



tearfund

Connect

Fall 2021

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Blessed to be a blessing

Dear friend,

Isn't it such a joy to know that our hope is in Christ? If I'm honest, this year has had many tough times. From COVID, to several international crises — India, Tigray, Afghanistan, and Haiti — to our own challenges here in Canada; a lot has happened! But despite how dark things may seem sometimes, we can be thankful and know that Christ is right beside us, and he is the one who holds the world.

Personally, I am thankful that last month some of our staff could finally meet in person — some for the first time! It was so encouraging. As we gathered, we talked about how “we have been blessed to be a blessing” (Gen 12:2, 2 Cor 1:4).

Isn't it so true? Although things here haven't been easy, it is far worse in other parts of the world. It is such a privilege to use the gifts God has given us to bless others.

I'm excited today because this is what this year's Tearfund Sunday is all about — an opportunity for our churches, my church and yours, to partner with the global church and bless others around the world. This year Tearfund Sunday is focused on Ethiopia, where there has been so much pain because of the recent conflict and drought.

Whatever you find yourself today, let me just encourage you. Your gifts, support, and prayers over the last 12-months have been so appreciated. We have been able to save more lives and help more families out of poverty than in many years. You are already a blessing to us and the people we serve. And we are so thankful for you and what God has done.

Blessings,



Wayne Johnson

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Earthquake in Haiti

YOU are saving lives and helping families rebuild.

On August 14th a massive 7.2 magnitude earthquake rocked southwestern Haiti. Only 3 days later—Tropical Depression Grace brought significant rains. Families were in need of dire help, and you responded.

To date, over 2,200 deaths have been reported and 12,260 injuries. Furthermore, an estimated 61,000 homes have been destroyed. With many Haitian families already living in extreme poverty, the earthquake was just another knockout blow. At least 650,000 people are in urgent need of emergency shelter, clean water and food.

But thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we are able to respond. Along with our trusted partner, World Renew, we are rapidly meeting the needs of families in two of the most affected locations – Nippes and Grand'Anse.

Your support is helping to distribute emergency food to 2,100 families. Although it isn't fancy (rice, beans and cooking oil) the rations contain enough nutrients to sustain families as they rebuild. Following Jesus where the need is greatest, food will go to families that are most vulnerable, including the elderly, pregnant mothers, children under 5, and people with disabilities. Your donations will also be used to help families rebuild; providing farmers with farming tools, training and seeds and going towards water projects.

None of this would be possible without the compassion and generosity of people like you. Stay tuned for ongoing updates. Thank you for all of your generous support!

To keep up-to-date on projects like this and others, please sign-up to our monthly email mailing lists, Lives Transformed, at tearfund.ca/your-impact



A woman in Haiti affected by the earthquake is receiving emergency food thanks to donors like you.





When the Rains Don't Come

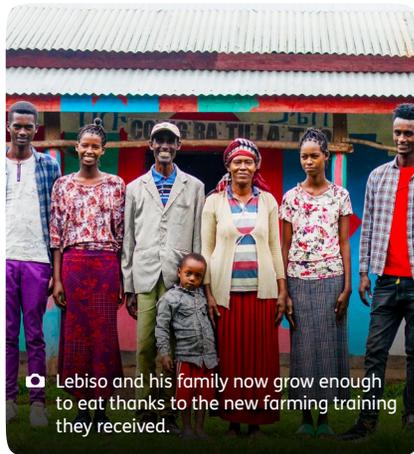
For farmers like Lebiso Labena, a changing climate has meant a fight for survival. But it isn't a fight that is hopeless. Learn how YOU are making a difference and helping farmers adapt.

Lebiso has been a farmer for the past 15 years. He lives in Hobicha, Ethiopia with his wife and 6 children. The landscape is picturesque—characterized by hilly terrain, large plains, valleys and gorges. But beneath the serene landscape, there is suffering. Families don't have enough to eat because of a changing climate.

“The climate has changed, and it has harmed us a lot and made farming difficult.” Lebiso tells us. “As the weather changes, it causes rainfall fluctuations and untimely rainfalls, which often destroys the crops.”

