

Becoming People of Hope Today

LENT 2020
Daily Prayers



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Wednesday 26 February

(Ash Wednesday)

God, show us how to plant
the seeds that one day
will grow.

To water seeds already
planted, knowing that they
hold future promise.

To lay foundations that will
need further development.

To provide yeast that
produces far beyond our
capabilities.

We cannot do everything,
and our work may be

incomplete, but it is a
beginning, a step along
the way,

An opportunity for Your
grace to enter and do
the rest.

Remind us that we are
workers, not master
builders; ministers,
not messiahs.

We are prophets of a
future not our own.

– Adapted here, originally
shared by Archbishop Romero
of El Salvador

Week 1: 26 February – 3 March

Thursday 27 February

Pray for the TEAR Board to have wisdom as it develops strategy and policy in 2020 to help TEAR deliver its mission and vision.

Friday 28 February

Pray for our partner Serve Afghanistan, as they transition to a new Executive Director. Pray for the outgoing and incoming leaders, and that Serve's ministry to the nation will grow and strengthen.

Saturday 29 February

Please pray for protection from coronavirus for all of our partners and their communities, especially those in Asia. People living in poverty face increased vulnerability with lack of access to prevention and treatment. Pray that the church would be a peaceful presence in times of fear and uncertainty.

Sunday 1 March

Pray that the gaps in life expectancy, health, education, employment and incarceration rates experienced by Australia's First Peoples will be closed.

Monday 2 March

This week staff from our African partners will gather for workshops in Kenya. Thank God for this significant time, and pray that it will be constructive and encouraging for all involved. Pray for new ideas to grow as each of these partners seek to serve their communities and address various challenges.

Tuesday 3 March

World Concern Laos has developed a proposal for a new project supporting ethnic women in Savannakhet, near the border of Thailand. Pray that funding can be secured, and that through this project many marginalised women will enjoy new opportunities.

The background of the page is a vibrant, abstract artwork. It features a mix of bold colors including green, blue, pink, brown, and black. The patterns are organic and flowing, with some areas containing small, repeating motifs like dots and swirls. The overall style is reminiscent of modern folk art or a contemporary textile design.

Wednesday 4 March

Dear Heavenly Father,
thank you for the
opportunity to serve you
and others who are in the
most vulnerable positions.
Despite the realities
surrounding us being
bitter, help us to continue
working towards our
eternal benefits. Continue

to lead and guide us for
the expansion of your
kingdom. Help us to bring
comfort and hope and
show your everlasting love
to those defeated in spirit.
Thank you because we
believe you hear us when
we ask you. Amen

– **Enelesi Chipandwe**
Reformed Open Community
Schools, Zambia

Week 2: 4 – 10 March

Thursday 5 March

Our partner ROCS (Reformed Open Community Schools) in Zambia is expanding their work into new schools and communities. Pray for strong relationships and shared understanding to grow. Pray also for communities that have had to wrap up projects due to budget constraints.

Friday 6 March

95% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia are impacted by suicide in their community. Life expectancy for First Peoples is significantly lower than non-Indigenous Australians. Please pray for our Indigenous brothers and sisters as they grieve the many deaths in their communities.

Saturday 7 March

Pray for all of our partners as they interact with government and community leaders. Pray for wisdom and favour for the administrative and legislative processes that impact our partners' activity in their local communities.

Sunday 8 March

Drug addiction is having a huge impact in Mai district in Phongsaly province, Laos. In some villages, there are addicts in 80% of families. Pray for our partner World Renew Laos as they work within these communities – pray for safety and wisdom, and that their work of hope, restoration and compassion can reach the most vulnerable.

Monday 9 March

Pray for TEAR's fundraising efforts – that we may have enough financial resources to fund our partners' work, and offer Australian Christians meaningful opportunities to respond in generosity and partnership.

Tuesday 10 March

Pray for the spiritual growth of the staff of all of our partners; that they would be refreshed in their vision and energy for the work that God has called them to.



