Hear our prayer
April-July 2019

‘The future can be bright and bright forever, by God’s grace’
‘I am about to do a new thing’  
Read: Isaiah 43:16-21

Take a moment to praise God for the access to healthcare that you have known in your life.

Give thanks for the World Health Organisation on World Health Day (7 July). Pray that they might continue to promote health, work to keep the world safe from disease, and serve the most vulnerable.

Pray for access to healthcare for everyone in the Dominican Republic (DR). Give thanks for our partners in the DR working to promote the right to health. Pray they would be effective in helping women, children and minorities to understand, and advocate for, their right to health. Pray for policies which respect the rights of women, children and minorities, and for an end to the discrimination which denies them the healthcare they need.

God of new things, help us to perceive your will at work in the world and to join you there with open hearts and rolled up sleeves. Amen.
**Week beginning 14 April**

Palm Sunday  
Speak out!

‘I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.’  

Give thanks and pray for courage for all those who cannot be silenced, and who raise their voices to speak out for justice.

Pray that campaigners visiting HSBC branches during Lent will have their concerns heard. Pray that HSBC, one of the largest banks in the world, will stop funding coal and other fossil fuels for good. See caid.org.uk/bigshift for more information.

**Week beginning 21 April**

Easter Sunday  
Rise up!

‘He is not here, but has risen.’  
Read Luke 24: 1-12

Praise God for the hope of Easter, the power of resurrection and the restoration of creation!

Give thanks for the witness and example of all those who care for creation this Earth Day (22 April).

Pray for encouragement for Lope (pictured) and his family, who feature in this year’s Lent and Easter Appeal. Pray that the story of their work to protect their island home in the Philippines will have inspired many to give generously, and to play their part in caring for creation.

Pray that the Appeal will raise awareness and support for our partner ICODE, who train communities like Lope’s on the scientific approaches to mangrove planting.

*The reality of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation this is grace dying we live therefore, let us rise up ALLELUIA!*
Week beginning 5 May
Rediscovering hope in Honduras

‘I am going fishing.’
Read: John 21:1-19

Pray for the communities’ Christian Aid partners who have experienced setbacks in their work. Praise God for their innovative ideas, which help communities rediscover hope and find new ways of doing things.

Give thanks for the work of our partner CASM in Honduras and pray that it will continue to help small-scale farmers like Eugenio Ramos (pictured) to flourish in the face of a changing climate. Give thanks that Eugenio can now dry his coffee harvest in the sun dryer he installed with Christian Aid and CASM’s support, rather than being vulnerable to the storms and changing climate as before.

Risen Jesus,
Thank you that
even when we have given up and returned to the old ways
You show up and show us another way
Great is your faithfulness,
Amen.

Week beginning 28 April
Building bridges in Angola

‘The Lord is my strength.’
Read: Psalm 118:14-29

Pray our six partner programmes in Angola would help all members of the community to flourish. Pray for the Girls Building Bridges life skills programme, run by our partner UCF in a poor suburb of Luanda, the capital of Angola.

Give thanks for the difference it’s making in the lives of the 60 girls, aged 13-18, who pass through the programme each year.

Pray for the girls who participate, like Elvira João Miguel (known as Vivi, pictured); pray they would complete the course more confident, skilled and aware of their rights.

Pray that the classes would prepare the girls to deal with the many challenges that lie ahead.

Strengthening God, empower, equip, enliven and energise the young women of Angola through Building Bridges In your name, Amen.
Tears wiped away in Sierra Leone

‘God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’ Read: Revelation 7:9-17

Praise God for Christian Aid Week and for the collectors, event organisers, sponsored walkers, Big Brekkie chefs and many more who make this the biggest week of Christian witness across the UK and Ireland. Pray that everything will run smoothly, and there would be a real sense of celebration in communities across the British Isles this week.

Pray for health and happiness for Tenneh and her baby boy (pictured), and for all the young mums and children featuring in the Christian Aid Week stories this year. Pray that through Christian Aid Week’s fundraising efforts, our partner RADA will be able to build a better health centre facility in Tenneh’s neighbourhood, so more mums can deliver their babies safely.

Parent God,
We praise you for the blessings you shower upon us
Bless the lives of our sisters and brothers
And their precious children
in Sierra Leone,
Amen.
‘By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’ Read: John 13:31-35

Praise God for the love in action demonstrated this Christian Aid Week. Pray for a safe and joyful Circle the City walk in London on 19 May, and give thanks for the Circle the City walks that have happened in Birmingham and Manchester.

