

# ONE VOICE

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

## **2020: PRAYER FOCUS**

*Over Christmas and New Year we will be featuring a shortened version of One Voice. Normal service will resume on Friday 10 January.*

When it comes to praying for the world, where on earth do you start? Although there is so much to give thanks for, it can sometimes feel overwhelming when crises and tragedies fill our TVs, newspapers and social media feeds. But let's be encouraged to keep on praying.

Below are two of the main issues and some of the key countries in urgent need of prayer in 2020.

### **Conflict and political instability**

It's estimated that by 2030 nearly half of people in extreme poverty will be living in areas affected by conflict. Our mandate to pray for peace has never been more critical.

Here are four countries facing long-running crises, which you can focus your prayers on:

**Yemen** – widely seen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, conflict has left 24 million people in need of urgent help.

**Venezuela** – political and economic turmoil has led to a mass exodus of people into countries including Colombia and Brazil.

**South Sudan** – despite a hopeful-looking peace agreement in late 2018, pockets of conflict persist, and millions have fled their homes.

**Burkina Faso** – churches have been attacked and many schools have been forced to close because of violent clashes between armed groups.

### **The climate crisis**

In 2019, efforts to tackle the climate emergency have prompted more headlines and led to more action. But, in the same year, greenhouse gas emissions hit a record high – a main cause of climate change.

Across southern Africa the global climate crisis is at its most acute. The UN estimates that more than 11 million people don't have enough food to survive across nine southern African countries. These include Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique, nations which also faced the brunt of Cyclone Idai in March 2019.

## **A PRAYER FOR 2020**

Lord God,

You made the world and declared it was 'very good.' And yet, we have not treated the Earth and our fellow humans with the care and respect they deserve. We are sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

In 2020, give all of us the courage to keep raising our voices about the climate emergency, which affects people living in poverty the worst. And may your Spirit of peace be in the hearts of all people, so that conflicts end with peace, and relationships are restored.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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

'We believe in the power of prayer, and we see its fruit in our work all around the world. It is a vital part of our identity and our mission here at Tearfund. As the new year begins, I want to personally thank you for your prayers – past, present and future.'

**Myles Harrison, International Director**