



tearfund

CONNECT

FALL 2019

A GOD WHO
EQUIPS

Following Jesus where the need is greatest

LIFE RESTORATION

This July I was with a group of Ethiopian farmers who had come to church. They came to learn how they could farm more effectively under challenging weather conditions. As our local church partner facilitated the training, the farmers were sitting on the edge of their benches, eagerly listening with anticipation.

The farmers remember a time when the rains used to be gentle and predictable. When they were able to grow enough to feed their families. But now violent unpredictable rains, soil erosion, and shrinking land size has led to frustration and hunger.

With this reality, many farmers have increasingly relied on government handouts – becoming trapped in a system of dependency and uncertainty. Families are barely able to scrape by and only hope for a better future.

But, these farmers want to work. They want to use the skills and abilities God has equipped them with to provide for their families.

That is why they are so eager to hear how they can implement conservation agriculture practices. How to apply them to their small farms to increase yields and provide them with enough food for the whole year, with surplus to sell.

We believe that God has equipped every person with skills and resources that He wants them to use and bless others with. Our vision is to foster these skills and resources so that people can lift themselves out of poverty and give God glory.

What skills and resources has God equipped you with?



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'e'.

Wayne Johnson
Executive Director
wjohnson@tearfund.ca
416-707-9066

TINY SAVINGS, ENORMOUS IMPACT

Across Africa and Asia, **savings and loan groups** are dramatically changing the lives of people living in poverty – equipping them to grow their own wealth and escape poverty permanently. Savings Groups are:



1. EMPOWERING

These groups do not receive any outside funds. Instead, members of each group contribute their own earnings each week to build equity. They decide their bi-laws, and run their own operations.

2. SELF-SUSTAINING

Use of own finances, mutual accountability and support encourages members to continue with the program for the long-term. It is common to come across groups that have existed for more than 10 years.

3. IMMENSE IMPACT

It only costs \$36 (on average) to train one group member. As a part of the group, members save enough to buy food and necessities, take loans to start new businesses, and even send their children to college.

Savings and Loan groups provide the poor with simple financial services that we often take for granted.

When at least 8 groups are in a community, they can form a cluster - which is responsible for starting new groups and community transformation. Collectively, these groups have started new schools, sponsored orphans, and purchased land.



"The biggest changes we felt were around dignity and humanity. We were the poorest people in the community, always looked down upon. But together we can save enough to lift ourselves out of poverty. In our community, you won't find any beggars. That is because of the groups."
– Mamitu, Ethiopia



ADVOCATING *for change*

Have you ever tried to grow something in sandy soil? It doesn't work very well. Dependent on agriculture for his livelihood, Paluku knows the struggles of farming on poor soil.

Because of his poor soil, Paluku, his wife, and six growing children didn't have enough to eat. Looking to better support them, he left at the chance to join the local church's training on conservation agriculture and savings groups (VSL). Little did he know that he would also be equipped by God to spread His mission of restoration in his community.

PALUKU'S AGRICULTURE TRAINING AND MEMBERSHIP IN HIS CHURCH'S VSL GROUP ALLOWED HIM TO PAY FOR HIS CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FEES ON TIME AND EXPAND HIS FARM.

As an ambassador for VSLs, God equipped Paluku to be a voice in his community as he teaches others the benefits of being a member. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Paluku has worked with his neighbours to start 6 VSL groups!

As a testimony of the Lord's goodness and provision in his own life, Paluku loves hearing success stories of his community members, and desires to see his community enabled to lift themselves out of poverty, like he has done through God's faithfulness.

We believe that God equips those he calls! As He works for restoration, He invites us, and people like Paluku into His global mission. Thank you for your incredible support to these programs - you are partnering with the Holy Spirit in equipping leaders like Paluku to continue transforming many lives in their communities.



Conservation Agriculture transformed the lives of Paluku and his family. He now invites others in his village to implement CA techniques and tells of God's goodness.



GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISIONS

The Bible is filled with countless examples of God doing the impossible. He intentionally chooses to use what we consider meager and multiplies it to achieve His will.

We're excited again to offer Tearfund's World Relief Sunday this year to churches across Canada. The theme this year is *Less is More* which emphasizes how small amounts can be used by God to transform lives. World Relief Sunday provides Canadian churches with amazing stories of real impact and the opportunity to think about what it means to "love thy neighbour" in the furthest parts of the world.

Last year, God used Tearfund's World Relief Sunday in truly remarkable ways to help over 420,000 people take their first steps out of poverty. People like Fatu Kabiaa, whose husband died from Ebola. "We are

so far off the main road, that no one ever came to help us. We were very surprised when Tearfund came. They showed us love. The local church helped us grow more food. Now we can buy double the rice I ever had before. I no longer have to beg my neighbours to ensure my children's school fees are paid."

CHURCHES ARE CRITICAL TO WHAT WE DO, AND ARE GOD'S CHOSEN MEANS OF FULFILLING HIS RESTORATION MISSION.

Christ came to give us life in its fullness (John 10:10), and time and time again we have seen God fulfill this promise.



Despite her sorrow, Fatu dances when she thinks of the love she has received.

Is your church hosting a World Relief Sunday? Talk to your pastor or church elder to find out.

LESS IS MORE

Something small can be mighty in God's hands



tearfund

WORLD RELIEF
Sunday

Announcements

Job Opportunities at Tearfund

Encouraged by the way the Holy Spirit is working in lives across the world? Consider using your skills and abilities to join into what God is doing as He builds His Kingdom. We are currently hiring for a Director of Finance and a Graphic Designer.

Learn more at
tearfund.ca/join-the-team/

The Peoples Church Hymnfest @ Tyndale

Do you love Hymns? Join The Peoples Church's Lifespring 55 group for a night of worship and singing led by amazing singers and an orchestra. Held on September 14 at 6:30 pm. at Tyndale.

To buy tickets visit:
hymnfest2019.eventbrite.ca

GIVING THANKS

We emphasize prayer at Tearfund a lot. It is at the foundation of what we do, and we know that our Father loves it when we come to Him with our praise and requests.

As humans, we are good at asking God for things. And He wants us to ask. But we should never forget to give thanks for all that He has done. As we enter into a season of thanksgiving, please help us give thanks to God for all His blessings!

THANK GOD FOR:

- *Hearing the cries of the afflicted and listening to their prayers*
- *Being merciful to us and all people in the world*
- *Caring about the poor throughout the world*
- *Providing for Tearfund through another year and sustaining our work*
- *Giving us wisdom to know where "the need is greatest"*
- *Providing us wonderful church partners*
- *All the supporters who faithfully donate their money, time and talents*



JOIN OUR PRAYER FAMILY

If you wish to be a member of our prayer family, please email pray@tearfund.ca or call 1-800-567-8190. 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.

tearfund

PHOTO CREDITS: Cover, pg 2, 4, 5, 6: Matthew Schroeder,

tearfund.ca

PO Box 3220 Industrial Park,
Markham, ON L3R 9Z9, Canada

1-800-568-8190 | connect@tearfund.ca