Like many families in the region, Lebiso relies on rain-fed farming for his livelihood and to feed his children. For many years, this was enough. Rains were predictable and steady. But now, things have changed. This year it didn't rain for 4 months. The usual way of farming doesn't work anymore.

“As a result we have a low harvest, and thus a lack of food, and income. We have suffered. My children have suffered as well.”



Lebiso and his family now grow enough to eat thanks to the new farming training they received.

Thankfully, his story didn't end here.

Through your giving, you are helping farmers adapt. Last year, through the local church, donors like you helped Lebiso become trained in a new way of farming — conservation agriculture — where he learned how to replenish the nutrients of his soil and manage the rains better. He learned how to prevent soil erosion and store water for dry times.

Through these simple farming methods, Lebiso was able to increase his harvest by 71%!

“Before, even though we put in all the effort, it did not yield results or big harvests. After the church taught us about soil development, I started harvesting much more! We have even been able to sell some in the market.”

“I have many plans for the future. Things happen according to God's will and I am implementing the new farming practice across my farmland [...] That way, I can increase my income, and cover the school fees for my children.”

Thank you so much for your ongoing support! It has helped Lebiso not only grow enough to eat, but pay for his children's school fees!

As a result we have a low harvest, and thus a lack of food, and income. We have suffered. My children have suffered as well.

Lebiso





The Difference You make through Tearfund Sunday!

Last year, churches like yours helped families in the Democratic Republic of Congo break free from poverty.

We believe that God's people are a force for change! That's why we're so excited for this year's Tearfund Sunday on October 17th, where churches across the country will commit to helping families living in extreme poverty around the world.

Last year, churches across Canada rallied together to support families living in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – one of the poorest countries in the world. COVID and associated lockdowns meant that farmers were not able to travel to the market in order to sell their crops and generate income. Facing widespread hunger entire villages were becoming desperate.

But thanks to the amazing support from so many congregations and individuals like you, we were able to partner with Baptist churches in the Congo to help over 1,000 families find new innovative ways to continue to sell their goods despite the lockdowns. Money from Tearfund Sunday helped set-up new shops and introduced farmers to new crops — like onion, garlic, and potatoes — that could be stored for longer and sold over time. Because of support from donors like you, families avoided hunger and sliding further into extreme poverty!

This year, Tearfund Sunday focuses on Southern Ethiopia, where the ongoing pandemic collided with a recent drought leaving thousands of families desperately hungry. **That's where your church can help.**

The food your congregation provides will be distributed to all families in need: both inside and outside the church. **When we preach a holistic Gospel – one that focuses on word AND deed – lives are transformed.**



Ask your pastor if your church is participating in *Tearfund Sunday* this year!

To learn more and sign up at: tearfund.ca/tearfundSunday2021 or call 613-371-6246



- One of those farmers helped was Kavunga. Kavunga is now trained in innovative agricultural methods and has been growing new crops to help feed her family of five. Her family is no longer going hungry and she is now hopeful for the future.





Praying for the world

Prayer is a wonderful gift from God. We could not do the work we do without your prayers and God's intervention. If you wish to pray for our ministry and for the poor around the world you can sign-up to receive monthly prayer points by visiting www.tearfund.ca/pray

- Pray for the people of Tanzania who are still living in extreme poverty. Approximately 49% of the population lives on less than \$2 per day.
- Pray for vulnerable people who have been impacted by a drought that has stretched across Ethiopia. Pray that the local churches will continue to reach those outside of their walls.
- Pray for the many churches across Canada who are holding a Tearfund Sunday service on October 17th. Pray for pastors and leaders who are planning sermons on the role of the church in ending poverty.
- Pray for Tearfund Canada's new creation care program, for All of Creation – which aims to help farmers like Lebiso's adapt to a changing climate. Pray that we will be able to help these farmers adapt to changing rains and drought conditions so that they can grow more food and feed their families.
- Tearfund Canada is coming to the end of its 3-year strategic plan. Please pray for our leaders as they start meeting in November to plan for the next 3 years. Pray that God would grant them wisdom during this time.

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