

Faith in action

'I think the world is beautiful, and yes there are problems, but I totally believe that a Creator had to make this complex, messy world. I'm Sarah Corbett and I have faith in action.'

'The more I come to understand who Jesus is, the more I believe that what he is doing in the world is about reconciliation and putting broken relationships right between people and God, and between people and the world that we live in. I think that relationships are really what life is all about. I'm Geoff Holder and I have faith in action.'

'I think it's a real response to a call from the Bible to be caring for the environment and to be working for justice, because I feel strongly that campaigning on climate change is a real justice issue. I'm Helen Hughes and I have faith in action.'

'Belonging is part of being alongside and with others. Our faith is about being in community, we are born to be in community. And I know that it's my love and belief in Jesus as my Saviour that makes me wake up and say don't give up, there is hope. I'm Rosemarie Mallett and I have faith in action.'

Do you have faith in action?

These four quotations are from our new inspirational short films we've created to inspire and encourage us all to have faith in action.

Watch the films now at aid.org.uk/faitH-in-action



Hear our prayer

August – November 2019



Faith in action

Cover photo: Kasthuri and her son Mathi live on an organic farm in Tamil Nadu, India.

Backpage photo: Campaigners stand together at a protest march in London.



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Week beginning 4 August

God's treasures

Read Luke 12:13-21

Praise God for the EcoVeg project in India that is being delivered through our partner Sustainable Agriculture Alliance (SAAL).

Give thanks for how this organic way of farming is improving people's lives. As well as providing healthier food, it also protects the soil and farmers from harmful diseases and chemicals.

Pray for the flourishing of this EcoVeg project. Pray that it will continue to help Dalit communities to live with

dignity, support their families, and challenge their exclusion from society. Give thanks for how it is helping Kasthuri (pictured with her son Mathi) to get a fair price for her crops. Pray that SAAL will have abundant blessings and the project will continue to flourish. Find out more at caid.org.uk/harvest

Jesus, who told stories of soil types and scattered seeds and cautioned against barn extensions, help us to follow you by another way. Amen.

Week beginning 11 August

Do not be afraid

Read Luke 12:32-40

Pray with all those communities affected by Cyclone Fani in India and Bangladesh and Cyclone Idai in Southeast Africa this year. Pray that those who've lost loved ones would be comforted and that everyone affected would be given the support they need to rebuild their lives.

Pray that the international community would continue to respond with compassion and generosity to humanitarian emergencies around the world.

Pray for continued improvement in Christian Aid's response to

humanitarian emergencies. And pray that we will continue to help vulnerable communities be better prepared.

O God, our refuge and strength, our help in times of trouble, have mercy on the lands where the Earth has given way. Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods. Prosper those who rebuild houses, and strengthen those who rebuild hope so that entire communities may face the future without fear. Amen.



Week beginning 18 August

A global movement for change

Read Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Give thanks for the partnership we have with Greenbelt festival. Pray for the final preparations for the festival this week, that all the logistics will go smoothly and that Christian Aid will reach many people.

Pray that festival-goers will be challenged about injustice and inspired to confront it. Pray they may become part of a global movement for change.

Give thanks for our new Faith In Action films. Pray that they would be an inspiration for people of faith to use their gifts and talents to speak out for justice in creative and meaningful ways. Find out more about the Faith In Action films on the back cover of this prayer diary.

Thank you, loving God for the long line of witnesses, for the faithful who have gone before us, may they inspire us today to put our faith in action. Amen.

Week beginning 25 August

A light in the darkness

Read Isaiah 58:9-14

Give thanks and pray for the work of our partner NAPWE in Ethiopia. Pray that they will receive the support they need to continue to help communities to flourish and support women like Seblework and Roman.

Praise God for the coffee ceremonies that Seblework and Roman hold in their community to raise awareness about HIV. Pray that their courage to disclose their HIV positive status will help tackle stigma and discrimination.

Pray they would continue to teach the community and other mothers that it is possible to live positively with HIV.

*Living God,
thank you for removing the yolk of judgement,
of stigma and discrimination,
from communities in Ethiopia
through the work of NAPWE.
May you guide them continually,
satisfying the needs of communities
in parched places,
and make them strong.
Amen.*



Week beginning 1 September

Season for change

Read Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

On this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September) take time to connect with and pray for the protection and flourishing of creation.

Give thanks for the mutual love between Kasthuri and Selvi (pictured) in India. Selvi opened her home to Kasthuri and her son (pictured on the front cover) who are from the Dalit caste. Kasthuri describes how radical this was:

‘Normally, someone from her community wouldn’t even hand a cup of water to a Dalit person.

Sharing a home with them would be unthinkable.’

