

# Beyond Church Walls

The parable of the good Samaritan shows us that loving our neighbour isn't just confined to those inside the church but to all. Something that Yinzau church in Makindu, Kenya, has put into practice! When they heard of Mercy's story, they sprang into action—standing with her in the darkest times.

All around the world, God has called his church to be salt and light to the communities around them. Join us this morning as we explore what it means to love our neighbour and go beyond church walls!

**Scripture Passage:** [Luke 10:25 – 37](#)

**Sermon Notes:**

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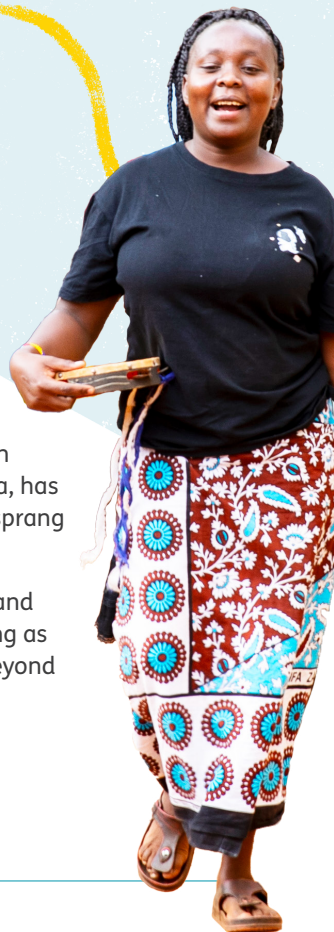
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## Mercy's Journey

Mercy's life is a powerful testament to God's unyielding love and grace. After losing her father at a young age, Mercy's mother worked tirelessly to provide for her and her siblings. Mercy poured herself into her studies and excelled academically as she aspired to become a teacher and provide her family with a better life.

However, tragedy struck when her mother became sick and passed away, leaving her as the sole provider for her many younger siblings and cousins.

In the face of overwhelming challenges, one local church stepped in—empowered and equipped by Church-Based Transformation training by Tearfund. The congregation rallied around Mercy, providing her with food and assistance. With the church's help, Mercy restarted her mother's grocery business to provide for her family. Despite overwhelming odds, Mercy still has hope for the future, praying for guidance and strength as she hopes to be a teacher one day.

**‘Despite the challenges, the key thing that keeps me going is prayer and encouragement from the church... If I get the opportunity, I hope to go back for the training and become a teacher so I can educate others for a better future.’**

At Tearfund, we believe the church is the local catalyst for change and the best way to bring opportunity and hope to a community. Through our proven Church-based Community Transformation process, we equip and empower local churches to go beyond their walls and help families out of physical and spiritual poverty.





# The church is the catalyst for change!

Our vision is to see people like Mercy freed from poverty, living transformed lives, and reaching their God-given potential. At the core of our work is a unique approach called Church-Based Community Transformation.

- We start by coming alongside pastors and churches to study what the Bible says about helping the poor and ministering to the whole person.
- Churches are equipped with practical tools and training to lead transformation in their communities.
- Action groups are formed, and ministries are started. The church goes beyond its walls, meeting the physical and spiritual needs of its community.



**\$1 invested into  
CCT creates a  
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through improved  
well-being!**

## Examples of church action:

- Demonstrating and facilitating agricultural training
- Establishing saving groups
- Raising support to help widows and orphans
- Rallying around those experiencing calamity
- Providing Biblical counselling to survivors of sexual violence
- Acting as a hub for emergency response in times of disaster
- Advocating for justice and changes to unjust laws
- Demonstrating care for creation
- Bringing the hope of Jesus in word and deed

The result? **Communities radically transformed, families lifted out of poverty, and God glorified.**



# Pray for people like Mercy

Prayer is at the core of what we do. We honestly couldn't do what we do without it. Use the points below to pray for people like Mercy and those living in poverty. Keep it on your fridge, in your Bible, or somewhere you will remember to pray.

1. Thank God for his faithfulness and grace in Mercy's life and in our own.
2. Pray that Mercy would continue to hold fast to God's love and that she and her family can continue their journey out of poverty.
3. Pray for her younger siblings and cousins that they could go to school.
4. Pray that the Holy Spirit would stir in the hearts of all believers and that we would embody the love and compassion displayed in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
5. Pray that churches worldwide would be empowered to bring Good News to the poor. Pray that they would meet people's spiritual and physical needs.
6. Pray for good growing conditions for farmers. Ask God to send rain where it is needed and withhold it where it is too much.
7. Pray for all the marginalized and downtrodden. That they would be comforted by God and that His church would reach out to them in love.
8. Pray for all the women and girls treated as second-class citizens in their homes or societies. Pray that they would be valued as Image-bearers of God and be equipped and empowered.
9. Please pray for Godly and wise governments and officials. Pray that God would eliminate corruption in the countries we work and that justice would be implemented.
10. Pray for Tearfund and our work as we follow Jesus where the need is greatest. Pray that God would give us wisdom and resources.



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