Hear our prayer
August – November 2018
Together we’re powerful
‘I am the bread of life.’  
**Read: John 6:24-35**

Give thanks for the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples on Thursday 9 August.

Pray for the protection and effectiveness of SOF, our partner empowering women in the indigenous Guarani and Quilombola communities in Sao Paulo state, Brazil.

Praise God for the difference their work has made to the lives of women like Maria, pictured. Thanks to training from SOF, Maria’s cooperative has enough crops to both feed their families and sell.

_O God, to those who have hunger, give bread, and to those who have bread, give the hunger for justice._

Prayer from Latin America.
Week beginning 12 August
Afghanistan

‘I wait for the Lord.’
Read: Psalm 130

The picture below shows an elderly lady working a loom in Afghanistan, making cloth to sell in the market. Pray for the work of Christian Aid in Afghanistan, helping to establish youth and women’s organisations.

Give thanks that these groups have been formally recognised by the government as representative of their communities.

Pray that through these groups, communities will develop their advocacy and lobbying skills to promote peace and human rights throughout Afghanistan.

Patient God,
for sisters and brothers
waiting for justice,
waiting to be heard,
waiting for freedom,
grant tenacity, empowerment
and the liberation they need.
Amen.
‘Seek peace, and pursue it.’
Read: Psalm 34:9-14

As World Humanitarian Day is recognised on 19 August, pray for lasting peace and an end to the long running conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Give thanks and pray for Celestine, pictured above, a priest and formerly displaced person living in the DRC. He now provides support for others who have been displaced by the conflict.

Pray for those in the Kasai region of the DRC who have experienced an increase in conflict over the last two years, and for the 1.7 million people who have had to flee their homes, pray they would get the support and shelter they need.

Give thanks for our partner COPROMOR, distributing vital food supplies as well as agricultural kits made up of garden seeds and tools.

For all our partners, who are seeking and pursuing peace with all their hearts, we pray for protection and provision.
In Jesus name,
Amen.
Week beginning 26 August
Ghana

‘You have the words of eternal life.’
Read: John 6:56-69

Give thanks for the Growing Economic Opportunities for Sustainable Development (GEOP) project funded by Christian Aid and the European Union in Ghana, and for the difference it is making to people like Amina (pictured right).

Amina proudly displays slippers she designed using beads as a result of the training she received from the GEOP project. She was born with a disability and life has been difficult for her as she has to work hard and care for her family.

Give thanks and pray with those living with disabilities across the world, that they would not be marginalised and denied a full and dignified life.

No matter how challenging things get, who else can we go to, Lord? Only you have the words of eternal life, life in fullness that starts here and now.
Amen.

Week beginning 2 September
Ethiopia

‘Be doers of the word.’
Read: James 1:17-27

Pray for Aster and the women’s hub in Ethiopia – a group of women who have come together to set up their own shop powered by the sun. Pray for Christian Aid’s partner in Ethiopia training these women and helping other communities to set up thriving businesses that transform lives.

Pray for the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal, sharing the stories of women’s hubs in Ethiopia. Pray that it would engage and inspire church communities here to invest in a flourishing future for all.

Give thanks for the season of Creation Time, pray that it will renew us all to care for our wonderful shared home.

God of all creation, help us to be doers, not just hearers of the word, putting faith into action, reaping a harvest of hope and transformation.
Amen.
‘The Lord pleads their cause.’  
Read: Proverbs 22

Give thanks for Sussett and her solar powered typhoon-resistant home in the Philippines. Give thanks that her family is now able to eat dinner together after sunset, her children can do their homework at night and they have a new water pump to grow vegetables.

Give thanks and pray for partners ICODE who helped Sussett and her family to build this home, using a community saving scheme. Pray for all who are helping communities prepare for disasters and for protection for all who live at risk of typhoons, earthquakes, rising sea levels and extreme climate conditions in the Philippines.

Give thanks for all that the Big Shift campaign has achieved so far and pray for the next stage, calling on HSBC to shift investments from fossil fuels.

Pleading Lord,  
Help us to add our voice to yours amplifying the cause of the poor bringing justice to all.  
Amen.
Week beginning 16 September

Uprooted in Nigeria

‘Our God is merciful.’
Read Psalm 116:1-9

Pray for healing for Samira, who fled her village in Nigeria when it was attacked by Boko Haram. She has witnessed the worst of humanity. She was forced to make a horrific journey for many miles to eventually reach safety in Maiduguri, Nigeria.

Pray for the UN Assembly beginning on 18 September, where they will be working on two new agreements on refugees and migration. Pray for an outcome that includes support for the 40 million people displaced within their own borders.

