

One Voice

Your weekly
prayer resource

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Storm hampers earthquake rescue and recovery in Haiti

On Saturday 14 August a deadly earthquake struck southern Haiti. At the time of writing, more than 1,400 people have lost their lives and thousands are injured. Homes, schools, churches and hospitals have been reduced to rubble. Tearfund is on the ground responding – but it has been a race against time to reach people in need as Tropical Storm Grace hit soon after, hampering relief efforts.

‘People are sleeping outside in the rains – on mattresses, whatever they can find – out of fear and necessity,’ says Marc Antoine, who leads Tearfund’s work in Haiti. ‘Rains have blocked some of the roads and there are reports of landslides.’

Tearfund is providing hygiene items, shelter and cash grants so people can buy what they need most. We’ve carried out needs assessments to best support people to rebuild.

The power of young people

‘Haiti has faced multiple earthquakes over the years – the worst being in 2010,’ says Marc. ‘This makes it tough for people to move on – it’s easy to live in fear. People are already frightened. Gang violence is rising and our president was assassinated last month.’

‘We are in a better place to respond than in 2010. Tearfund has been training young people to become first-responders after a disaster. After this earthquake, we saw the impact of this training.’

Within a few hours the Tearfund-trained youth network were some of the first on the scene and had conducted needs assessments in the most-affected areas.

Mayor of Nippes, Mr Joseph, is a Tearfund-trained first-responder: ‘Tearfund helped me become who I am today, thanks to their training and support. I now have skills and understanding to help my community.’

‘Everyone is pulling together and responding to this crisis,’ says Marc. ‘But the need is great. Please stand with us in prayer at this crucial time for the people of Haiti.’

Pray with us

- Pray for protection and provision for the people of Haiti – including safe places to sleep outside of the rain. Ask God to bring comfort, peace and hope in this uncertain time.
- Pray for help to reach those in need – especially in remote places where roads have been blocked.
- Ask God to continue to raise up leaders like Mr Joseph and the youth network Tearfund is working with, to support their communities.

A note from...

‘While the earth shook, my faith remains unshakable. We know that our God, the creator, is in control of creation, even when creation seems out of control. The main thing that keeps me going is remembering the promises of God, that even in the furnace (or the earthquake, or the storm), God is there, present, with us. I see God in the people we serve, as they cry and mourn for loved ones and as they rejoice when help arrives.’

Marc Antoine, Country Director for Haiti

Pray for the world



In northern Uganda, many farmers are facing almost total crop failure due to prolonged drought when expected rains did not come. This change in weather patterns, due to the climate crisis, could cause a food shortage. The next rainy season should begin soon; pray that there will be enough rain for a good harvest for farmers.



To counter misinformation about coronavirus and vaccines in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tearfund hosted a conference with faith leaders to equip them to share accurate information with communities. Pray for wisdom and protection for these leaders as they take this message to those they serve, and pray it will reach the most marginalised people.



The people of Zambia have elected a new president; Hakainde Hichilema, who for many years was the opposition leader. Praise God that the election was largely peaceful and the result widely accepted. Pray for a peaceful transfer of powers and that Mr Hichilema will lead Zambia fairly and justly and work to end extreme poverty.

Persistence in prayer: overcoming drought by overcoming doubt

Peter Shaw, Editor of Tear Times, offers inspiration for how to keep praying for communities suffering without enough water.

It's hard to keep praying for ongoing and widespread issues such as drought and lack of water, so here are two inspiring and encouraging stories – one from a rural community in Bangladesh and the other from the Old Testament prophet Elijah – to keep you motivated.

Pastor Poresh put a donation box in his church as an act of faith. His community in the small, remote village of Motherpur, Bangladesh, had suffered for a long time because it lacked water.

They only had one tubewell, a manually-operated pump that lifts water from beneath the ground. It wasn't enough to supply the needs of his community, who were often thirsty and felt unable to work. They wanted to build another well, but for that they needed a full collection box.

Because of climate change, periods of drought are becoming more prevalent and lasting longer, as temperatures rise and water evaporates. Climate change is also creating a vicious cycle where drought means fewer crops grow, so plant cover is reduced, which causes the soil to dry out more quickly, even after it rains. To find secure water sources, you have to dig deeper underground.

Determination over drought

Of course, drought is not a new phenomenon, nor is our need to cry out to God for people struggling because they lack water. Around 3,000 years ago, the ancient land of Samaria had suffered drought for three years.

