

ONE VOICE

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

LOST AND FOUND

Abyasa thought that he'd lost all his possessions when a tsunami destroyed his home. He'd lost hope of ever finding his crucial documents, but months later something emerged out of the rubble...

Abyasa* was getting ready for work when his house began to shake. He grabbed his two children and rushed out of the house. They couldn't believe what they were seeing – the ground around them was turning to waves of liquid earth.

It was 28 September 2018, and an earthquake and tsunami had hit Sulawesi in Indonesia. More than 4,000 people were killed and around 10,000 injured. Thousands of homes collapsed along with hospitals, hotels and shops. Many livelihoods were swept away by the waters.

Moving house

Our partners and church networks responded immediately, helping communities with emergency supplies and shelter. Tearfund also sent an emergency response team to help coordinate the effort.

Thankfully, Abyasa's family survived the disaster and were able to find accommodation in a safer area. Fifty days later he managed to return to what was left of his home.

The earthquake had caused his house to move 700 metres from where it originally stood. Nothing was left standing. When he found one of his children's teddy bears in the mud, he began to cry, overwhelmed by the situation.

Lost property

Abyasa feared that he would never recover his medical card and identification. The family had fled as quickly as they could, taking only the clothes they were wearing.

Yet amazingly, after picking through the rubble, Abyasa found his wallet, with all his cards and documents still intact. Even in the midst of disaster, he was able to thank God for this small mercy.

Abyasa is now employed by Tearfund's local partner, Food for the Hungry Indonesia (YFHI). He is thankful for the opportunity to serve others who have gone through the same devastating experience. Being a survivor himself, he is a great encouragement to his colleagues and the communities he is serving.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for all the communities in Indonesia still recovering from the tsunami. Pray for strength, perseverance and provision as they rebuild their lives.
- Thank God for the example of Abyasa, who, despite losing his own home, is working to help others. Pray for God's protection and blessing over his family.
- Lift up the work of YFHI, that it will be multiplied so it can reach many more people.

**Name changed to protect identity.*

A NOTE FROM...

'Sometimes small miracles can help us to trust in God's goodness, even in the midst of big problems. Who knows what small miracles – and great ones – are occurring around the world as we pray into these issues?' **Anne Murray, Asia Team**

SOUTH SUDAN: EIGHT YEARS ON FROM INDEPENDENCE

The world's newest country reaches its eighth anniversary of independence today (9 July). But for South Sudan it's again not the happiest of birthdays. Conflict, hunger and a refugee crisis have brought the nation to its knees.

Across the country, 60 per cent of the population are dependent on food aid, 1.8 million have been displaced internally and a further 2.3 million have been forced to flee across borders. Parts of the country are on the brink of famine.

A peace deal was signed in September 2018 by two of the main rival leaders, but pockets of conflict persist. The formation of a new, united government has been delayed until November.

'Despite difficulties to reach peace and stability, we want to be hopeful for this nation,' says Martin Ruppenthal, head of Tearfund's work in South Sudan. 'We will continue to pray for change and support people in South Sudan to survive and rebuild their country.'

Tearfund staff and partners are distributing cash and vouchers to enable the most vulnerable people, including single women led households, the elderly and people with disabilities, to buy food. They are also providing high energy food supplements for malnourished children, as well as sharing knowledge on good hygiene and helping people access safe drinking water.

Families are also being given seeds and tools to grow sorghum, legumes and vegetables, so that they can harvest crops in the months to come.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for the people of South Sudan, especially those who have fled their homes and are struggling to survive.
- Pray for lasting peace in the country, and that weapons of war will be replaced with arms to embrace one another.
- After peace, the biggest need in South Sudan is food. Pray for our staff and partners as they distribute vital provisions among those who need help the most.

THE POWER OF SIMPLE THINGS

Life can be complicated sometimes. However, it's often the simplest things that stand out – that make the deepest impression in our lives. That little word of thanks, the tiniest gift given in love...

We emailed our supporters and asked them to tell us a story about something simple that means the world to them. Be prepared to well up at some of the answers...

Redeeming ring

'As a teenager my sister had a Saturday job and bought a silver ring with her earnings. Out shopping with my Mum, and having promised to buy me something, they realised they had no money left, so my sister pawned her ring. She then saved up to buy it back. She gave the ring to me as a teenager and I have worn it every day for over 40 years. For me it is a treasure beyond worth.'

– Jane Jermyn

Sacred sign

'Mine is a priceless gift from God. It's a stone with a natural engraved sign. Whilst praying at Lulworth Cove (I was at a very low point in my life), I looked down at my feet and saw an ichthus image (an ancient Greek symbol of a fish used by early Christians) on a tiny stone. I picked it up, smiled, thanked God and kissed it. I knew that God was telling me he loves me, and he will never leave me.'

– Lindsey

Handle with prayer

'For the past three years I have been a curate in a very special Anglican Church in Somerset. One of the many blessings the church offers are 'prayer quilts' for people experiencing ill health or other difficulties. They are sewn by a dedicated team, who offer prayers for the recipient whilst they sew. The quilts are then brought into each service and prayed over, before being passed on to their owner. I was gifted one of those quilts three years ago. It has been a constant reminder of being cared for, supported and loved.'

– C Shaw

Tears of joy

'My mum gave me a simple white handkerchief, which once belonged to my grandmother. It's my "Sunday" hanky, used only for the tears of joy I experience during our chapel services. But it's more than that; it's a reminder of my grandmother and the strength of her faith, despite all the challenges she experienced in her life. I didn't understand just how strong her faith was or what an amazing woman she was until I found my own love for Christ.'

– Vicky Cawrey

Seeds of change

'My Less is More story is a packet of seeds! At 53, I am only just discovering the wonder and joy of seeds: planting tiny earth jewels in dark soil, watching over them, covering them, watering them, new shoots bravely emerging, planting them outside. And then, wow-o-wow, they become edible plants and beautiful flowers – for the bees, for our family and for our friends who come to our table. No plastic, no shopping: earth, sun, water, joy, love. It's a step in my journey towards wholeness, in my practical action to be the change I can be... in small ways.'

– Tamsen

PLEASE PRAY

Thank you, dear God, for the power of simple things.

We praise you for the simple words, actions and objects that communicate your love and grace to us in our everyday lives. And we pray for all those around the world, whose lives are being transformed by seemingly simple items or approaches. We pray that more and more people will experience joy and transformation through the power of simple things.

Amen

PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Conflict has intensified during the last few months in north-western Syria. Please pray for protection over civilians, and for peace across the whole country. Praise God that, in other parts of Syria, people are beginning to return to their home communities to rebuild their lives.



Praise God that every week our partners support 55 groups meeting for Bible studies across Bangladesh. Pray for all the organisers and people in the groups as they spend time learning about the life-changing love and grace of Jesus, and that their churches and communities will be transformed as a result.



Pray for people in Southern Pakistan, where there is a growing shortage of water. With their harvests in jeopardy, thousands of farmers require government intervention. Pray for good weather conditions for growing crops, and that leaders will steward natural resources wisely.