Praise God for this example set by Selvi, who is challenging the exclusion and injustice in society. Give thanks that Selvi has also contributed land so Kasthuri and four other women can run the EcoVeg project supported by our partner SAAL.

Pray that Selvi’s example will bring a season of change to communities in India and her generosity would inspire generosity from us all through the Harvest Appeal this year.

Harvest prayer

*Where human beings are being
stigmatised,
marginalised or oppressed,
where exclusion stifles their
human-becoming,
God, stretch our spirits to embrace
your justice-based bias for the poor.*

*Christ, stretch our spirits to take our
place in your body.
Spirit, stretch our will to grasp
your vision.
A season for change is now.
Amen.*

Week beginning 8 September

God’s love for the world

Read: John 3:13-17

Pray for continued success for our partner Sustainable Agriculture Livelihood Innovation (SALI) in Kenya. Give thanks for their work with farmers groups, training members in farming techniques and assisting in the marketing of produce.

Praise God that through their training, farmers now plant their crops in a more ordered manner, improving the quality of produce and increasing yields. Give thanks for their work providing members with up-to-date

weather forecasts via text messaging, which helps farmers to plan their planting and weeding schedules according to predicted rainfall.

Pray that SALI would continue to help communities to adapt to the challenges of a changing climate, bringing a season of change for all.

*God of the harvest,
may we also so love your world
that we give what is most valuable
to us
so that all may know fullness of life.
Amen.*



Reuben Ngumbi Muasa stands with his son Luis, daughter Beatrice and their friend in one of their maize fields.

Week beginning 15 September

Turn back with joy

Read Luke 15:1-10

Pray for our partner UNES in El Salvador which helps communities to adapt creatively and become resilient to the changing climate.

Carolina Amaya, a UNES staff member (pictured) says: 'As ecologists we say that there is no plan B. There is no planet B.'

Give thanks for how UNES is helping local communities in El Salvador to guard and protect their local mangrove forest. Praise God that they

successfully took on the local mayor to prevent the forest being cut down to turn into sugar cane fields.

*God of lost things,
help us to retrieve
our wonder of creation
to find a future where
nature and humanity
flourishes together.
Amen.*



Week beginning 22 September

Let justice roll down

Read Amos 8:4-7

Pray for all those preparing for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the United Nations Climate Change Summit in New York this week. Pray that world leaders would act to turn their promises into reality. Pray that the voices of those who are most marginalised and most affected by climate change would be heard in these summit discussions.

Give thanks for the prophetic voice of young people through the Fridays for Future school strikes this year. May their call to action on climate change be heeded and responded to with the urgency required.



*God of Justice,
may your anger against
the trampling of those in need,
the poor of the land
being brought to ruin,
grow in our hearts, O God,
Amen.*

Week beginning 28 September

The mercy of God

Read Luke 16:19-31

Pray for the emergency response and advocacy work of Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB) in Brazil. Pray that all who were affected by the recent dam rupture – which killed and displaced many people – would be given the support they need to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Give thanks for the report MAB has launched, which sheds light on the

need for greater accountability from the mining company involved.

Pray that this report would help communities to call for the government and companies to make sure employees and communities are safe.

*God of Equity,
help us to not only bridge
but to close the gap
created by inequality.
Amen.*

Week beginning 6 October

Make equality a reality

Read: Psalm 137

This October, give thanks for Black History Month, which helps to raise awareness and make equality a reality for marginalised communities around the world.

Pray for our partners working to challenge the exclusion and inequality created by racism and oppression of minority communities. Pray our partners in the Dominican Republic and Haiti will help protect the rights of Haitian migrants and of Dominicans of Haitian descent living in the Dominican Republic.

Pray for justice for citizens like Milciades (pictured). He was born in the Dominican Republic but has struggled for many years to get full recognition as a Dominican citizen. He is of Haitian descent, and this means that the authorities tie the process of getting access to his documents with red tape. Pray this discrimination would end.

This Black History Month, may we take time to lament the inhumanity and racism that underpins much of the poverty in the world today. Amen.



Week beginning 13 October

Seeking the welfare of all in Ghana

Read Jeremiah 29:1,4-7

Give thanks for Community Champions like Augustina Apuri (pictured) and all the benefits the IMPROVE project has brought to the Kazigo community in Ghana. Augustina describes the impact of the project:

‘Many more people are using family planning methods now, and the men understand that it’s a good thing. Before, they hated it. Now the women are empowered and much stronger. They have money to send their children to school and to clothe

and feed them. Before, all the children wore torn clothes that were too small. Now, no child is at home – they all go to school.’

Pray that the 30 districts in northern Ghana being supported by our community outreach work will see a dramatic improvement in the numbers of healthy mums and babies.

Thank you, God of life, that in seeking the welfare of others we find our welfare too. Amen.





