

One Voice in Prayer

Your weekly prayer resource

tearfund

God's restoration story – you're invited

'Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.' (Psalm 51:12)

As we look back and reflect on the past year, we've asked you to join us in prayer for situations ranging from earthquakes and outbreaks of disease to conflict and the humanitarian crises that unfold. It's been heavy at times. But we've seen your prayers answered. There is always hope amid adversity if we're willing to look. Keep reading and you'll see why.

An invitation

Jesus immersed himself in the world and gave us powerful glimpses of his glory. Christmas has been a good time to dwell on this. Each healing and every word he spoke pointed to a restored cosmos and creation. Your prayers and actions today point towards this future too as you journey with Jesus. Jesus invites you to be part of his restoration story and help advance the kingdom of God.

A baby step

The longest journeys start with that first step. Building the kingdom of God brick by brick, with Jesus as the cornerstone. What does it look like to help advance the kingdom of God? It can be a small act of kindness that ripples out to restoration. Sharing a word of encouragement to someone suffering. Sharing a meal.

In offering something to the world, whether that's praying as you faithfully do, giving a financial gift or signing a petition to speak up for justice, you can make a difference to your neighbours over the road or your global neighbours overseas. Not because we expect a perfect world before Jesus comes again to make all things new, but because we whisper of that world to come even in the small things. We do this in response to a loving God who gave us a perfect world to look after, now marred by sin.

A promise

The Bible promises that we'll know the joy of salvation. That if we ask and trust, God will give us a willing spirit to sustain us as we commit our whole lives to joining in God's story of restoration. As you look ahead to the new year, how will God use you to help bring restoration to his people and creation?

A new year prayer

Gracious Father, as we stand at the threshold of a new year, we thank you for the invitation to join in your restoration story.

Thank you for how you've answered our prayers amid the challenges of the past year.

We step into the future accepting your call to help advance your kingdom.

May our lives, prayers and actions be whispers of the world to come, as we commit to being instruments of your peace and restoration.

Grant us a willing spirit, let us know and feel the joy of our salvation, and guide us in using our lives to make a difference to our local and global neighbours, all for your glory.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

Prayer Diary: hope in a hurting world

This week, we mark the end of the year and look forward to what God will be doing in 2024. Give thanks for the work that the prayers and support of people, like you, have enabled, and pray for an expansion of our work with and through local churches from 25,000 to 250,000 churches. These are extracts from Tearfund's Annual Report, which you can read at tearfund.org/annualreport, or request a printed copy by emailing info@tearfund.org or calling 020 3906 3906.

Sunday 31 December

'In a hurting world, like you, we long for the local church to bring the hope-filled good news: that change is possible, and that God is good and cares passionately,' says Tearfund's Chief Executive, Nigel Harris. As we approach the new year, ask God to break through and bring about that vision of more local churches transforming communities.

Monday 1 January

'What would happen if we could expand this church transformation work?' asks Anna Laszlo, Tearfund's Chair of the Board. 'To engage with and support not just the 25,000 churches we currently partner with but, say, 250,000 of them?' This year, we have ambitious plans to increase and reach many more churches. Pray that this will be a success.

Tuesday 2 January

'We saw the [church's] boat... the answer we were praying for was the answer God sent us.' These are the words of Kedyrna, a survivor of the devastating floods that hit Brazil in 2022. Pray for the continuing recovery work of our partners, and give thanks that the church saved Kedyrna and her family's lives.

Wednesday 3 January

Prolonged drought has turned the land barren in parts of Burkina Faso. In Kirsi to the north, Tearfund partner Office de Developpement des Eglises Evangeliques/Office for the Development of Evangelical Churches (ODE) has trained 51 women in poultry farming. Ask that ODE will reach more people with this life-changing training.

Thursday 4 January

One of Tearfund's key aims is to support people, often through churches, seeking to end violence and bring sustainable peace in their communities and in the wider society. Pray for these peacemakers across the world who are helping to bring reconciliation and an end to conflict.

Friday 5 January

'Floods took away my home and my livestock, and left me with horrible memories now,' says Qasim. 'May God bless the people who saved me and my family.' Unprecedented floods also hit Pakistan in 2022. Pray for families, like Qasim's, who lost everything, their homes and belongings, and ask that they will be supported to recover.

Saturday 6 January

'We have responded to emergencies including in Ukraine, Pakistan, Syria, and more widely in East Africa,' says Nigel Harris, Tearfund's Chief Executive. Pray that, in this world where conflict and emergencies are on the increase, so will the response of local churches bringing a message of peace and life in all its fullness in Jesus.

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