Week beginning 23 September

Good news in Nigeria

‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.’
Read: Mark 9: 30-37

Praise God for Paul Onah and all volunteers who provide basic healthcare for children under five in their community in Benue State, Nigeria. Before the health volunteers, children who were sick in his community had to travel with their parents for hours to get to the nearest health centre.

Pray for our partner Ohonyeta Caregivers (OCAG), as they train volunteers like Paul across 130 communities as part of the Partnership for Integrated Child Health project known as PICH. The project is funded by UK Aid Match and has so far helped treat over 45,500 children – praise God!

Loving God,
Bless the PICH project may it prevent deaths from pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria may it save the lives of many children, in the name of the One who welcomed little children, Amen.
Week beginning 30 September

India and Salt

‘The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.’
Read: James 5:13-20

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on Tuesday 2 October on the date of Mahatma Ghandi’s birthday. Ghandi’s salt march was the inspiration for the land rights marches organised by partners in India that enabled thousands of landless poor to get access to land in 2012. Give thanks for Christian Aid’s work in India for over five decades and for the 41 ongoing projects there.

Pray for a lasting legacy from the Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) programme which concluded in 2017. Pray that the work begun in 90 districts in seven of India’s poorest states will help these communities continue to claim their rights for years to come.

Pray for the Christian Aid Salt Business Network 2018 conference happening on 5 October. Pray that the Christian business leaders who gather will be inspired and equipped to be a force for good in the world.

God, help us to be the salt of the earth, salt that keeps its flavour seeing and drawing out the potential others can give to the world. Amen.
Week beginning 7 October
Malawi

‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them?’
Read: Psalm 8

Women gather in Malawi, pictured below, to learn about starting up a village savings and small loans scheme as part of the Christian Aid led Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP).

Pray for ECRP, that it would enable vulnerable households to move beyond survival to enjoy thriving and dignified lives. Praise God that ECRP has managed to reach 423,000 people across seven districts in Malawi so far, who are among the hardest hit by climate change.

Pray for the climate change campaign workshops that will be happening in the United Kingdom throughout the autumn, that they would galvanise commitment and mobilise action for climate justice.

Mindful God,
thank you that we are part of your glorious handiwork,
May we treat each other with the care and respect such creation is due.
Amen.

Week beginning 14 October
East Africa

‘The last will be first.’
Read: Mark 10:17-31

This week we mark World Food Day and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Pray for rain in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya so the prolonged drought will end and crops will grow.

Lord, we give, act and pray for that day,
when the last will be first,
when the hungry will be fed,
when the oppressed are lifted up,
when your kingdom has come on earth as in heaven.
Amen.

Pray the children who are severely malnourished, such as little Nyayiena pictured above right, will get the nutrients they need. Pray for peace in South Sudan so communities can plant crops and harvest the land. Pray for

Mindful God,
thank you that we are part of your glorious handiwork,
May we treat each other with the care and respect such creation is due.
Amen.
Week beginning 21 October

Haiti – Christian Aid Week update

‘O Lord, how manifold are your works!’
Read: Psalm 104

Christian Aid Week may seem like a long time ago but it is with great rejoicing that we share news of Marcelin and Joycelyn who were both featured as part of the Christian Aid Week Haiti stories. They have received houses, built by our partner KORAL.

Give thanks for all those who gave, took action and prayed during Christian Aid Week 2018. Continue to pray for all who are displaced because of past disasters and pray for effective preparation and reducing risk in the work our partners do.

Pray for the Christian Aid Week team who plan and prepare the resources each year. Pray for abundant creativity, deep wisdom and clear discernment as they plan for the flourishing of Christian Aid Week.

Thank you God, for the difference Christian Aid Week makes. Guide, direct and inspire the team who lead it.
Amen.
Week beginning 28 October
Zimbabwe

‘May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.’
Read: Psalm 126

Give thanks for the work of partner ZimPro making such a difference in Zimbabwe. Praise God for the garden pictured and how it has helped Medelina’s community provide for their families and grow enough to eat and to sell. Give thanks for the abundant harvest of carrots, tomatoes, butternut squash, onions, beetroot, spinach, okra, chomolia, lettuce, potatoes and beans.

Give thanks for Christian Aid's work in Zimbabwe for over thirty years and pray for the current pioneering and exemplary work there.

God of abundance,
thank you for this plentiful Zimbabwean harvest!
May those who have sown in tears reap with shouts of joy around the world.
Amen.

Week beginning 4 November
Displacement

‘Where you go, I will go.’
Read: Ruth 1:1-18

Pray for Nour (pictured) and her family who fled fighting in the Syrian city of Homs and found shelter in a Syrian refugee camp in eastern Lebanon.

