



We believe in life before death

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Christian Aid Week 11-17 May 08

Prayers and reflections for Christian Aid Week

Ever-present God,
Fill me with your Spirit,
And send me out to make a difference
To the voiceless; the powerless and
the poor.
Help me to know that
I stand with all who seek justice
And I go with the strength of your Spirit.
Take my prayers, my time and
my envelopes.
Use them with others' to achieve
amazing things.
For the sake of your people,
And to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Lord Jesus, you were anointed to bring
good news to those who felt no good
news,
to proclaim freedom to those imprisoned
by injustice,
and recover health and wholeness to all
the world.
You took up the cause of the oppressed.
You proclaimed the year of the Lord's
favour.
At the heart of your ministry was action.
Remind us of the unlikely group of people
you gathered around you to perform your
work of love,
and empower us to bring your good news
so your kingdom will come and your will
be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

'At the heart of the Christian gospel is an
identification with all living beings, and a
demonstration of a different way of
transcending limits, not by rolling over
them, but by embracing and transforming

them. Jesus did not voluntarily seek out
suffering and did not glorify it, but he
chose to bear it rather than inflict it on
others. The sign of the bread and the wine
on the communion table are a reminder
to us, a bit like the rainbow is for God,
that apart from all living beings we have
no life, that we are creature not creator,
and that what is given, and given up in
love, is never lost or wasted.'

*From Sharing the Blessing, Kathy
Galloway, SPCK/Christian Aid £8.99
Call 08700 787 788 to order a copy of this
new Christian Aid publication.*

'As a woman, I now feel very good. I have
learned to talk. I am confident. In my
heart, I have weight. We used to gather
water before in big pots, but I never used
to put a net over them. We used to go to
the toilet without wearing sandals. Now
we wear them and we wash our hands
with soap. Everyone in the family is
happy because now we have good safe
water for many months of the year.'

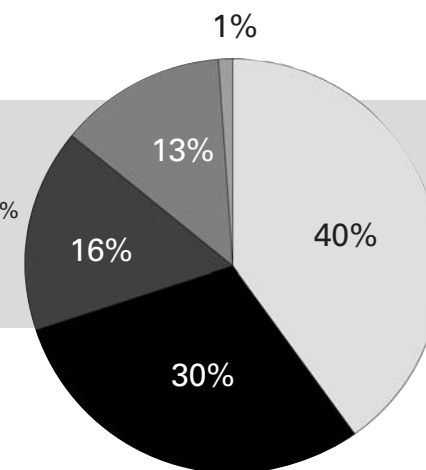
*Minu Basar from Bangladesh who had to
cross a wide and sometimes dangerous
river and travel up to 10km to buy
drinking water for her family. Since
joining the village pani parishad (water
council), she has learned how to safely
gather and store rainwater. The pani
parishads are supported by Christian Aid
partner, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced
Studies.*

Ten things to know about Christian Aid

- 1 We believe in life before death – we are passionate about rooting out poverty.
- 2 We fund long-term development work, respond to emergencies, and challenge the unjust systems that make and keep people poor.
- 3 We are the official development agency of 41 church denominations in the UK and Ireland.
- 4 We help people of all faiths and none.
- 5 We believe in helping people to find their own lasting solutions to poverty.
- 6 We work through more than 600 partners – local organisations – in nearly 50 countries.
- 7 We challenge those with power to change things that have an adverse effect on poor communities, such as international trade rules and climate change.
- 8 We don't give money to governments – we work directly with local organisations on the ground.
- 9 We spend money where it's needed most. For each £1/€1.43 given in 2006/7, 83p/€1.19 was used for direct charitable expenditure. The remaining 17p/€0.24 was used to raise the next £1/€1.43.
- 10 You can find out more at www.caweek.org or www.christianaid.ie or by calling 0845 7000 300.

How your money helps transform poor communities

Emergencies – 30%
Long-term development – 40%
Campaigning, advocacy and education – 13%
Fundraising – 16%
Governance – 1%



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