INTRODUCTION: JOIN US IN PRAYER

This year marks ten years since the start of the conflict in Darfur, western Sudan. With this simple guide, we’re inviting you to join us in prayer for Darfur in 2013, using the seasons as a framework for prayer. It doesn’t matter how much or how little time you have available – the guide has been designed to fit in with your life and with your year. Please put some dates in your diary to refer back to it.

In this guide you’ll find prayer points, creative prayer ideas and stories to help you pray throughout the year. You can choose how and when you would like to pray.

There’s also helpful information about a special day of prayer for Darfur on Wednesday 20 February, 2013, with a suggested timetable to help you stop and pray with us throughout the day.

Thank you for joining us in prayer.
WHY PRAY FOR DARFUR?

BACKGROUND

2013 marks ten years since the start of the conflict in Darfur, western Sudan. For nine of those ten years Tearfund has been operating on the ground in the region, responding first to immediate emergency needs but with time focusing more on addressing longer-term recovery and development.

According to figures released by the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in December 2012, Darfur still has humanitarian needs. There are approximately 3.5 million people receiving food aid, including some 1.4 million displaced people registered in camps. Many of these people have been living in camps for years.

As we reflect on this tenth anniversary, we can give thanks for the work that has been done to plant seeds of hope and to change people’s lives. As some people are returning home and others in Darfur are making a life for themselves in new places, there is much to give thanks to God for. But we also still have much to pray for.

Tearfund’s programme in Darfur aims to provide people with long-term and sustainable ways to regain control of their own lives. This includes: helping people to generate their own livelihoods; improving nutrition, food security, water and sanitation; promoting hygiene; supporting vulnerable groups such as children; and responding to emergency needs as and when they arise.
DAY OF PRAYER FOR DARFUR:
WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 2013

Please join us in prayer during our special day of prayer for Darfur on Wednesday 20 February, 2013. You’ll be joining Tearfund staff, partners, prayer groups and other prayer networks in bringing this region before God with our praise, thanksgiving and requests.

PRAYING ALONE?
Here is a timetable for your day with suggestions for how you can reflect and pray in the morning, afternoon and evening.

PRAYING WITH OTHERS?
Consider adapting the materials below in your regular church prayer gathering or prayer group, either on or close to this date. You might like to organise a special one-off prayer meeting for Darfur.

MORNING

REFLECT
Reflect on Psalm 5:3

‘IN THE MORNING, LORD, YOU HEAR MY VOICE; IN THE MORNING I LAY MY REQUESTS BEFORE YOU AND WAIT EXPECTANTLY.’

PRAY
Give thanks that over the past nine years Tearfund has experienced many joys and challenges, working with others to plant seeds of hope that have changed people’s lives. Pray for those who have at last been able to return to their home villages as areas have become safer, and for those displaced by conflict who are making a life for themselves in new places.

ACT
Set an hourly alarm on your watch or mobile phone for today only, and use it to remind you to give thanks and to pray for Darfur. At midday join with a worldwide community of believers praying the Lord’s Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13).

AFTERNOON

REFLECT
In Ed Daein in East Darfur state, about 10,000 malnourished children per year are brought to Tearfund feeding centres by their parents so they can get a special nutritious food called plumpy’nut. Therapeutic food like this can mean the difference between life and death for a child.

PRAY
Before you eat your lunch today, give thanks for the food that you eat, and please pray for children in Darfur whose growth is currently stunted. Pray that they will have hope for the future and will receive all the help they need to lead healthy and happy lives.

ACT
Over lunchtime today, take a walk around your local area and count how many services are available, such as schools, shops, medical centres and pharmacies. As you walk, pray for people in Darfur who do not have such easy access to food, medical facilities and education.

Turn to page 6 for more prayer ideas for today.
EVENING

REFLECT

‘LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.’ v27

PRAY
Use this prayer for Darfur, written by a church leader from Sudan:

O God, we thank you for the region of Darfur and its different people groups.
Thank you that you are watching over the region of Darfur.
We pray for your protection and care, and for courage and boldness for those called to service in this region and in the wider nation of Sudan.
We pray that the leaders of Sudan and South Sudan will reach agreement on issues that threaten lasting peace, and that these agreements will be implemented quickly.
We pray for peace, reconciliation and healing, for good-neighbourly relations with South Sudan, and for forgiveness, unity and hope across the land.
This we ask in the matchless name of Jesus Christ.
Amen

ACT
Pick up a national newspaper or search on the internet for coverage of Darfur over the last 24 hours. If you find something relevant in the newspaper, write your prayer on the article. If the information is online, highlight relevant words to focus your prayers. You might like to use some of the phrases from the prayer above to guide you as you pray.

END OF THE DAY

REFLECT
Reflect on Psalm 71:14

‘AS FOR ME, I WILL ALWAYS HAVE HOPE; I WILL PRAISE YOU MORE AND MORE.’