Wednesday 11 March

Father, I look to the future with hope. I believe your promise that things are being restored and that one day that work will be complete. Therefore, I come with a perspective of hope, and I'm on the lookout for your Spirit at work. I'm ready to join in with what you're doing and find the joy of playing my little part in it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

– **Craig Petty**

Stairway Church, Melbourne

Week 3: 11 – 17 March

Thursday 12 March

Christian NGOs in Nepal often face opposition from Hindu fundamentalist groups. Pray for positive relationships between our Christian partners, local churches, and the government in Nepal.

Friday 13 March

Our partners are longing for lasting peace and security for South Sudan. Pray that in the midst of uncertainty, our partners would be a steady presence of hope, healing and help. Pray for wisdom and unity among the nation's leaders.

Saturday 14 March

Pray for the Indigenous organisations, including TEAR's partner Strong Women Talking, who are working to help their communities understand and work through grief, trauma and loss.

Sunday 15 March

Many of TEAR's staff travel during March to visit partners – pray that these visits would be mutually encouraging and fruitful, and that staff would stay safe and healthy. Pray especially for wisdom for TEAR staff as we work in Hard Places.

Monday 16 March

In Somalia, our partner Medair is reaching people who face extremely difficult challenges, including ongoing conflict and famine. Pray for safety and encouragement for Medair's staff and volunteers, and for continued growth of health and nutrition projects.

Tuesday 17 March

Different regions of Zambia are experiencing floods and drought. Pray for farming families who are impacted by inconsistent and extreme weather – for resilience, stable livelihoods and hope for the future.

The background of the page is an abstract artwork. It features a dark blue/black upper section with several small, white, crescent-shaped motifs. Below this, there are large, bold areas of orange, red, and purple. A prominent white, jagged, flame-like shape is on the left. On the right, there's a large, stylized, light purple shape with dark purple outlines, resembling a leaf or a piece of fabric. The overall style is modern and expressive, with thick brushstrokes and sharp geometric lines.

Wednesday 18 March

Heavenly Father, God of creation, and liberator of the enslaved: We groan for ourselves and for others in our bondage to sin and to decay. We groan with our fellow creatures as they suffer under our folly and ignorance. Come Lord Jesus to liberate us all. While we wait, keep us from being idle. Inspire and energise us by your Spirit to work for the kingdom, bringing peace and liberation for your groaning creation. In Christ's name, Amen.

– **Mick Pope**

Author and academic, Monash University Melbourne

Week 4: 18 – 24 March

Thursday 19 March

Pray that a Christ-centred and transformative understanding of reconciliation would be shared among Australians. Pray that Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations, churches and Christian leaders would work with God to change people's minds and hearts.

Friday 20 March

Pray for our partner Hagar in Afghanistan, that Hagar's staff will embrace values of respect, integrity and compassion and that cultural barriers would be broken down. Pray that the bonds of peace would pervade a difficult history.

Saturday 21 March

Pray for TEAR's work with the Australian Government – that we would have discernment as we seek to speak truth to power in ways that reflect biblical values for justice.

Sunday 22 March

Pray for World Renew (WR) Laos, as the plan to launch a new project in a remote area of Laos in July 2020. Pray for a collaborative process between WR, the community and government officials, and that necessary approvals would be granted at the right time.

Monday 23 March

Please pray for the success and impact of TEAR's Rubbish campaign. Together with our Renew our World partners we will be presenting more than 40,000 petitions to the world's four biggest plastic polluters at their AGMs in March and April.

Tuesday 24 March

Pray for our partner Yasera, as they implement a Family Strengthening project in remote villages in Papua, and improve access to safe water in Bali. Pray for the formation of strong networks with local churches, and for good outcomes from local fundraising efforts.



Wednesday 25 March

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the freedom that we have in you! Thank you that your constant invitation is to live deeply in the fullness of that freedom. We pray that you would move us beyond an isolated experience of freedom limited to our individual selves. May we realise our identity and inheritance as children of God. Open our eyes to see where your world needs to be set free, and empower us to be conduits of that freedom in Jesus' name. Amen.

– Jo Herbert-James
Tearfund UK

Week 5: 25 – 31 March

Thursday 26 March

Some of our partners in Nepal are phasing out projects that focused on recovery after the earthquakes in 2015. Praise God for our partners who have been faithfully present with communities through this time, and pray that the impact of the work would continue long after the projects conclude.

