

# One Voice in Prayer

Praying together for  
an end to global poverty

tearfund

## A third of Pakistan under water

**A few weeks ago we shared with you about the devastating floods that have hit Pakistan. The rains haven't stopped. A third of the country is now under water. And more rains are being forecast.**

'I was sleeping at home when the floods came in my village,' shares Muhamad, a father of seven who lives in Punjab.

'By the time we were out of the house, the water level was up to four feet. We walked, walked through the flood water and [could] hardly find the road.

'Since then we have been living on the flood embankment in the open sky without the basic amenities. My whole family ran away, but we left everything behind. We don't have enough shelter here from the rain, and even food sometimes we can't find.

'Sometimes we have to sleep without [having a] meal. We urgently need food, medical supplies...'

### Where the need is greatest

Tearfund's local partners are on the ground helping families like Muhamad. We're providing food, shelter, safe water and mosquito nets to those affected, but the need is vast. More than a thousand people have now been killed, and around a million homes damaged or destroyed.

'I am thankful to REEDS Pakistan's search, rescue and evacuation team [Tearfund local partner] for their timely response,' shares Muhamad. '[Their] team is present on the ground and helping the people in need. [They] provided cooked food and tents for temporary shelter.'

It can be hard to know how to pray in situations like this. But prayer is powerful and can make a difference. Please join us as we continue to pray for the people of Pakistan.

### Pray with us

Disasters are even worse for people with additional needs. These could be people with disabilities, pregnant women and new mothers, people with mobility issues, the elderly, women and girls and children separated from their families or who have been made orphans.

The following prayer exercise helps to focus your prayers on specific groups who have been made more vulnerable by the floods.

- Begin by welcoming God's presence.
- Then, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in prayer for one of the groups listed above. Reflect on the challenges that these people could now face because of the flooding.
- When you encounter a challenge this group may face, pray for God's power to help them to overcome it. Pray for provision where there is lack. Pray that they won't feel alone. And pray for opportunities and support to help them to recover and flourish.

The Disasters Emergency Committee, of which Tearfund is a part, has launched an emergency appeal. If you would like to donate to help provide urgently needed relief, **[please donate now at tearfund.org/OVflooding](https://tearfund.org/OVflooding)**

If you're looking for more prayer points, plus creative ways you and your church can pray for the people of Pakistan, you can **[view and share our prayer guide at tearfund.org/OVPakistan](https://tearfund.org/OVPakistan)**

## Bible verse of the week

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...'  
(Psalm 46:1-2)

## Pray for the world



### **Child marriage doubles in Ethiopia due to hunger**

In Ethiopia, young girls are being sold into marriage because this is the only way their families can feed their siblings. Pray for urgent provision of food so that no parent is forced to make this heartbreaking choice. Pray for protection over young girls in Ethiopia who are at risk of child marriage. And ask God to increase Tearfund and our local partners' resources so we can reach more people in need.



### **Floods recede in Myanmar**

In mid-August, we shared with you about how Tropical Storm Mulan caused widespread flooding in Myanmar. Praise God that the floodwaters have receded. Pray for families as they rebuild and recover from the flooding. Many of them live in places affected by the ongoing violence; keep them in your prayers and keep praying for peace.



### **Fifteen thousand people made homeless in South Sudan**

Following weeks of heavy rains, most parts of Aweil Town, in the north-west of South Sudan, are flooded. The majority of those affected are now sleeping out in the open, as homes have been destroyed or are inhabitable. Pray for provision of shelter, food and safe water. And pray for strength and resources for Tearfund staff as they work with affected communities to help plan a coordinated response.

# Meet the couple transforming how the church sees creation

Transformation begins in the heart, but how can we share about caring for creation in a way that these seeds can take root and bear fruit? In Brazil, the Christian organisation Renew our World – who Tearfund works with – is equipping Christians to find innovative ways to invite more people to respond to God’s call to care for the environment. People like Clarita and Cássio are now leading a movement for change – find out more and how we can pray for them.