PRAY
Use this prayer written by a church leader from East Africa:

Almighty God, we thank you for the country of Sudan and its people.
We pray for its political leaders, that they will be united and serve the people with all diligence and put the nation first.
Give them your wisdom as they lead the people of Sudan.
We pray for those who have taken up arms, that they will agree to peace and resolve all grievances through peaceful means.
We pray that Sudan will have good relations with all its neighbours.
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen

ACT
Put three dates in your 2013 calendar or diary – one in March, one in May and one in November – when you will next pray for Darfur. Write down two ways that you can mobilise prayer for Darfur – perhaps you can share this prayer guide with your home group or church, or form a prayer pair or triplet to pray specifically for Darfur in 2013.
MORE TIME?

Use the extra information below to help you continue praying today.

REFLECT
Tearfund’s livelihoods project in Kass, South Darfur, has helped farmers to grow enough nutritious food for their families and even have some left over to sell at market. It has given farmers access to tools and improved seed varieties selected for their disease-resistance and high germination rates. Also, it has built farmers’ capacity through training, information, and knowledge and skills sharing. These small inputs make all the difference.

Mohammed has lived in Kass for more than 40 years and has been a farmer all his life. He cultivated a small plot of land that provided nutritious food for his family, but he struggled to grow enough for the whole year. Tearfund’s livelihoods project in Kass helped Mohammed by giving him improved vegetable seeds to plant and saplings to help protect his field.

Mohammed says, 'Before the project started, every year we struggled to produce enough food, but now we are able to produce more. I’d like to see all farmers getting this kind of help, so they can have enough food, like me.'

He hopes that the seeds will mean he can grow enough vegetables to sell some at the market, as well as providing year-round nutritious food for his family.

He’s excited about the future, as he sees the improved seeds and training as a starting point from which he can expand his cultivation and increase the family’s income.

PRAY
• Give thanks for the hope that livelihood projects give to people, and for the staff involved who are building relationships with communities across Darfur.
• Pray for more stories of hope and transformation in the face of ongoing food security issues.
• Pray for good harvests in Darfur this year, so that families have the nutritious food they need.
• Pray for good harvests around the world and lower food prices, to prevent millions more people being pushed into poverty.

ACT
Picture prayers: visit the online photo gallery available at www.tearfund.org/pray and let the images stir you to pray.

SOWING SEEDS
You can do this on your own or with others – your prayer group, family or home group. For a group, set up a table where people can have a go at planting something. You could provide pots of soil and some seeds, e.g. sunflower seeds.

• Print out the story of Mohammed (above) and place copies around the growing area.
• Place a sign above the table, inviting people to plant a seed and at the same time to pray for farmers in Darfur. Pray for a bountiful harvest that will provide enough food for local communities.
• Put your plant pots in a visible place so that they will remind you to pray when you see them.
WHAT NEXT?
SEASONS OF PRAYER

Join us as we focus on specific themes linked to Darfur’s three seasons: winter, dry and rainy.

❄️ WINTER – DECEMBER to MARCH

REFLECT

During the winter season in Darfur temperatures drop significantly at night and the warmth of a shelter is highly appreciated...

‘Don’t ask me to stop weeping. I’m not angry because the fire destroyed everything we own. I’m crying because the God who decided to cause this loss also sent Tearfund to us to draw a smile on our sad faces.’

These are the words of Hussein, 15, who lives in Sabah El Kheir village in East Darfur. A severe fire here destroyed nine houses and partially damaged another six. Thankfully no one died, but 15 families were left homeless and lost all their possessions.

Hussein describes what happened: ‘My parents went to the field for harvest. A fire broke out in our block and all the houses caught fire. Our belongings were destroyed. We moved to stay with our neighbours, but their house didn’t have room for two families. We became homeless and were in real need of help for food, shelter and other things. Tearfund responded to our needs, and we received basic utensils for cooking, plastic sheets for protection from the wind and sun, plastic mats and blankets, and jerry cans to store our water safely.’

PRAY

• Give thanks for connections made with families such as Hussein’s, enabling us to support them through difficult periods and provide help when it’s most needed.

• Please continue to pray for Hussein and his family, and many more like them who have lost their homes for various reasons in Darfur. Pray that they will be provided with long-term, sustainable housing solutions and will not have to rely on agencies such as Tearfund in the future for their survival.

ACT

Daily alarm: set your phone alarm at 20.13 and/or 8.13 hours each day to remind you to pray for Darfur this year.

Together in prayer: consider asking your home group and/or church to include Darfur in your weekly or Sunday intercessions. Alternatively, find a prayer buddy to partner with and pray together for Darfur.
REFLECT

Long-term climate change in Darfur means there is less rain than there used to be, and the desert is gradually spreading. A UN report in 2007 found that environmental issues such as these have contributed to tensions and conflict between communities...

In December 2012, Tearfund held a football tournament in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur, that brought together different ethnic communities from seven sub-villages around Abujaradil community. A thousand spectators came to the cheerfully contested final. At the end of the match, community leaders had an opportunity to address the crowd and encourage the communities to cooperate more with each other. They were very pleased to see how activities such as football could help to bring unity.

