

tearfund
CANADA

CONNECT

Spring 2019

A GOD WHO RESTORES

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Following Jesus where the need is greatest



RESTORED RELATIONSHIPS

Recently, we had a casserole dish fall at our house and it broke into a thousand pieces! What a chore it was picking up all those little shards of glass. There was no way we would be able to put it back together again! So, we swept up the mess and threw it out with the trash. Thankfully, our God is all about rebuilding and restoring!

In this world, we exist with the reality of our brokenness. Jesus came as the way for these broken lives to be rebuilt. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread and said about himself, "this is my body which is given for you" (Luke 22:19). His death made it possible for broken people to have their relationship with God be restored.

With Jesus it is possible to be whole! Real wholeness begins with right relationship with God and a proper concept of self. It flows to seeing others as God sees them and living in harmony with all of His creation. "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun" (2 Cor. 5:17).

We believe that everyone should have a chance at restoration – to thrive, not merely survive. We are so thankful for your willingness to answer God's call to restore relationships with Him, with others and His creation. Thank you for believing in a God who restores!



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THE LOCAL CHURCH CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

In December 2018, you helped us expand an exciting program called Church-Based Community Transformation (CCT). This unique Tearfund initiative empowers and equips local African and Asian churches to work alongside their communities to address the problems of poverty and help people thrive – economically, spiritually and socially.

As Christians, we believe that God has called His church to continue His mission of restoration.

Funded entirely by individual donors, CCT is a way you can join in this mission by providing the poor with the economic, spiritual and social support they need to escape poverty for good.

CCT is life-changing, holistic, and Biblical. We are excited to share with you how God has already begun using your support to lift people out of poverty, empower them, and build relationships. **See next page...**

THE THREE STAGES OF CHURCH-BASED COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

STAGE 1 AWAKENING THE CHURCH

Churches are trained and understand their biblical mandate for holistic restoration - to care for the physical, spiritual and social needs of all God's people and creation. They mobilize their members and resources for holistic ministry.

STAGE 2 CHURCH MOBILIZING WITH COMMUNITY

Churches work with their community - acting as a leader - to help people escape poverty in all its forms. Communities are mentored in relevant topics, such as prayer, group formation, empowerment, conservation agriculture, gardening, savings and loans and other subjects. Churches and communities understand their situation and have the motivation and options to transform it positively.

STAGE 3 CHURCH & COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Churches are mobilized to serve their families and communities holistically. People find economic, spiritual, and social restoration.

A LAND WITH NO HOME

Before the local church stepped in, Ukume Boltana's life looked bleak. After her husband died, his family cast her out with no inheritance, so she didn't have a mere penny to her name. With unpredictable work, she struggled to feed and provide for her son for nearly two decades. Even paying the 50 birr (\$2.30) rent for a one room house was difficult.

The only asset she owned was a 6 x 20 metre plot of land she had bought many years ago. She had never thought to construct a house on it. It seemed utterly impossible.

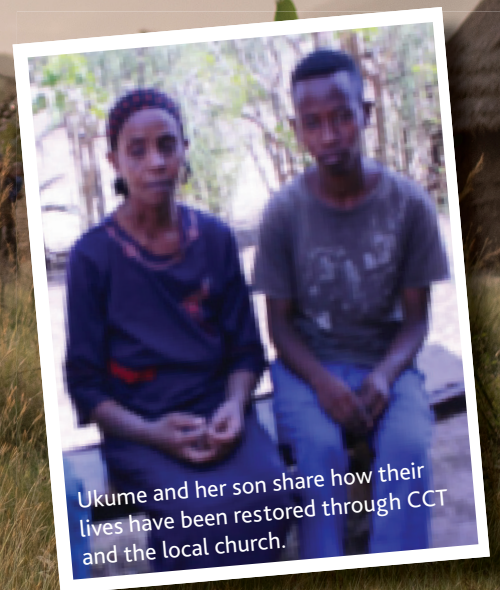
But through a donor-supported Tearfund CCT initiative called the *Nehemiah project*, a local church was awakened and visited this poor women living in the community. In response to the Biblical mandate to care for widows and orphans (James 1:27), they saw Ukume's living condition and supported her with grain, edible oil, and cash. Moreover, they promised to help build her a house on the land she owned.

"While I'm not a member of their church, they came to help my problem," said Ukume. "I am now able to continue supporting my son and there is a possibility he might join a university preparatory class in the next year. I now have good relationships with many of the people at the church. I am not now a broke person, rather I am a woman with an abundance of hope. Thanks to God and what He is doing through Tearfund and the Abela Faracho Kale Hewet Church."

