



We believe in life before death

## September 2008 - Prayers for the people of Bihar, India

When heavy monsoon rains caused the Kosi River to burst its embankments and change course over 120km eastwards, water submerged more than 1,000 villages. Around 3 million people have been affected, with many thousands feared dead.

Christian Aid partners are there and making a difference. An initial £200,000 has been released for immediate relief work in the region and we are working hard to raise more funds to help our partners cope with the scale of the disaster.

One of our partners, the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) has extensive experience working in emergency situations. Through its network of field offices they are providing food to 5,000 people. Some of the victims face the additional hardships that come from being members of the low caste dalit community. CASA is working to make sure they get the help they need,

We asked Dinesh Suna, policy officer at CASA, to share a prayer that Churches in the UK could pray in solidarity with the people of Bihar.

He writes:

**Leader:** Lord our God, we remember in our prayers those who have been struggling to survive in the last few weeks as the people of Bihar face the worse floods in living memory. Stranded in water without adequate food, shelter and clothing we pray that they get the much awaited relief.

Lord, provide the victims the basic necessities to live a life with dignity. Lord, help us to be the instruments of providing relief to the victims.

Lord in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Dr Mumtaz, who is working with CASA as part of a group of doctors providing medical care in the relief camps, added her prayer request;

'Many of the people who I have seen in this camp, they have lost their loved ones, they have lost their livelihood, they have lost cattle or their fields, crops, so many of them they have left their houses and gone to different places. They are undergoing an emotional trauma as well as financial – so many things. So we need to pray for them, the healing which they need to have in their hearts. And we need to pray that God can fill that emptiness that is situated in their hearts right now.'

Please take time to pray together and take action for the people of Bihar.

Join Christian Aid, and our partners working in the region, to demonstrate that the people of Bihar are not forgotten.

You can find the latest news from Bihar at [www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies)

**www.christianaid.org.uk**

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