

ONE VOICE

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

FROM EMPTY TO PLENTY

It's early evening and Lutiya is preparing a snack of roasted maize for her children. They'll be home from school anytime now. Lutiya has plenty of maize to go around, and there's a good reason why...

Together with her husband and four children, Lutiya lives in a village in Salima district, Malawi. She is living a life she never imagined possible. It's thanks – in part – to farming training she received through her church, a Tearfund partner.

'[Before] we had no ambition and we just lived life,' recalls Lutiya. 'When we harvested, we would only get five bags of maize. We had lost hope because life here is very hard.' But in 2017 a life-changing opportunity came through their pastor.

Pastor Chitekwele took part in a programme funded by Tearfund and our church partner, Assemblies of God Care (AG Care). By providing practical training as well as helping communities discover and make the most of the resources and skills they already have, programmes like this help people find new ways to beat poverty.

Light-bulb moment

When Lutiya attended the training, she felt empowered to form a group with 25 members of her community. They started keeping goats and chickens to rear. At the same time, Lutiya decided to put more effort into her farming.

'Despite the dismal harvests that we used to get, I decided to put in [more] effort and, as a result, on my first harvest I was able to get 36 bags of maize and 15kg of rice. This not only fed us, but we were able to sell and make some money which I used to buy some more goats and chickens. We were also able to build a better house for our family.

'We are thankful to AG Care and Tearfund who, with the teachings they brought to us through Pastor Chitekwele, have transformed our lives,' says Lutiya.

PLEASE PRAY

- Thank God for how Lutiya has been able to transform her life through training and encouragement from her church.
- Pray that even more people's lives will be changed with the training from Tearfund's partner, AG Care.
- Pray for communities in Malawi and across southern Africa who are suffering the devastating consequences of the recent droughts.

A NOTE FROM...

'As Lutiya found, "Where there is no vision, people perish. But humble beginnings flourish with a vision." She realised that she is able to build a bright future by tapping into her God-given potential and working with others. She used to feel like a starving housewife, but now knows she is an industrious woman able to support her children. Let's give thanks to God.' **Vincent Moyo, head of Tearfund's work in Malawi**

TOP BANANA

The solutions to a person's poverty can come in all shapes and sizes. For Chaya, it came in the form of fried bananas...

Chaya is a singer in her village band. Happily married, and with two adoring children, she has a lot to be thankful for.

Yet in rural Cambodia, where Chaya is from, poverty is rife. Most people rely on growing their own food to survive, and many can't afford to give their children a proper education. Chaya wanted more for her family, but she felt trapped.

'I wanted to own a business,' Chaya says. 'But I had no money or knowledge. How was I meant to start a business?'

Chaya had the will, but she needed the way. Fortunately, Tearfund's local partner was on hand to provide it. Their Saving for Life program is changing lives across Cambodia. When they started working in Chaya's village, she jumped at the opportunity.

Never give up

At the heart of the programme is the creation of savings groups. Each member puts a small amount of money in each week, then is able to take out a loan with which to start a business. Each group also receives training on how to invest wisely and run a successful business.

'It wasn't easy to put aside money,' says Chaya. 'But I had to reach my goal. I never gave up on my dream.'

Chaya was eventually able to take out a small loan. With it, she set up a stall selling fried bananas outside of her home. Thanks to her new-found business knowledge, and the delicious food, the business has been a resounding success. On a good day she can earn up to £15 – a huge amount for someone who used to struggle to provide for her family.

'I can now expand my business,' Chaya says. 'I am so happy to earn a better income to provide for my family. I am so thankful for this small business, starting with a small amount of money I saved with my group.'

PLEASE PRAY

Dear God,

Thank you for your goodness and your grace. Thank you that the solutions to our problems can come from unexpected places. We thank you for Chaya and her family, and pray for your blessing upon them. We pray that this programme will reach more people in Cambodia, so that no more families will have to struggle to survive. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

SOUTH SUDAN TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS PEACE

Rival leaders in South Sudan have agreed to form a new government – in a nation desperate for peace and stability.

Breakthrough talks took place between President Salva Kiir and former opposition leader Riek Machar in the days leading up to last Saturday's deadline (22 February) for forming a unity government.

This marks the start of a three-year transitional period for South Sudan, following multiple delays to a peace agreement signed in September 2018.

More than six years of bitter conflict has seen an estimated 400,000 people killed and millions forced from their homes. Across the country, over half of the population are dependent on food aid.

Tearfund works alongside people in South Sudan who have been impacted by the conflict. This includes helping those suffering from malnutrition, repairing vital water sources destroyed in the fighting, and supporting women and men who work to bring peace in their communities.

'Forming this new government is a significant step in the path to peace and stability,' says Anthony Rama, Tearfund's Country Director in South Sudan. 'We urge those involved to implement the remaining steps of the peace agreement. This will enable the people of South Sudan to access urgently needed life-saving assistance and to flourish in the long term.'

PLEASE PRAY

- Thank God for this important milestone on the road to peace in South Sudan. Past deals have ended in conflict, so please pray that this peace agreement will stay on track.
- Pray for people facing the devastating effects of malnutrition and disease caused by a lack of clean water, especially children and older people.
- Pray for local women and men working to promote peace in their communities – that the people of South Sudan will know healing and reconciliation.

PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Please continue to pray for Syria as tension increases in the north of the country. Pray that violence will be avoided to prevent further casualties or people having to flee. And pray for protection for the hundreds of thousands of people who have already been displaced.



Five months after the election in Afghanistan, a president has finally been announced. However, the result is being contested. Please pray that the result will be respected by all and that the elected party will lead an effective government which will benefit the Afghan people.



Please continue to pray for people in East Africa, where locusts are devastating crops in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan. Pray for a solution to the outbreak and for provision for farmers who have lost their harvests and are struggling to feed their families.