Our God is a God of restoration and He is truly using your donations to restore lives. Thank you for your incredible support of this project. 100% of CCT work is supported by individuals like you.

To learn how you can support Church-based Community Transformation visit: tearfund.ca/cct18

"I AM NOT NOW A BROKE PERSON, RATHER I AM A WOMAN WITH ABUNDANCE OF HOPE."



Ukume and her son share how their lives have been restored through CCT and the local church.

THE BUSINESS of RESTORATION



Tearfund donors Mark and Tammy wrap up their Discovery Trip in Kenya where they witnessed first hand how VSL groups are being used to lift people out of poverty.

Mark and Tammy Young, from Perth Ontario, felt drawn to help out in global missions for many years. They recognized that God called them to go out into the world (Mark 16:15) to show love for their neighbours (Mark 12:31) and defend the rights of the poor and needy (Proverbs 31:8-9). As they waited for the right opportunity, they faithfully prayed, served locally and gave what they could until God provided them with an opportunity.

This February they felt God calling them to go on a Tearfund 'Discovery Trip' to Kenya where they would be working with Fadhili Trust – using their years of experience to work alongside staff to provide administrative support and training.

Fadhili is a small organization in Nairobi that facilitates Village Savings and Loan (VSL) groups in

rural villages. These groups help 20-30 people (mostly women) save small amounts, which can be used to start new businesses or help when times are tough. They are a proven method for helping people lift themselves out of poverty.

Upon arrival, Mark and Tammy immediately realized they were in a different world. *"One big difference we noticed was the value of relationships. In Canada, we tend to be very goal-oriented. When starting a meeting, it is common to jump right into business. In Kenya, however, personal relationships are very important, so before getting down to business they have to connect on a personal level."*

They soon began to see first hand the incredible difference the church and VSL groups are having in people's lives.

"Loans from the VSL groups enabled people [living in poverty] to launch their own businesses. A common starting point is a few chickens. The lady below and her husband started with chickens, expanded to imported diary cattle, added mango trees and now employ two helpers. They are currently searching for better markets for their products!"

Tearfund is committed to empowering the poor and equipping them so that they can experience full-life transformation. To read more stories, visit their blog: twopilgrimsontheway.home.blog

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU COULD JOIN A DISCOVERY TRIP, PLEASE EMAIL OUR CHURCH RELATIONS DIRECTOR, DON, AT: DMILLER@TEARFUND.CA



VSL has helped this woman become a flourishing entrepreneur; she is now looking for new markets to sell her goods.



Worshipping God across the world: Mark and Tammy visit a lively Kenyan Sunday Service.

Volunteer as a Tearfund Speaker

Do you enjoy sharing with others what God is doing to transform lives? Do you have a knack for public speaking and love engaging with an audience? Why not become a Tearfund Volunteer Speaker?

We are looking for people across Canada who are passionate about sharing Tearfund's vision of working with churches in Africa and Asia to transform their communities and the lives of the poor.

To learn more or express your interest please email Andrea at: Asherk@tearfund.ca

New Website!

We have improved our website for you! Learn more about who we are, what we do, and the impact of your donations at: Tearfund.ca

Going Digital

The more money we save; the more people we can help. Shifting from print to digital helps us reduce admin and overhead costs. Help us in two specific ways:

- 1. Email Sign-up:** By signing-up for Tearfund emails, you will be receiving powerful stories of how God is working in the world, how your donation is making a difference, and other updates.

To sign-up for emails please visit: tearfund.ca/#newsletter-sign-up
- 2. Online Donations:** Donating online is safe, fast, and easy. To set-up monthly automatic payments, or give a one-time donation, please visit: tearfund.ca/donate/

WE'D LIKE TO PRAY FOR YOU.

We are incredibly blessed to have so many people who have supported us over the years with their finances, time, and prayers. Without your support, we simply would not be able to help the poor transform their lives in the same way.

As Tearfund staff, we have set-aside time in April specifically to pray for those who have supported us over the years. All your requests and information will be treated as 100% confidential and never leave the Tearfund office. We are excited to take your petitions and concerns to God, and see what He will accomplish.

**EMAIL YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS TO:
PRAY@TEARFUND.CA**

**PHONE YOUR REQUESTS TO:
1-800-567-8190**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:6-7



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