

# ONE VOICE

TOGETHER IN PRAYER FOR AN **END TO POVERTY**

## **PRAYERS NEAR AND FAR**

*By Anne Coles, Tearfund Ambassador and overseer of women's ministry at New Wine.*

**'I have prayed for you every day of your life,' said an elderly aunt to my husband, aged 23, as he pushed her wheelchair into a family wedding.**

Surprisingly, until then he hadn't known of this, but it all made sense of his experience of God's blessing of salvation at the age of 18.

Now I love to pray for someone present and actually see them healed or set free from some burden in Jesus' name. There is such an immediate reward from doing this. But it seems harder to pray for someone you cannot see or even know.

But then I find that Jesus also prayed for those not near him, indeed not even born – for you and me! 'I pray not only for these [his disciples], but also for those who will trust in me because of their word' (John 17:20). Down the generations, Jesus was – and still is – praying for us all, and we are so blessed.

Jesus models praying for people far away. We follow him as we pray for the lost, the poor and the hungry, whom we often can only hear about through. We may never meet those we pray for on earth, but there will be plenty of time to catch up in heaven!

### **Prayer activity:**

Choose someone's story from the [Tearfund website](http://www.tearfund.org), a One Voice email, or Tear Times, and pray something like Jesus prayed:

*Father in heaven, I pray not only for my family but for [names], these members of your family, who are trying to live full lives in difficult circumstances. Bless them with everything they need; protect them from evil; help them to trust in you; and comfort their hearts Holy Spirit, with the knowledge that they are remembered before the throne in heaven. Amen.*

You could write this prayer down and commit to pray it every day for a week or two... or keep it as a regular practice.

### **A NOTE FROM...**

'There's so much truth in what Anne says here. It can feel as though our prayers for people on the other side of the world just drift away in the wind. But God is listening, and his Spirit is moving. Let's keep on believing that amazing things will happen!'

**Taryn Willmer, Supporter Care**

## **FIFTY YEARS, FIFTY COUNTRIES: MOZAMBIQUE**

*To mark 50 years of Tearfund, we're sharing about 50 countries where we've worked, celebrating God's provision and power to transform, and praying for each of these nations. This week we're in Mozambique.*

**After gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, Mozambique has made a slow and steady recovery from a devastating 16-year civil war.**

But even with the green shoots of economic growth, half of the 28 million population are still living in poverty. In 2016 Mozambique was 181 (out of 188 nations) on the Human Development Index scale – which measures key indicators in a nation's development.

Today there are still tensions between the ruling Frelimo party and the opposition movement RENAMO.

Tearfund works with five local partner organisations as well as through 1,500 local churches from ten church networks. We are also working with local churches and communities in disaster-prone regions, helping them reduce the risk and impact of disasters such as typhoons, flooding and drought. This will help more than 30,000 people to be better-prepared.

We use a process known as church and community transformation (CCT) in Mozambique – working with local churches as they empower their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. Our partner Kubatsirana is working with a local network of 12 churches promoting CCT (known locally as UMOJA) in Mossurize District.

### **Fishing for hope**

For years the church has been fragmented, with each local church working on its own, following its own traditions and practices.

But in 2016 Kubatsirana trained the church leaders in CCT and some basic theological courses. The churches realised the need to improve their household incomes, nutrition and food security. They set up self-help groups, through which the local churches were able to save money which they used to set up tanks for fish farming.

So far seven tanks have been built and three have already been populated with around 1,000 fish. It has led to 24 jobs being created and 860 families directly benefiting- which translates to 5160 beneficiaries.

**Net benefit**

As well as the fish farming, Kubatsirana is training the church members in gardening using more sustainable farming methods. This takes place around the fish ponds.

Kubatsirana is working to transform this local church initiative into a community cooperative. This will give them the advantage of having legal status and so becoming a recognised business.

It's hoped this work can be scaled up to other parts of Mozambique, such as has been the success of the Mossurize fisheries.

**PRAYER FOCUS:**

- Pray for peace between government and RENAMO opposition forces, and that real dialogue and reconciliation can take place.
- Pray for the material and spiritual prosperity of Mozambique and ask that poverty will become a thing of the past in many communities.
- Thank God for the work of our partner Kubatsirana who has helped transform the livelihoods of those in the Mossurize District. Pray this work can expand throughout Mozambique.

**NICARAGUAN CHRISTIANS SEND OUT AN SOS**

**When you speak to Christians in Nicaragua, it's hard not to sense their fear. The Central American nation is facing the worst political crisis in its history.**

'People are terrified, the repression of the people is brutal and fear and insecurity is rife. Our only hope is God and the people outside of Nicaragua,' says Vivian\* a Pastor in Managua.

For over three months now, the security forces of President Ortega and paramilitary groups supporting his regime are clashing with civilians, protesting in the streets for a change of government.

More than 350 have died, and hundreds injured, disappeared, tortured or extrajudicially executed.

**Pressing for justice**

'We ask loudly that people on the outside say something,' says Vivian, 'We need to press the international community to demand justice, to endorse the reports of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and for the United Nations to pressure the government of Nicaragua.'

Tearfund has had a presence in Nicaragua since the 1970s. Through local partners we promote community development and mobilise churches to work with the communities.

In response to the current crisis we are promoting the SOS Nicaragua campaign, which is asking other Latin America and the Caribbean nations for prayer and action during this crisis. This includes encouraging the church to condemn violence and human rights violations.


Loida Carriel, Tearfund staff member in Latin America and the Caribbean, says, 'We are in constant prayer for Nicaragua. We pray that the church is comforted and given hope amid these troubled times.'


#### PRAYER FOCUS:


- Lift up the nation of Nicaragua, asking God for peace and stability to come soon.
- Pray for Christians in Nicaragua who are crying out for help, that 'the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard [their] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 4:7)
- Thank God for Tearfund's presence in the country and pray that we will continue to be able to work there safely and effectively.

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

## PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

 Zimbabwe is holding elections on 30 July. Please pray for a fair, transparent and peaceful election process. Pray that the winner of the election will prioritise equality for those living in poverty, and pray for our team in Zimbabwe as they decide on how best to respond.

 Please pray for Laos, where a dam has burst, flooding a huge area in the south of the country. Please pray for comfort for those who have lost homes and loved ones, and for strength and wisdom for those coordinating the rescue and recovery effort.

 Monsoon rains are continuing to fall on the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. Many shelters have been flooded, and some have been destroyed; one person has died and about 50 have been injured so far. Please pray that the rains will ease, and that the vulnerable will be able to stay safe.