

# ONE VOICE

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

## **WHY FAITH?**

*By Gideon Heugh*

**'...if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.'**  
**(Isaiah 58:10)**

This has long been a favourite Bible verse of mine. It's a beautiful picture of what happens when we put our faith into action. Our whole lives light up when we reach out to help others.

### **But it's not an easy time to have faith, is it?**

There's so much turmoil around the world, and we can feel powerless in the face of it.

Christians are being persecuted at almost unprecedented levels across large parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

In the UK, while we enjoy relative freedom and peace, we live in what is now a largely secular society, in which religion is often mocked.

### **So how do we respond?**

Do we batten down the hatches? Close ranks? Isolate ourselves from the world?

I hope not, because the world needs faith. The world needs the restoring, redeeming power of Jesus – and, though we're far from perfect – we are his hands and feet.

In the face of widespread cynicism, apathy and even despair, faith gets to its feet, rolls up its sleeves, and strides towards the brokenness.

As the Bible tells us, 'faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead' (James 2:17b). This is what Tearfund has always been about – channelling believers' faith into prayer and practical action, bringing the restoring love of Christ to people in poverty.

### **Let's pray**

Loving God, thank you for the community of faith to which we belong. Give each of us the wisdom to see how we can put our faith into action, and then give us the courage to act. We pray for a fresh wave of compassionate action in the church, so that the 'night will become like the noonday.' In Jesus' name, amen.

*To mark fifty years of Tearfund, we've made a special film. It features a spoken word poem about why putting faith into action matters more than ever. Watch it at [www.tearfund.org/2019/01/why\\_faith](http://www.tearfund.org/2019/01/why_faith)*

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

'Fifty years ago, a group of Christians stepped out in faith. They dared to dream of a world free from poverty. Tearfund was born, and for fifty years we've been following Jesus where the need is greatest. But we couldn't do it without people like you. Thank you for putting your faith into action by joining us in prayer.' **Lydia Powell, Strategy and Impact Team**

## **ZIMBABWE: A CALL TO PRAYER AMID VIOLENT PROTESTS**

**Tearfund's team in Zimbabwe is calling on us to pray, amid growing unrest in the country.**

Widespread protests against the government, sparked by a rise in fuel prices, are now turning violent in many areas. This week the country's President Emmerson Mnangagwa cut short a trip to an economic summit in Europe, to try and resolve the problem.

'Zimbabwe is in crisis', says Idzai, from Tearfund's team in Zimbabwe. 'Our nation is facing long-standing social, economic and political problems, which appear to be worsening.'

Tearfund has worked in Zimbabwe for more than three decades. We operate through several partner organisations and local churches. Our vision is to see a courageous and relevant church supporting whole communities to escape poverty.

Despite the unrest, the team's faith remains strong. Idzai says: 'Please pray for peace to come; for Godly and compassionate leadership; for the Lord to do a new thing in Zimbabwe. Pray for justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like an overflowing stream.'

### **PRAYER FOCUS:**

- First and foremost, join with the Tearfund team and our partners in praying for peace in Zimbabwe; that the violent protests would end and calm be restored.
- Pray for the nation's leaders to make wise, compassionate and courageous decisions which will help Zimbabwe to flourish.
- Ask God to help the church to be good news and builders of peace in a nation needing Godly and compassionate leadership.

## **POWERING CHANGE**

*By Fiona Thompson*

**You may know Peru primarily for the Amazon rainforest and Machu Picchu, but 500 miles north of Lima something powerful is happening... with poo.**

Set up in 2001 by a group of passionate women, Tearfund partner WARMIS works with local churches to empower and equip people to break the cycle of poverty. In a country prone to earthquakes, floods and droughts, WARMIS are finding innovative ways to teach local farmers, equip entrepreneurs, and educate younger generations to ensure sustainable and environmentally-friendly development.

### **EmPOWER**

It was amazing to see first-hand the life-changing impact that WARMIS projects are having. In Peru, climate change has a huge impact on food security and people's livelihoods. WARMIS are

working in incredible ways to empower the local community to face these challenges. During our visit, we had the chance to spend time with the locals, teach in schools, and work with local women's groups.

### **Waste not want not**

Whilst in the UK we are thinking about how we can make use of reusable bottles and cups, who would have thought you could use animal waste as power? A biodigester is an ingenious system which harvests methane and carbon dioxide (biogas) from the breakdown of animal waste, producing renewable energy and fertiliser.

On our visit, we witnessed the huge impact of the biodigester. Because gas is so expensive, being able to produce something from things that are decomposing is incredibly useful for people who don't have a lot of money.

### **Solar panels, schools and Simon says**

We also worked alongside WARMIS's school projects, which gave us the opportunity to play games like 'Simon Says be a wind turbine', which they loved! One teacher in the local school said, "The solar panels are so important. It saves us money, reduces the cost of electricity, and means we can use our televisions and computers. It really helps our children and we are so grateful."

Back home in the UK I had already made the decision to put solar panels on my own home. It was amazing to see how solar was impacting the school, and I was also able to show them pictures of the solar panels on my own house in the UK. The change that solar panels have made to the school is astonishing.

*To find out more about volunteering overseas visit [www.tearfund.org/go](http://www.tearfund.org/go)*

## **PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**



A slump in coffee bean prices is having a serious effect on farmers in places such as Central America, Colombia and Ethiopia. Coffee bean farming is a crucial source of income for tens of thousands of people, who are now at risk of being pushed deeper into poverty. Please pray that the market stabilises, and that farmers will be treated more fairly – receiving a greater share of profits.



Please pray for the people of Nicaragua, where recent social unrest has seen hundreds of people killed. Pray for peace and stability, and for Tearfund's partner staff there as they continue their life-changing work amid difficult circumstances.



As our partners' response to the Indonesian tsunamis continues, please keep them and the people they serve in your prayers. Pray especially for their work to provide temporary shelter and toilet facilities for those displaced, the provision of psychosocial support for traumatised children and ongoing livelihood restoration.