Friday 27 March

Our partners in Ethiopia are living in the space between optimism and concern about the future of the country. Please pray for our partners who are helping the victims of inter-communal struggles, and who are working to address the needs of the poor and marginalised regardless of their ethnicity.

Saturday 28 March

Pray for the safety and health of all our partners' staff, who travel regularly to visit projects and communities. Pray that God would protect and encourage them when they face risk, isolation or lack of engagement from communities.

Sunday 29 March

Pray for TEAR's recruitment processes – that God will lead the right staff and volunteers to vacancies at TEAR.

Monday 30 March

Pray that OpMercy, one of our partners in Afghanistan, would be able to grow their team to support their reach into the local community. Pray especially for men, couples and families to join the team.

Tuesday 31 March

Pray for the Australian church to respond to our calling to care for creation. Pray for our world that is groaning; for those families, wildlife and communities impacted by recent fires and for the large area still experiencing crippling drought.



Wednesday 1 April

Jesus, thank you that you show us the way to peace and unity. Thank you for your Spirit at work, transforming people from the inside out, to be bearers of your peace in a world of division. We pray for Cambodia's leaders – in communities, the church and the government – that you would pour out wisdom, sensitivity to hear and respond to the needs of people, and that this nation would be led into peace and prosperity. May your Kingdom come. Amen.

– **Som Chanmony**

Peace Bridges Organisation,
Cambodia

Week 6: 1 – 7 April

Thursday 2 April

Pray for TEAR's First Peoples partners, especially those who are using seed grants to kickstart ideas and small projects. Pray that they can grow and achieve their goals as well as learning to work with funding organisations like TEAR.

Friday 3 April

Pray for our partner EFICOR, especially the aspects of their projects that require cooperation with the local government. Praise God for the progress that has been made in this area. Pray for unity among different tribes and castes, and for the continued empowerment of women.

Saturday 4 April

CB Samuel is an Associate Field Worker in India. Pray for encouragement and progress in his work of mobilising the church, particularly young people, to engage and respond to injustice in their communities.

Sunday 5 April

Pray for Matthew, TEAR's CEO, that he would have wisdom as he discerns how to best steward TEAR's resources to achieve the greatest impact for people facing poverty and injustice.

Monday 6 April

Pray for Australia's leaders, for national leadership on climate change. Pray for the courage and imagination to lower emissions and create vision and action for a healthier tomorrow.

Tuesday 7 April

Please pray for our Indonesian partner Yasumat, as staff, their families and communities recover after experiencing traumatic events during the Papua and West Papua conflicts late last year.



Wednesday 8 April

Heavenly Father, I pray that our First Nations women would receive the love that you have for them. That they would come to a revelation of the newness of the plans and purposes that you have for them after violence. That you have a plan of restoration, healing and forgiveness. I pray that women would come to see how valuable and loved they are. Through you and through your son Jesus, Amen.

– Sono Leone
Strong Women Talking, Australia

Week 7: 8 – 12 April

Thursday 9 April

Pray for the political situation in Cambodia, which is currently experiencing conflict and deadlocks. Pray for wise leadership that can recognise and faithfully respond to the needs of vulnerable people.

Friday 10 April (Good Friday)

Pray for all the staff of all of our partners: for encouragement and provision in their work, but also in their family lives. Our partner staff and their children and families face challenges like isolation, health issues and loss in their personal lives – please keep these needs in prayer today.

Saturday 11 April

Pray that TEAR Australia's staff can be 'ambassadors of reconciliation' in all that we do – reflecting Christ and growing the kingdom.

Sunday 12 April (Easter Sunday)

Praise God for our resurrection hope – the hope that all things will be made new in Jesus! Pray that all of our partners around the world will be refreshed in hope, and empowered as they seek to participate in God's glorious work of restoration, freedom and transformation.

TEAR Australia

We're focused in places of great need, partnering with local Christian agencies to end poverty, challenge inequality and build sustainable communities. Together, we act with courage, tackling injustice in order that all may experience fullness of life.



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