfund.org/onevoice30day

Further prayer resources from Tearfund

Prayer is at the heart of all that we do at Tearfund. Our vision is far bigger than we can achieve alone. So, whether we're seeking guidance for our everyday lives or responding to huge issues like climate change, we do so on our knees, looking to God for direction and intervention. You can find resources, guides and tools to help you pray for people living in poverty around the world at: tearfund.org/pray

Get your church involved too!

At Tearfund, we believe that every church can play a part in ending extreme poverty – and that's why we want to equip you and your church to take action. We can share resources, expert training and stories from around the world to inspire your church to engage with the complex issue of global poverty in practical ways.

Find out more:
tearfund.org/engagechurch

📍 Above: Hadale Guyyo praises God at her local church in Borena, Ethiopia
Photo: Peter Caton/Tearfund

tearfund.org

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