Other leaders offered a vote of thanks for the transformation and hope that Tearfund’s work was bringing to the community.

PRAY

• Please pray for the various ethnic groups that make up the community in Abujaradil. Pray for increasing unity and pray that social events such as sport will help this process.

• Pray for the community leaders in Um Dukhun, who are seeing the positive results such unity can bring. Pray that God will grant them wisdom and discernment for the future.

ACT

Be an encourager: send an email to prayer.coordinator@tearfund.org with any words, verses or pictures you have from your times of prayer, as we can forward these to our team members in Sudan for their encouragement and inspiration.

Prayer triggers: this year, whenever you see Darfur on the news or read about it in the newspaper, remember to pray for the region and its people.
Declining rainfall over recent decades has made water an increasingly precious commodity in Darfur. With less water available, there is increased risk of families using dirty water for drinking and hygiene purposes. Sadly, diarrhoea is the most common cause of childhood illness and the second-leading killer disease of children worldwide; 50% of malnutrition cases are associated with repeated diarrhoea as a result of dirty water and poor sanitation. Tearfund’s work in Darfur raises awareness on such issues through education, hygiene promotion and nutrition initiatives, often using child-friendly activities.

Babies and young children are vulnerable even at the best of times – and in times of conflict, help from agencies such as Tearfund can mean the difference between life and death. So, although our work in Darfur covers a range of fields, children and their mothers are at the heart of much of Tearfund’s work here.

Fatima is a 33-year-old mother-of-five, who came to a Tearfund feeding centre with one of her youngest children. Her small daughter had a fever, and Fatima was worried she would lose her. But with urgent medical treatment and food, her daughter survived.

‘I am so happy,’ says Fatima. ‘Now she [my daughter] can now play like any other child, and I can go back to my farming activities [to make a living]. My prayer now is for peace...’

**PRAY**

- Thank God for the many children and mothers who are supported through Tearfund’s education, hygiene promotion and nutrition initiatives.
- Please pray for good rains this wet season so that communities across Darfur can access safe water.
- Give thanks for the hope streaming through Tearfund’s staff and partners in Darfur – both through emergency aid and long-term projects.
- Pray for long-term peace, so that pain and conflict will become part of Darfur’s past and not part of its future.

**ACT**

Prayer bookmark: print out the areas for prayer on the next page and pop them in your Bible to remind you to pray for Darfur whenever you read the scriptures.

Let your life speak: spend some time thinking about the way that your life has changed over the last nine years. Have a time of quiet and ask God to continue to shape your life.
Here are six areas we would like you to continue to pray into during 2013.

1. RELATIONSHIPS
Many international non-government organisations (INGOs) have come and gone in Darfur over the last ten years. However, when a national Tearfund staff member who had grown up in Darfur was asked whether such work had brought any changes to him, his family and his community, his response was positive. ‘We have made major progress in the last nine years,’ he said. Please pray that a good relationship between the people of Darfur and INGOs will continue in the future as they work together to build hope.

2. CHILDREN
Parents in Ed Daein, East Darfur state, bring their malnourished children to Tearfund feeding centres so they can get special therapeutic food with extra nutrition. Please pray for children in Darfur whose growth is currently stunted, that they will have hope for the future and will receive all the help they need to lead healthy and happy lives.

3. DISPLACED FAMILIES
Many families and communities in Darfur have been separated by violence over the last ten years. Some have fled to other countries, some have moved to other towns and camps within Darfur, and some remain in their home villages. Please pray for these families and communities, that their hope of being reunited with each other will be fulfilled.

4. WOMEN
A women’s committee has formed in a small town in Central Darfur, one of many across Darfur, which means that for the first time these women are able to be represented and have a voice in community matters. Give thanks for the hope this has given to women such as these, and pray that efforts will continue to encourage complete community participation and engagement.

5. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
Give thanks for the humanitarian and development work done in Darfur over the past ten years, through government, donors, international organisations, civil society and INGOs. Pray that God will continue to bless such efforts and that they will give hope to the people for the future.

6. PEACE
The situation in Darfur remains volatile: in 2012, 90,000 to 100,000 people were displaced across the states of Darfur, according to the UN. Some 1.4 million people remain in camps, and 3.5 million people currently receive food aid. Please pray that groups in conflict with each other will resolve their differences through peaceful means, not through fighting.
AND FINALLY:
A PRAYER FOR HOPE

Dear Lord,

You have told us to rejoice in hope. Thank you for the hope that has been given to the people of Darfur over the past ten years in so many ways. Lord, you also call us to be constant in prayer. So we lift up to you the people of Darfur and ask you to bless them from this day forward, in all the issues that they face, and give them a hope and a future.

Amen.

Thank you for praying. Please do continue to keep Darfur and Sudan in your prayers.

Please visit www.tearfund.org/pray to see our current prayer news and sign up for our One Voice prayer email. You’ll receive regular information to help you pray for Darfur and other situations of need around the world.