



## Join us in Prayer

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](http://www.tearfund.ca/pray). As a member of our prayer family, you will get monthly requests from us, and will have our team committed to praying for you too.

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# Connect

Spring 2022

## How Tearfund is using you and the local church to change lives

Ukraine  
update

(page 3)

Wayne's Letter:  
*God's Great Plan*

(page 2)




Feature Story:  
*Inspiring Confidence*

(pages 4-5)

Striving for  
*Sustainability*

(page 6)

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# God's Great Plan

Do you believe that God is still on the throne?

If you're like me, we quickly forget. Watching the news over the past few weeks has been hard. The violence, the suffering of innocent lives, the disruption of supply chains which will lead to hunger in many of the countries we work. It's so easy to forget that in the midst of a messy world, God is still on the throne. He was yesterday and he will be tomorrow too.

We live in a messy, broken world. One which we don't always understand. But God is above it all and we can rely on him. Moreover, for some reason, he has chosen us to walk along with him in his redemptive plan! With God, we can actually be agents of hope and light—what an amazing thought!

As you read through this issue of Tearfund Connect, we hope that you can see beyond some of the headlines. To see how God is working and restoring lives—not with a bang but with a small whisper. And how you're playing an integral part in it.

## If God is for us, who can be against us?

Thank you for your ongoing gifts and support.

God Bless,



*Wayne*

**Wayne Johnson**

Executive Director  
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416-707-9066



War in Ukraine

## Welcoming the Sojourner

*How you're providing emergency aid and love through the local church.*

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## Inspiring Confidence

# How You're Helping Farmers Go from Deficit to Surplus

Do you remember your first paycheck? Perhaps it was as a teenager selling papers. Or your first “real” job after leaving college. There’s a special feeling that comes along with it, isn’t there? A sense of accomplishment. Not one of pride, but confidence.

As Yona examines his freshly harvested millet, he can’t help but share with us his dreams, “Soon, in the future, I will be able to sell food.”

To you and I, we might not realize how significant this moment is in Yona’s life. But this thought, even having the possibility of having enough crop to actually sell... It’s incredible to Yona.

A father of six, Yona has lived in the Dodoma region of Tanzania his entire life. The biggest problem in the region is drought. It is a semi-arid region which gets very little rainfall. In the dry season, dust storms kick up and sting the eyes. And over the last little while, things have only begun to get worse.

Yona explains that 20 years ago, there were thick forests here and that there was enough rainfall. But because of poverty, the trees have been cut for charcoal. The land has become barren. And the rain isn’t as consistent as before. To survive the long hunger season, Yona and his family resorted to foraging for wild roots and fruits.

But it isn’t enough and lacks the necessary proteins and nutrients for growing children.

But then “the church has brought us together,” Yona says. “I used to carry out traditional agriculture, but then I got training on conservation agriculture. I listened to everything that was taught, and have been able to harvest a lot.”

Thanks to donors like you, local churches in Tanzania have been equipped to go beyond their walls and meet the physical and spiritual needs of people around them. One of the key tools they use is conservation agriculture—a series of simple, environmentally friendly farming practices that improve yields while restoring the soil.

Last year Yona harvested nine bags of millet on one acre of land. He proudly shows us his many grain silos he built in his home. Millet is a favoured crop due to its productivity and ability to grow in dry conditions. It’s rich in protein, fibre and several B vitamins. Now his family has enough to eat and praises God.

Yona is excited to share what he’s learned with others.

**‘If I can teach maybe ten others, and those ten can also teach others—then many can learn about conservation agriculture and have enough to eat too!’**

Yona Isaka





# Striving for **SUSTAINABILITY**

*How you're helping achieve long-term impact through Tearfund*

As farming conditions continue to change, farmers are forced to adapt. Through Tearfund, you're helping farming families adapt to the new realities of a changing climate so that they can continue to feed their families and climb out of poverty.

**How you're helping farmers become resilient and climb out of poverty:**



### **Mindset change**

Helping communities see the assets they have and equipping them to understand that change is possible is the first step to long-term transformation.



### **Water Accessibility**

Erratic rains have made access to water unpredictable. Reservoir digging, irrigation channels, and terraced hills allows farmers to access water year-round.



### **Re-introducing Indigenous Crops**

Local crops are better at growing in harsh conditions and often more nutritious than introduced varieties from Europe or North America.



### **Replanting Forests**

Deforestation due to charcoal burning and farming has left the landscape desolate and susceptible to erosion. Replanting forests holds soil in place and provides a cooling effect for neighbouring villages.



### **Restoring the Soil**

Years of overtiling and erosion have left many fields devoid of nutrients. Through no-till planting, mulch, natural fertilizer, and intercropping farmers are able to replenish the soil once again leading to thriving crops



## Travel with **TEARFUND**



With COVID restrictions lifting we're excited to start planning our **Discovery Trips** again! Held over the course of 8 to 10 days, Discovery Trips are a one-in-a-life-time opportunity to see how God is using your gifts and his local church to transform the lives of people around the world.

We have upcoming trips to <country> and <country>. If interested, or want more information, please reach out to [connect@tearfund.ca](mailto:connect@tearfund.ca)



## Invite Tearfund to **YOUR CHURCH**



We can't wait to be with you and share with your church the exciting ways God is working in the lives of the poor. Whether it is a Sunday morning or during the week for a special gathering, our speakers are ready to speak on a number of different topics including: **holistic mission, poverty alleviation, creation care, and more.**

To invite a speaker to you church email **Don Miller** at: [dmiller@tearfund.ca](mailto:dmiller@tearfund.ca) or call **(613) 371-6246**