

One Voice

Your weekly
prayer resource

tearfund

Bringing COP to the foot of the cross

The UN's climate conference, COP26, will begin soon. There is huge urgency behind these talks. The climate crisis is already having a devastating effect on communities living in poverty – the people who have done the least to cause it. The time to act is now.

'By the end of this decade, 132 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty by the climate crisis,' explains Carol Ng'ang'a, who is based in Kenya and is part of Tearfund's young theologians network.

'[It] sounds like just a number, but as we know, these numbers have names. These are our friends, these are our siblings, these are our sisters.'

'This climate change conversation has actual implications to real life people.'

A call from God

'The climate crisis, for me, and for so many other people, our team, our neighbours, is not just an important issue but it's truly our reality,' adds Marc Antoine, who leads Tearfund's work in Haiti.

'With the planet warming, resulting in floods, famines, fires – all the terrible things we so often see in our newspapers – and these things particularly afflicting the poorest people in our world, this really matters,' says Pete Greig, Tearfund ambassador and founder of 24/7 Prayer.

'This is for all of us and especially for us as Christians. One of the first things that God asks us to do is to take care of the world he's made (Genesis 2:25).'

What can we do?

One of the ways we can respond to this call is through prayer. This issue can feel overwhelming. Petitioning God for world leaders to act can feel like too big an ask. But Jesus tells us that if we have faith as small as a mustard seed we can tell mountains to move (Matthew 17:20).

Join us as we bring COP26 to the foot of the cross, petitioning God for decisive action to be taken by world leaders to address the climate crisis.

Pray with us

Holy God,

We lift up COP26 to you. We lay it at the foot of the cross and call for your will to be done.

Bless the world leaders and everyone attending, Lord. Bless them with your heart for justice. Bless them with boldness and courage to take decisive action that will care for the whole of your creation.

Bless them with good relationships with each other so we can tackle this emergency together.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

A note from...

'As the crucial COP26 climate talks get underway this weekend, let's remember and lift up to God those who are suffering right now because of the climate crisis: our brothers and sisters. Please pray that negotiators from the worst affected countries will have influence at the conference, and that world leaders will be guided by justice and compassion in their decisions.'

Laura Young, UK Campaigns Team

Pray for the world



A military coup in Sudan this week has led to unrest and violence in the capital, Khartoum. Pray that the situation stabilises, and for the safety of the population. Sudan hosts over a million refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and other countries. Pray especially for the protection of refugees, who are more vulnerable at this time.



Keep praying for the people of Haiti. Many are still sleeping outside because their homes were destroyed by the earthquake, and people in some rural areas are yet to be reached. These families are very vulnerable as the hurricane season continues to bring heavy rains. Pray for good collaboration between aid agencies and for plentiful resources so that more people can be reached.



In Afghanistan, many people face trauma-based anxiety and depression disorders. In August, World Health Organisation facilities reported over 14,000 conflict-related trauma cases in the preceding months. Pray that Tearfund partners can reach out to the Afghan people in their despair and bring them hope.

A story of Thanks from Zimbabwe

Pastor Thanks' name couldn't be more appropriate. Life in Zimbabwe was far from easy for him in his roles as church leader, father and business owner. Some training and the grace of God gave him good reason to give thanks. And the story didn't end there.

In 2013, Tearfund's partner, Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe, invited Pastor Thanks to their church and community transformation training course. During the workshops, Thanks learnt the skills needed to help his church members and the wider community support each other in new and powerful ways.

The training focuses on how people can realise their potential and improve their income by using locally available, God-given resources, empowering them to work together to solve local issues.

'Before embracing [the training], my life was characterised by begging, without hope. I was very uncertain of what the future held for me. I am so grateful that I can now provide for my family,' Pastor Thanks tells us.

Putting it into practice

Thanks set about putting the training into practice, and both he and the wider community flourished. The church grew, businesses grew, and Thanks was asked to share the training with church leaders in other communities so that even more people could benefit.

Thanks now juggles being a church leader, a trainer, a mentor, a husband and father, a baker, a farmer and a business owner!

'This is all because of the passion I have and the inner push that gives me the strength to make my tomorrow better than it is today,' says Thanks.

'Churches in Zimbabwe play a vital role in the centre of their communities,' says Earnest Maswera, Tearfund's Country Director for Zimbabwe. 'Therefore, we work with and through churches wherever possible, knowing they hold a special ability to change the lives of entire communities. Thanks be to God!'

Pray with us

Please join us in prayer for church leaders throughout the world.

Dear God,

We thank you for the place the church holds within communities, and the part that it can play in bringing people together.

We pray that your church will be a force for good throughout the world.

We lift Pastor Thanks to you and thank you for his influence.

We pray that you bless him in his work and for his community in Zimbabwe, that they will look to you as the source of their blessings.

In Jesus' name, amen.

The mum who transformed an entire community

Griselda is living out God's call to love her neighbours by supporting new mothers in her community. Thanks to her, child malnutrition is being prevented, safe hygiene messages are being promoted, and women are receiving vital support as they adapt to motherhood.

'On many occasions I went through very hard times and I did not know who I could lean on,' remembers Griselda, from Guatemala. She knows first-hand the challenges of raising young children on her own. 'I felt very lonely... I felt that there were no opportunities for me. I didn't have a job, I had nothing.'

Sometimes, Griselda couldn't afford to buy enough food for her two young daughters, let alone buy medicine when they got sick.

Tearfund's local partner, AMI San Lucas, were able to support Griselda in her time of need. They taught her about nutrition and how to grow different vegetables in her own garden to make healthy meals for her children. They also helped her raise chickens so the family now has a constant supply of eggs, which they can eat or sell.

Paying it forward

Griselda was so thankful for the help that she had received that she wanted to bless others in her community. 'Just as they've helped me, so I would like to help more people. I don't want other people to go through what I went through,' she says.

Griselda has a strong faith, and is passionate about sharing God's love with others in practical ways. 'It is important to serve others because God serves all of us, whether we are good or bad. Loving our neighbours is very important,' she says.

Our local partner trained Griselda to become a community health worker for new and expectant mothers. She now visits a group of 15 women in her community, supporting them from the start of their pregnancy until their children are two years old.

Helping children thrive

In Griselda's remote village, most people rely on seasonal farming work and earn very little. Due to a lack of nutritious food, child malnutrition is a common problem. This can stunt development, lead to lifelong problems, and can be fatal.

To counter malnutrition, Griselda shares her knowledge with new mothers and teaches them how to grow a variety of vegetables. This helps families earn extra money, as well as ensuring that children are eating healthy meals. She also shares good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of diseases.

Griselda watches out for any signs of malnutrition in the children, and refers them to the medical clinic run by our local partner if necessary. This means that malnutrition cases are prevented, or else are detected and treated quickly, so that all of the children in the community can thrive.

Dreams coming true

'My dream for my community is that the women who come to my group become people who know how to take care of their children and our community,' says Griselda.

That dream is now becoming a reality. All the children Griselda has been visiting are healthy and developing well, and the mothers are learning valuable skills which can help lift their families out of poverty.

Griselda is a wonderful example of the difference one person can make to a whole community. Her willingness to give her time, care and knowledge has made a profound impact upon her neighbours.

Let's lift Griselda and her community up in prayer, and consider how we can love our own neighbours in practical ways.

Pray with us

Dear God,

Thank you for Griselda and her dedication to helping others in her community. Thank you that so many mothers and children have been supported. We ask that they will continue to thrive.

God, you have commanded us all to love our neighbours. Please reveal to us what that looks like in our everyday lives. Thank you for all the skills and resources you have given us; please show us how we can use them to bless others.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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