Week beginning 20 October

Long term support after a disaster

Read Luke 18:1-8

Give thanks for our partner Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU) that delivered essential supplies to people affected by the tsunamis and earthquake that struck Indonesia last year. Pray for the ongoing restoration work with the thousands who were bereaved, injured and displaced.

Pray for the rebuilding work in Kerala, India, after the devastating flooding that also occurred last year. Pray for the work being done to help reduce the risk of water-borne diseases,

including cleaning-out wells, rain-water harvesting tanks and de-sludging of septic tanks.

Pray that these communities would get the ongoing support and help that they need and know they are not forgotten.

*Holy God,
help us to pray always
and not to lose heart
to never give up on the cause
of fullness of life for all.
Amen.*

Week beginning 27 October

Be glad and rejoice

Read Joel 2:23-32

The Rugby World Cup final is at the end of this week.

Give thanks for our Rugby World Cup report. Pray that it will raise greater awareness of the injustice of climate change, that is, poorer communities that have contributed least to the problem are the ones suffering the most severe consequences.

Pray for the island communities of Tonga, Fiji and Samoa participating in the Rugby World Cup. Pray for their protection from their island homes from becoming uninhabitable should

sea levels rise and extreme weather events get even worse.

Pray that those developed nations who are most responsible for the climate emergency would respond to this injustice with urgency and effectiveness.

*Merciful God,
restore creation,
restore justice,
restore hope,
for those nations
most affected
yet least responsible
for climate change.
Amen.*



Week beginning 3 November

Justice never prevails?

Read Habakkuk 1:1-4;2:1-4

Pray that those who are discouraged and feel, like the prophet Habakkuk, that justice never prevails – would know they are not alone in their struggle.

Give thanks for the recently completed five-year community resilience-building initiative in Afghanistan, reaching more than 67,000 people in 29 villages in Herat and Ghore.

Praise God for the vegetable growing, animal farming and silk production

(shown above) that have all been part of this work in Afghanistan. Pray for the flourishing of the farmers now working in cooperatives. Pray that they will continue to get their products to market, and develop their skills learnt in production, packaging, branding and marketing.

*Let it come, soon, Lord
the justice that will prevail.
Encourage discouraged hearts
with hope in lasting peace.
Amen.*

Week beginning 10 November

Standing together

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17

Pray for Christian Aid's new Global Strategy as it continues to be implemented across the world. Pray that our values of dignity, equality, justice and love would be apparent in all that we do.

Pray that we will challenge the systemic and structural causes of poverty by holding those in power to account.

Pray that we will be effective in reaching those most in need, in some of the hardest to reach places around the world.

And pray we will speak truth to power and build local and collective agency in countries and communities across the world.

Pray for wisdom for Amanda Mukwashi, our Chief Executive, the team of directors and all Christian Aid staff as we seek to implement this inspirational strategy so all might know fullness of life across the world.

*Living God,
be our eternal comfort
and the source of our hope
as we seek to stand together
with your children
across the world.
Amen.*



Women's cycle race in Burkina Faso



Rebecca Adau Deng carries home packages of essential household items in South Sudan.

Week beginning 17 November

New heavens and new earth

Read Isaiah 65:17-25

Give thanks and pray for the work of our programme, Accelerating Localisation Through Partnerships (ALTP) in Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria and South Sudan. Pray that this programme will foster strong partnerships between national and local agencies.

Pray that it will ensure local voices and leadership will be heard and heeded when responding to humanitarian needs.

Pray that the findings, recommendations and learning from this ambitious programme will be used to influence humanitarian response across the world.

*Loving God,
fill us all with the vision
of your kingdom come in fullness
on Earth as in heaven
so that we cannot do anything
but respond with a full commitment
to partnering with you in bringing it to
pass.
Amen.*

Week beginning 24 November

The way of peace

Read Luke 1:68-79

Join in the ecumenical prayer vigil for peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory that takes place across the globe on the 24th of every month. Pray for the time when we can celebrate an end to occupation and a just and lasting resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Give thanks for our partner, YMCA Women's Training Programme, which is finding a way to challenge the Israeli occupation and working to build resilience in the communities living with threats to their land, lives and livelihoods.

Pray for hope, encouragement and breakthrough for those who find

themselves almost completely cut off from access to essential services such as healthcare.

*Spirit of the living God,
come afresh on your holy land.
Help your people to restore broken
relationships.
Give them patience to break down
barriers of suspicion and mistrust;
ability to discern personal prejudices
and the courage to overcome fear.
Teach them to respect each other's
integrity and rights
so that your kingdom may be
established on Earth.
For Jesus' sake,
Amen.*

(The Rt Rev Riah Abu El-Assal, from *In God's Hands*)



Noura Amin Sa'ad, aged 23, from the women's association in Beit Skariya.