Pray that all who are speaking for Christian Aid this Sunday will, after a busy week, be able to find the energy and enthusiasm they need to witness to the work of God in the world, and inspire others to join in by giving, campaigning and praying.

Praise God for the work of Nurse Judith (pictured) in Sierra Leone, providing reassurance and helping young mums deliver their babies safely. Pray that she would soon have a better health centre for her to do her work.

Let the ripples of your love be set in motion this week in our communities and churches and across the world in your name, Amen.
Week beginning 26 May

Faith in action in Sierra Leone

‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ Read: Acts 16:9-15

Give thanks for the faith leaders who help promote messages of healthcare and disease prevention across the world. Praise God for Reverend Christiana Sutton-Koroma (pictured), who does this in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Give thanks for how she and her colleagues helped reduce the spread of Ebola in 2014, and now spread a message of maternal and infant health. (You can read more about her work on the back page.)

The Lord said:
‘I wish above all things, that you may prosper, and be of good health.’

Father, we ask you to send forth your blessings in every home, in every family, bless them with wisdom, knowledge and understanding, and good health.

Make way for them where there seems to be no way,
We ask this in your name,
Amen.

(Prayer by the Rev Christiana Sutton-Koroma)

Week beginning 2 June

A Better Life in Egypt

‘...that they may all be one.’
Read: John 17:20-26

Give thanks for how the Middle East Economic and Social Rights programme has helped Maryam (pictured) to set up her own hairdressing business. Praise God for the difference this has made to her life, and for the other women who have benefited from this programme.

Praise God for the many volunteers who make the work of Christian Aid happen across the UK and Ireland, and around the world, this volunteer week.

Loving God
For those with dreams and ideas for a better life break down the barriers
and remove the obstacles frustrating their way
In Jesus’ name,
Amen.

Pray that our partners, Better Life and Wadi El Nile, might continue to build the entrepreneurship skills of young people, and link them with available job opportunities.

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Week beginning 9 June
Pentecost
Solidarity Hubs in South Africa

‘...I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh’ Read: Acts 2:1-21

This Pentecost we praise God for the ACT Alliance, a coalition of 151 churches and faith-based organisations working together in over 125 countries across the world.

Pray for the ACT Alliance partners in South Africa; for Christian Aid, Church of Sweden, Brot für die Welt and South African partners, forming a Solidarity Hub so they can join together to work on issues of economic, gender and environmental justice.

Pray that the Hub will enable marginalised communities to understand and claim their rights, and fight for the change that will benefit many hundreds of thousands at a national level. Pray for the partners to be effective in the long-term advocacy and campaigning needed for a future that’s equal for all.

Spirit of God
pour into our hearts
courage and passion
so that together with you
all will have life before death.
Amen.
Week beginning 16 June

The soil of the earth in Burkina Faso

‘When he had not yet made... the world’s first bits of soil’ Read: Proverbs 8:22-31

Pray for all those seeking refuge this World Refugee Day, 16 June. This Father’s Day, give thanks for positive difference many fathers and grandfathers have made in the lives of children across the world.

Ram Zoundi is the grandfather of the three toddlers pictured. He is also the chairman of the local nutrition committee in Burkina Faso where they live. Ram has helped provide the family with porridge so the triplets can get the nutrition that they need. Give thanks that Ram also has a vision for planting trees which will provide nutritious fruit and help combat desertification and drought. Pray that the UN World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17 June) will help communities become more equipped to prevent essential soil and land being destroyed.

God of heaven and earth,
Thank you for soil
the stuff of life,
Forgive us for taking it for granted
Not cultivating it as carefully as we should
May we all work to preserve and care for every bit.
In your name,
Amen.
Week beginning 23 June

Climate justice now!

‘All of you are one in Christ Jesus…’
Read: Galatians 3:23-29

Pray the Mass Lobby of Parliament on 26 June will be the most effective climate change lobby of the UK government. Pray the supporters and churches travelling to Westminster will bring a powerful moral voice to their calls for action.

Pray that it will be a galvanising and inspiring experience for all involved.

Pray for a united voice to be heard, and for a concerted political effort made to bring an end to the climate chaos that’s threatening too many lives and livelihoods across the world.

Creator God,
Help us to love the world so much that we give all we can to conserve it, for Your glory, Amen.
Week beginning 30 June

Cooperation in Burundi

‘I call to mind the deeds of the Lord.’
Read: Psalm 77:11-20

Give thanks for the work of cooperatives, helping farmers across the world, on International Day of Cooperatives (6 July).
Give thanks for our partners working in Burundi to support small-scale farmers in the coffee, sunflower, maize and honey sectors. Pray that Agri-Hub Burundi will continue to promote entrepreneurship and agribusiness.
Pray the many coffee farmers like Triphonie Nsengiyumva (pictured) would continue to flourish as part of the women’s savings and loans group in Burundi.
Triphonie received a loan from the main fund that she used to increase investment in her grilled maize food stall, and to buy a goat. It means that she now makes enough money to meet her family’s needs. Praise God!