Clarita and Cássio grow organic *yerba mate* on their farm in Brazil. The plant is used to make tea and energy drinks, and so has a large market. A Fair Trade seal is also used on the drinks once produced, thanks to the practices and values that they uphold on their farm.

Clarita and Cássio don’t use pesticides on their farm, as they have harmful effects on the soil, animals and for the wider environment. The pair also continue to look for alternative ways they can use the resources that the local forest provides for them, as Clarita says: ‘[Working with] the forest and not against it, always in this harmonious way.’

But one of the biggest challenges they have is getting the wider church involved in caring for creation.

## Getting the church talking

‘I have always been interested in issues related to the role of Christians in the face of creation,’ explains Clarita. ‘But this question has always intrigued me: “Why didn’t we talk about this subject within the church?”’

‘Since I was little I always tried to bring these issues to the debate – seeking to discover what the Bible says about our relationship with nature.’

It was through asking these questions that Clarita found out about one of Tearfund’s local partners, Renew our World, and how they are working to help local churches speak up and advocate to care for the environment.

Through joining Renew our World, Clarita and Cássio have been able to learn more about how they can take care of God’s creation, as well as how they can equip others to do the same.

## Transforming the heart

‘I think that one of the roles of Christians is to distribute this good seed,’ explains Clarita. ‘Because it has to be from the inside out.’

‘Information is important, but transformation has to happen in the heart.’

‘We were placed here, in the midst of creation, to be God’s care for creation. Not only to be fed by creation, but for us to take care of it.’

'And in my way of thinking, this happens from a seed, it's no use wanting the person to swallow a pineapple. It is necessary to plant the seed, wait for it to sprout, to converge with the person's ideas and make sense, until it sprouts, germinates and bears fruit.'

'People today understand the impact of destruction,' Cássio adds. 'But it is an understanding that does not cause transformation...'

'I think it depends a lot on involvement. It is a movement that has to be started.'

### **Finding a connection**

One issue that Cássio and Clarita have been looking at is the disconnect between rural and urban areas. 'What happens in the countryside does not seem to concern the city and vice versa,' explains Clarita.

'[Yet] the countryside and the city have a very important connection: production of food, water and forest for the well-being of these two bases.'

'Why would an urban person be concerned about the fact that they put pesticides on the lettuce plant they were eating? They don't realise that what happened in the field is impacting their plate, their well-being and the person who is in the field producing it.'

'They understand the role of preservation, but they don't know how it happens.'

That's when an idea was formed...

### **Starting a movement**

'Our role here in Pedacinho is, whenever possible, to bring people to have experiences in the forest,' shares Clarita.

'With the Covid-19 pandemic a little more controlled, we are gradually resuming this work of bringing people into an experience, immersion, knowledge of the processes we develop here: permaculture, bioconstruction, agroforestry systems, all from the perspective of caring for God's creation.'

'The intention is that, at the end of the day, both the people who come and us, become different people than we were before that experience.'

'May it always be that sharing relationship where there is mutual transformation. This is the role of the activities that we are now resuming.'

### **A lonely fight**

Clarita and Cássio are bringing transformation to communities across Brazil, but it's not always easy.

'Reality is heavy and difficult,' shares Clarita. 'It's not an easy fight!'

'We feel alone in purpose, sometimes existentially isolated.... In this and at all times, we need the strength of communion. It's like we say here, always: an araucaria [an evergreen conifer tree] is never alone.'

One of the ways we can show solidarity with people like Clarita and Cássio, is through prayer.

### Pray with us

God of creation,  
God of relationships,  
God of love and justice and truth.

Convict us not only to be fed by creation, but for us to take care of it. Transform our hearts and renew our minds, Lord; where there are only seeds, water them until they bear fruit.

Convict us to continue to pray for people in poverty who are suffering from the effects of the climate crisis. Carve out space in our busyness to meet with you and to pray in solidarity with our sisters and brothers.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

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