The biblical account in 1 Kings 18 tells of how the prophet Elijah – who was in exile because he denounced Samaria's King Ahab for worshipping false idols – was told by God that the rains will come. And he was to tell King Ahab the news. To do this, Elijah would need a lot of faith and determination.

At Tearfund, we often share stories about drought and ask you to pray with us. We know that it's hard to keep persisting. When all around the earth looks dry, it takes a leap of faith to believe the rains will come...

Watering the ground

Back to Pastor Poresh's collection box. When he put it out, it was empty and that new tubewell seemed a long way off.

In 2018, I visited Pastor Poresh's church soon after Tearfund's partner, Lamb Hospital, had begun to reach out and help his community. They had just started Bible studies, supported by Lamb. The studies had two aims: to grow their faith by teaching the community about God, and to inspire people that God wants them to be active in overcoming the problems they face.

When I spoke to Pastor Poresh, he was new to the village and it was very early days. ‘The people here are not well educated,’ he said. ‘They are very poor. There are many areas that need to be developed.’

Water emergency

Since then, Poresh has been supported by Pollobi Sarkar from Lamb to help the community identify the things that were holding them back and seek to make changes to overcome them. ‘It became clear that having only one well was causing many difficulties,’ says Pollobi. ‘We called the whole community together to pray for another tubewell as a matter of urgency.’

The prayers inspired the Bible study group to work on a solution. They found an ideal spot for a pump in the church grounds, but they still needed funds to pay for it.

The Bible gives us many examples of how our faith can help us see beyond a current crisis to how God can bring transformation. Even while the ground was still parched, Elijah could miraculously hear the sound of heavy rain. Elijah sent his servant off on a series of journeys to see if the rain was starting. After the seventh time, he reported seeing a small cloud forming. Just that glimmer of hope was enough for them to set off to tell Ahab about the power of God demonstrated in the coming downfall.

Water flowing underground

In Pastor Poresh’s church, the collection box started filling up. This spurred on the Bible Study Group. They went with the pastor to ask the local council, the Union Parishad, for more help. Recognising their determination, they agreed to pay for the pump. The community used the 3,500 Bangladeshi Taka (About £30) they had collected to install the new tubewell.

‘We are very happy that we were able to set up the well,’ says Pastor Poresh. ‘It took a huge effort by the Bible Study Group and the pastor,’ adds community member Kuheli Roy. Now the people of Motherpur have enough water to drink, which is helping them have the energy to carry out more improvements.

Pray with us

We hope that the story from Bangladesh and the inspiration from Elijah has encouraged you to persist in prayer for countries and communities affected by drought. You could take more inspiration from Motherpur and put out a collection box at home. Every time you pray for communities suffering because of a lack of water, you could add a short prayer note and put it in the box. After a few months, you will see all those prayers adding up to spur you on to keep praying.

A prayer for living water to flow...

Spirit of God, who hovered over the waters at the very beginning, who washes our bodies with pure water and sprinkles our hearts clean.

Let us draw near to you as we thirst for justice for people suffering without enough water. Where rain is needed, let it rain enough for the land to be refreshed but not overwhelmed. Where water is flowing underground, help communities to discover and bring it to the surface.

Help me, as I live in a place where water is abundant, to treasure all that water gives to us, How it keeps us clean and refreshed, how it feeds us, our plants and animals. Keep me inspired and motivated to pray for people for whom every drop is precious. Amen.

A prayer for a time of grief

It has been a week that has broken our hearts. The events in Afghanistan; more than a thousand lives lost to an earthquake in Haiti; and a report telling us that the climate crisis is becoming a climate catastrophe.

Where do we turn to, amid so much grief? How do we not give in to fear and despair? There are practical things we can do. Tearfund's local partners are responding around the world. But always, the first step we should take is the one that places us on our knees before the cross. Let us pray together.

Pray with us

God of love and light,
the world feels dark today.
Tragedy looms large.
The air is heavy with grief.
The tears of the people of Afghanistan;
the tears of the people of Haiti;
the tears of the people of so many places –
it is a tide of anguish. A tide of loss.
Yet we will not despair, for we know that you are God.
We know there is no darkness so great
that light cannot overcome it.
We know that love never fails.
Let light pour out upon the land –
upon Afghanistan, upon Haiti,
upon all the places that weigh upon our hearts.
Let their cries of deliverance be heard.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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