Lord of life,
We call to mind the many deeds making a difference in the lives of your children across the world and give you thanks and praise.
Week beginning 7 July

Praying for peace

‘So let us not grow weary in doing what is right’ Read: Galatians 6:7-16

Pray for peace in South Sudan. 9 July marks the eighth anniversary of South Sudan independence, but the country is in the sixth year of conflict. Pray that the six million people – half the population – suffering from hunger and acute malnutrition would have food to eat and be able to grow their own.

Pray our partners in South Sudan will help communities address the causes of the conflict, and work towards reconciliation.

Pray that those responsible for this protracted conflict would prioritise the needs of the people they claim lead and serve.

Prince of Peace
we appeal to you

for conflict to cease
for guns to be silenced
for killings to end
for human rights abuses to be stopped
for the economy to be resuscitated

for those who assume leadership
to seek peace and serve
the people of South Sudan.
Amen.
‘Give justice to the weak and the orphan’ Read: Psalm 82

Give thanks for those who accompany human rights defenders in Colombia.

Give thanks that their presence reduces the threat of violence against our partners, and pray for the day when they’re no longer needed because their lives are no longer at risk.

Give thanks for the peace agreement signed in 2016. Pray that the government will fully commit to the final Peace Agreement, and will prioritise the protection of human rights defenders. Pray that everyone in Colombia will work to build peace in their country.

Give justice to those who have been denied their land
to those who have been made weak by oppression
to those who despite it all keep resisting
may they know they do not struggle alone.
In your name,
Amen.
Week beginning 21 July

‘Be still and know’

‘...there is need of only one thing’  
Read: Luke 10:38-42

‘Yet there is that all-important stillness, and listening to God, which seems to be inertia, and yet is the highest action.’ Thomas Merton

Many things are important, urgent and demanding of our time. In the reading for this week, we’re reminded by Jesus to take time to sit at his feet and listen to what he has to say.

In all our prayers over these past weeks and months, we have said many things to God. Take time this week to sit in silence before God, to listen.

Allow the stories or situations in the world that that have been featured in this prayer diary, or in the news recently, to come to mind and for God to bring a divine perspective on these matters.

*Be still and know that I am God*

*Be still and know that I am*

*Be still and know*

*Be still*

*Be.*
Good food in Guatemala

‘Give us this day our daily bread.’ Read: Luke 11:1-13

Lament that the request for daily bread is a prayer too many still have to make around the world, not knowing where their daily nutritious food will come from. Despite being considered a middle-income country, and the fifth largest exporter of coffee and sugar in the world, half of all children under five are malnourished in Guatemala. Mourn with God that this permanently affects their physical and mental development.

Give thanks for our partner Betania, working to help reverse this trend. Betania helped Irma’s (pictured) mother set up a kitchen garden, where they can grow much more nutrient-rich food that have helped them grow. Praise God!

Lord, to those who have hunger, give bread, and to those who have bread, give a hunger for justice.

(Prayer from Latin America)
Leading by faith

‘I came that you might have life and have it abundantly.’ John 10:10

Reverend Christiana Sutton-Koroma describes the role faith leaders played in her community during the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa:

‘Not all of us are doctors and nurses, but we have a part to play as religious leaders. That part is to share the message of hope, sending the message which will help people to make the right decision in the area of health.

Christian Aid played an important role in Ebola. They supported religious leaders in the area of trauma healing, working with the quarantined people, families devastated by Ebola, and the theological training to give families words of hope, words of support. This helped in a great way to combat Ebola in our country, because we were able to relate the Scripture passages with what was happening on the ground.

We communicate with the national coordinators, who communicate with the districts, who communicate to the chiefdoms – and they communicate to the villages, so the message goes right down to the poorest man in the village.

So that training with Christian Aid helped us to impact the lives of people, to bring families together who had been separated, to give them courage, give them hope.

Like the Bible, in the book of Acts, where it says come down to Macedonia and help us... We want your help so that the future can be bright and bright forever, by God’s grace. God will bless you, and we know God will make a way for you. God will touch your hearts for Sierra Leone, which is our Macedonia, and help us.’

Cover photo: Jebbeh Konneh is heavily pregnant. She lives in Sierra Leone – the world’s most dangerous place to become a mum. Photographer: Tom Pilston