

# One Voice in Prayer

Your weekly prayer resource

tearfund

## Blessed are those who mourn

**'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'** (Matthew 5:3-4)

Hope.

Matthew 5:3-11 is about hope. The ultimate encouragement that God sees us as we are, knows our needs and will provide what we need to carry on. Though the world may be shaken and grief may be loud, hope.

For what does a person whose heart is shattered by loss long for more than any other thing, but comfort?

And what does a person who feels spiritually destitute, cowering and crouched\* because of their circumstances, long for other than filling of that emptiness?

'You who are mourning – have hope. The very thing you need most is coming!' To the mourners, surely this is blessing?

'You who are so deeply poverty-stricken within your spirit, so lacking in nourishment and strength – have hope. The abundance of every good gift possible for your spirit belongs to you.' What could be more of a blessing than discovering that, far from lack, you have access to a whole kingdom?

This is the nature of our God.

Provision. Abundance.

Hope.

Though the world has many causes to mourn right now, comfort is promised. Though our spirits may grow weary and worn out, nourishment is promised.

### Earthquake in the Philippines

This week, we are asking you to pray for those impacted by the earthquake in the Philippines that struck on Monday. Read more at [tearfund.org/stories](https://tearfund.org/stories), and please join us in asking God to bring comfort and practical provision where it is needed.

### **From shame and sadness to purpose and pride**

Read Rose's story about restoration and rebuilding as a survivor of sexual and gender-based violence at [tearfund.org/stories](https://tearfund.org/stories), and please join us in praying for survivors everywhere. Friday 19 June marks the *International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict*, so we also particularly ask you to remember those who have faced sexual violence as a weapon of war.

Thank you for praying with us. Your prayers make a difference.

### **Pray with us**

As we approach our prayers today, let's take a moment to meditate on the blessing, the relief, the joy that Jesus offers to all.

*\* The original Greek expresses 'poor' in Matthew 5 as the word ptōchoi, which is defined as 'one who crouches and cowers in extreme destitution'. The meaning encompasses a dependence on others.*

# Pray for the world



## **Support and healing for survivors of SGBV**

Pray for healing and restoration for women and girls around the world who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Pray that they will receive the support they need. Pray that church and faith leaders (and each of us, wherever we are) will speak up and bring change and hope to those affected by SGBV. Pray for gender champions who are inspiring their communities to celebrate gender equality and have the courage to challenge harmful social norms.



## **Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Pray for safety and deep peace for Tearfund's staff and partners and their families in high-risk areas like Ituri. This is both safety from the illness and security for the teams and partners working on the response. Ask God for divine wisdom and favour for Tearfund to mobilise resources and effectively follow Jesus where the need is greatest.



## **Earthquake in the Philippines**

Please continue to pray for people who have been affected by the earthquake. Ask for God's mercy and that there will be no further quakes or resulting tsunamis. Ask God to bring comfort to people who are mourning, healing to those who have been injured, and provision for those who have lost homes, businesses and belongings. Pray for our local partners – ask God to give them courage, strength and grace to continue working to support others even as they are living in the midst of the disaster themselves.

# Prayer Diary: celebrating peacebuilding

This week, pray for an end to violence, suffering and displacement across the world. As we focus on peacebuilding opportunities, we can hold firmly to Ephesians 6:18: 'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'

## Sunday 14 June

'As we continue a three-year peacebuilding project, addressing violence against women in Lebanon and Syria, we invite you to pray with us,' says the Tearfund team supporting those countries. 'Please pray that faith communities, community leaders, women and young people will actively participate in this healing journey to build peaceful communities, foster inclusive practices and cultivate relationships grounded in dignity and respect.'

## Monday 15 June

Foul-smelling rubbish used to line the main road into Profam, Peru. The unhealthy environment and lack of action fuelled tensions and disagreements among neighbours. Lord, we lift up communities struggling with a breakdown in infrastructure. May your peace be felt in these places, and may you restore harmony in these communities. Amen.

## Tuesday 16 June

Alex is a young leader from a community group in Peru. He joined forces with the youth group from a church in Profam. Together, they launched the initiative Zero Waste Routes – Profam. Praise God that their efforts resulted in 35 volunteers, who, together with local cleaning staff, carried out a joint day of street cleaning and awareness building.

## Wednesday 17 June

Organised crime in Peru is reaching critical levels. Tearfund's team in Latin America invites us to pray for the 'many states and governments coordinating democratic actions to curb the advance of organised crime in the region, which often leads to instability, violence and terror among the population. Pray for wise leadership and for peace.'

## Thursday 18 June

The Southern and East Africa region is committed to mobilising 50,000 local churches as centres of transformation by December 2027. Please pray for the expansion of peacebuilding work across the region, specifically for God's wisdom and grace to fearlessly engage in promoting dialogue on a long-standing interfaith conflict in West Nile, northern Uganda.

## Friday 19 June

In Pastor Pierre's village of Bangbily, Burkina Faso, a toxic atmosphere used to prevail, marked by suspicion, fear, and religious and familial divides. Through a Tearfund peacebuilding project, the community learnt to discuss their differences, forgive and reconcile. Now, peace reigns, allowing the community to cooperate in solving problems. Pray for the peace Jesus bought for us on the cross to reign in Burkina Faso.

## Saturday 20 June

Today, take some time to meditate on James 3:18 as you pray for churches, organisations and individuals working hard to establish peace in their communities. 'Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of Righteousness.'

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Registered Charity No. 265464 (England & Wales) Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland)

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