Pray with us

September 2020

Introduction
Welcome to the September prayer sheet, this is a temporary replacement for the August - November prayer diary which we were unable to produce due to reduced staff capacity and Corona virus restrictions.

Do forward or print and send to anyone you think would be glad to receive it to aid them in their prayers.

This month we highlight and urgent prayer request from colleagues in Brazil and a prayer for our sisters and brothers in Lebanon.

You may also find the monthly prayer e-mail a helpful resource which includes further points for prayer and any new worship or theology resources we create.

You can sign up for the prayer e-mail using the link available on the prayer diary page: christianaid.org.uk/pray/faith-resources/prayer-diary

Thank you for praying with us.

Reflection on prayer
‘Everybody prays whether he [sic] thinks of it as praying or not. The odd silence you fall into when something very beautiful is happening or something very good or bad...The stammer of pain at somebody else’s pain. The stammer of joy at somebody else’s joy.

Whatever words or sounds you use for sighing with over your own life. These are all prayers in their way. These are all spoken not just to yourself but to something even more familiar than yourself and even more strange than the world.’

Frederick Buechner, ‘Listening to your life,’ p211-212

Praise and thanksgiving
Give thanks for our new Church Engagement Fundraising Team that are beginning with us or returning from furlough this month.

Give thanks for the Season of Creation (1st September - 4th October), the annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home.

Give thanks for our Autumn Appeal and pray that it will enable a shared moment of community and connection with our global neighbours across the world.
Give thanks for the provision of essential goods for communities in Nigeria, such as those pictured above. Praise God for the generous response to our Coronavirus emergency appeal.

Lament and confession
Join with us in lament for the devastation caused by the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, on the 4th August.

Cry out to God with those who are making perilous journeys to reach safety and refuge and who are often met with hostility and rejection.

Bring before God the concerns of your heart for the injustice and racism exposed through the Black Lives Matter movement.

Allow your fears and grief about Corona virus be heard by Almighty God.

We take time to confess our known and unknown complicity in the injustice and inequality of our world. We do so grateful for the mercy of God.

Petition
Continue to pray for our partners in countries and communities affected by corona virus. Pray for provisions, resources and effectiveness to help prepare, protect and equip communities to respond.

Pray for the Autumn Appeal to be effective in helping to create a sense of community with coffee farmers who are struggling in Nicaragua. Pray that our worship and fundraising resources help communities here connect together and mobilising their efforts for Christian Aid. caid.org.uk/neighbours

Pray for our new report 'Build Back with Justice' to help raise awareness and influence policy about how we recover from the corona virus pandemic. Pray that any global recovery from Covid-19 is one that tackles inequalities, addresses the climate crisis and sets us on a path to a different future, one in which people and planet are protected and human flourishing is promoted.

Pray for the preparations for our biennial Churches Consultation in October to go well.

Prayer request from Brazil
Please pray for our former Brazil partner Movement of Landless People (MST in portuguese acronym) in Brazil and the 650 families of a community Christian Aid has worked with for more than 15 years who are now being violently evicted of their land at the peak of the COVID-19 crisis in the area.

The eviction is happening after a claim made by one of the biggest coffee exporters in the the world who is interested in expanding production in that area in agreement with Nestle and Mondelez.

This settlement is a very emblematic settlement in the fight for land rights in the country, so the Brazilian government are using disproportional violence to send a message to other communities.

This prayer request has been provided by our Senior Inequality & Economic Justice Advisor in Latin America and the Caribbean

A prayer for Lebanon
God, our refuge in times of trouble
we pray for our brothers and sisters in Beirut.

Lord, be with the emergency services as they battle to help the thousands injured.

Lord, hold those who have lost loved ones in the palm of your hand.

Lord, we pray your provision for poor and marginalised communities who face an even more uncertain future.

Lord, we pray for wisdom for leaders as they make difficult decisions.

Lord, open our hearts - may they be full of compassion for the suffering we see.

Stir us to action.

In the tragedy of loss,
we pray your comfort.

In the chaos and injury,
we pray your calm and divine healing.

In the devastation and the heartbreak,
we pray your peace.

We pray that in the despair that lies amid the rubble of the explosion
there will be glimmers of hope and life.

Amen.