Pray for all those who are seeking refuge from the conflicts in Myanmar and Syria. Give thanks for Christian Aid’s partners in Bangladesh providing healthcare support, blankets, tents, shelter kits and winter clothing to families displaced in Myanmar.

Pray for our partners in Lebanon, Association Najdeh providing aid to Palestinian refugees from Syria, and Mouvement Social ensuring refugee children can continue their education and access psychological support they need.

God of Ruth,
may her story encourage those who are far from home, and considered a stranger.
May her story challenge those who seek to exclude to recognise their neighbour.
Amen.
‘She out of her poverty has put in everything she had.’
Read: Mark 12:38-44

Give thanks for Will Aid in November and for the difference legacy donations have made to Christian Aid’s work around the world. Over the years, Will Aid has raised an amazing £18m for the vital work of the nine Will Aid charities, changing lives in the UK and around the world – praise God!

Give thanks for Kathy, pictured, who went to Haiti to see for herself how gifts like her daughter Esther’s legacy is transforming lives. Praise God that Kathy met Rocheline there. Kathy said: ‘I saw the same spirit and hope in the face of adversity that I had known in Esther. In this young Haitian girl I saw, in the most direct and moving way, that Esther’s legacy really does live on.’

Loving God, thank you for those who give what they can making a lasting legacy in the lives of others may it bring much comfort to those who remain. Amen.
‘He raises up the poor from the dust.’
Read: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

World Toilet Day is on 19 November. Pray for the 2.4 billion people who struggle to stay well and keep their children alive because of a lack of adequate sanitation. Pray they would get the toilet facilities they need.

Give thanks for this new toilet block that has been built for boys and girls at Shree Manakamana primary school in Dolakha, Nepal. Two classrooms and toilets for boys and girls have been constructed in the school so that children can study in a safer environment.

Praise God for the restoring work of Christian Aid partner CEEPARD in Nepal after the 2015 earthquake. Pray for all those who are still rebuilding their lives and confidence after the devastation it caused.

Loving God, we pray for that day when children are protected from preventable diseases caused by poor sanitation. May we flush away forever this scandalous inequality. Amen.
‘I am the Alpha and the Omega.’
Read: Revelation 1:4b-8

Pray with those living in the occupied Palestinian territory this week as we mark the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People on 29 November.

Pray with Amina, pictured. She has been involved with the ‘protection group’ in Raboud – one of five supported by the YMCA across the West Bank. Give thanks for our partner YMCA and pray for the groups as they meet to discuss issues within the community and how they can work together to address them.

Prince of peace,
We amplify the cries for peace with those who live in occupied Palestinian territory.
Protect, encourage and strengthen Christian Aid’s partners there.
Give them hope to endure, we pray in your name,
Amen.
Testimony from our new Chief Executive of Christian Aid

This testimony was given by Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, our new Chief Executive, at a service held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Pray for Amanda as she continues to settle into this new role.

‘This morning as I placed a wreath outside Westminster Abbey on the memorial for the victims of oppression and violence, I was struck by the question from lamentations: “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?”

‘Today, as we mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr Martin Luther King Jr, I feel proud of the role Christian Aid played in supporting his work here in the UK and in Mississippi, USA.

‘He led a movement for justice and continues to inspire many people around the world. He was able to translate his faith into real life actions that resonated with the daily struggles of individuals and the wider community.

‘Struggles for inclusion, for social and economic justice and for the opportunity to live a life of dignity. He believed that all humans are created equal, and gave his life for that equality to be a reality for all. I am struck by the shared values and common threads of faith and justice that the work of Dr King has with the work of Christian Aid.

‘We continue to strive for social and economic justice, so that everyone can have the opportunity to enjoy the abundance of the earth.

‘On a personal level, the pursuit of social justice is one I am determined to continue to champion. Whether in small places, where it matters to one or two people, or be it in public spaces where mine is just but one voice, nevertheless it is a voice I bring to the table.

‘And so, as I step into this role with inspiration from the past and energy from the present, I recognise that I am not simply joining an organisation.

‘I am joining the efforts and voices of the churches, our staff, supporters and volunteers and partners in the different counties.

‘I am joining our hopes and aspirations for more just economic practices, better care for our planet and environment, more compassion and support for those who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances and respect for every human life.

‘And it is knowing that we are joined up in our efforts, and standing together for peace, equity and justice, that gives me the courage to respond to the question, “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?” in the following manner:

‘It is something to me, it is something to Christian Aid and it is something to all you who are joining hands with the poor and disadvantaged – offering your support and taking action.

‘In so doing, “Justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” (Amos 5:24)’