

# One Voice

Your weekly  
prayer resource

tearfund

## How 'the League of Pastors' is building peace in Haiti

The rise in violence in Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince, has forced more than 15,500 people to flee their homes. Houses, churches, businesses and schools have been burnt down or occupied by gangs. And then, two weeks ago, Haiti's president was killed in an attack in his home. Marc Romyr Antoine, who leads Tearfund's work in Haiti, shares how churches are responding to the crisis and how we can pray.

'Tearfund works closely with the League of Pastors – a network of church leaders in Port-au-Prince. As soon as the violence escalated, they set up shelters for those who had fled, and Tearfund provided food and hygiene kits, as well as cash assistance for other essential needs,' explains Marc.

### A good shepherd

The shelters were soon overcrowded and so church leaders extended their hospitality – by opening their homes. The president of the League of Pastors, Pastor Phillippe\*, welcomed 15 people into his house and has been hosting them for almost two months.

'I have realised that God has placed me in this specific area, in this time, and in this generation for a purpose,' shares Pastor Phillippe. 'It is not a coincidence.'

'Sometimes the events determine your mission... I believe God wants to use me, and I want to be useful to him.'

And it doesn't stop there.

### Pathway to peace

'We thought about what the church could do to respond to this fragile situation, realising that we don't have all the answers. It is good to help the victims, but what about the gang members?' says Pastor Phillippe.

The League of Pastors has nominated leaders in their churches to be trained by Tearfund in peacebuilding and conflict-resolution skills. Pastor Phillippe hopes this will lead to community dialogues with gang members and bring about healing and restoration in their communities and peace for Haiti.

## Pray with us

- After the death of President Jovenel Moise, tensions are high. Pray for peace to replace fear. And ask God to raise up wise new leaders in Haiti who will help navigate the country through this.
- Lift up the peacebuilding and conflict-resolution training Tearfund is running. Praise God for the church leaders taking part and pray that it will bring peace and reconciliation.
- Pray for comfort and provision for people in Haiti who have fled their homes. Pray for an end to the violence so they can return home and rebuild their lives.

*\*Name changed to protect identity*

## A note from...

‘The church continues to be a refuge and a hope to people during this crisis. But the situation remains critical. Thank you so much for your prayers – it is such a comfort to know that we have people faithfully holding us and the people we serve in prayer. It really does make a huge difference.’

**Marc Romyr Antoine, Country Director for Haiti**

# Praying for people affected by conflict: new prayer room resource for your church

**‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.’ (Matthew 5:9)**

Right now, more than 82 million people across the world have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict. Countless others remain in conflict zones, living with the threat of violence every day.

All conflict is a result of broken relationships with God and others. But God’s plan – through Jesus, the Prince of Peace – is to restore these relationships and bring peace. And he asks us, as his followers, to love our neighbours (both near and far), and to ‘seek peace and pursue it’ (Psalm 34:14). One of the ways in which we can do this is through prayer.

This prayer room is designed to help you pray for people around the world who have been affected by conflict, all of whom are precious to God. There are six ideas for prayer stations, which you can either print off to put in your prayer room or use as inspiration for your own ideas. You can use all of these, mix and match, or come up with your own. We hope that these prayer room ideas will be inspiring and helpful for you and your church family.

## Pray with us

Download *Prayer room three: Praying for people affected by conflict* at [www.tearfund.org/OVprayerrooms](http://www.tearfund.org/OVprayerrooms)

# A prayer pick in your neighbourhood

**Unmanaged waste threatens people's health. Many people living in poverty are forced to either live next to piles of rubbish, attracting pests, or to burn it, which then leads to respiratory problems. Both are health risks for people who cannot afford to pay doctor's fees. But what if there was another way?**

Tearfund is partnering with communities across Pakistan to equip people to safely dispose of their waste in a way that protects both themselves and the environment. And it's raising local champions who are carrying this message far and wide. People like 25-year-old Anzila, from Karachi, the largest city in Pakistan.

## Sharing is caring

Anzila took part in Tearfund's training over two months, where she learned about how she could safely dispose of rubbish, and help others to do the same.

'I have decided to share this information with my neighbours and inform them why we are stuck, and why our health conditions are not being improved,' Anzila shares.

Anzila has already delivered this message to 75 families in her local area.

'I think this is the key problem of urban cities, and we need to take part in establishing recycling units to protect our house, street, city and, ultimately, the environment.'

And Anzila hasn't stopped there. Alongside her studies, she has been advocating to local authorities for better waste-collection services in her area.

## An invitation

As well as leading training sessions, Tearfund has been working with local authorities to set up recycling hubs in some of the most vulnerable communities. These will not only create jobs – which in these challenging times is a lifeline to many – but will significantly improve the health of local people.

The Tearfund team in Pakistan are continuing to raise awareness of this issue in innovative ways. They recently gathered together at the beach in Karachi for a community litter pick. As they were cleaning up, they talked to others about the importance of protecting people and the environment. And they would like to invite you to do something similar...

## Pray with us

Over the summer, why not arrange a community litter pick with your family, friends or church? In many places across the UK, you can borrow litter pickers and bins bags from your local council. Remember to bring gloves with you and, if you are doing this through your church, you may need to carry out a risk assessment.

And then, find some time to pray! This can be together before or after the litter pick, or you can do this during this pick itself. Here are some things you could pray for:

- Lament over the injustice that many people who are living in poverty don't have access to rubbish collections and are exposed to significant health risks, often keeping them trapped in poverty.
- Pray for new programmes around the world – like the ones Tearfund runs in Pakistan – which will help people understand the impact of waste on health and the environment and offer new jobs and solutions for mismanaged waste.
- Praise God for the glory of creation and commit yourself again to God's calling for us to care for the environment. (Genesis 1:26-28)
- Pray for the people in your local neighbourhood – for peace, joy and for God to draw near to them in these challenging times.

## Pray for the world



Heavy rainfall across India has triggered flooding and landslides. In Bihar, east India, 800,000 people have been affected. Thousands of villagers are displaced and forced to live on elevated roads or embankments to avoid the rising water levels. Pray for people's safety, for the water to recede and that there would be no outbreak of diseases.



Thank you for praying for peace for the recent elections in Ethiopia. Praise God that the elections were peaceful, and the result has been respected. Keep praying for wisdom for political leaders in Ethiopia as they try to resolve the ongoing hunger crisis in Tigray, which has been made worse by violence in the region. Pray that food and resources will be able to reach people in need.



In Brazil, Tearfund held its first webinar in a series, focusing on trauma and resilience for people who are supporting communities affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Pray for comfort, energy, and wisdom for those as they take part in the webinars and respond to the needs of their communities. And please keep praying for an end to coronavirus.

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