

Mission for the month - Tearfund

Do you ever think about where your clothes come from, who made them, how and at what cost? The collapse of the Rama Plaza factory in Bangladesh, killing 1,134, motivated a change in the fashion industry.

It questioned the use of slave labour in the fashion industry and found:

- The fashion industry funnels more money toward modern slavery than almost any other industry.
- Children as young as 5 years old make silk thread by dipping their hands in boiling water that burns and blisters them.
- Many workers only earn 10% of what they need to live on despite working 16 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- In many countries, workers involved in trade unions seeking fairer wages and working conditions are beaten by police.

So what can we do? The first step is to stop buying fast fashion and cheap products and find alternatives. When an item is so cheap, you need to be asking yourself, why? The answer is most likely slavery within the supply chain. If we stop buying cheap and fast fashion the demand will decrease. The brands won't push the prices down, the factories will be able to keep up with demand, workers will be paid properly and entire countries will benefit from communities functioning as they should be.

The Modern Slavery Act was a great step forward for eradicating slavery within the supply chain. We now have the option as consumers to choose the brands actively working to eradicate slavery from their supply chains.

Tearfund says choose Fairtrade, and other ethical retailers to help the thousands of people who need someone to speak up for them. When we buy differently we can change the world.

Vicar's Comment

In 2018 Tearfund celebrated 50 years, and St Christopher's was asked if we would be willing to host a Tearfund guest speaker to mark this milestone, to which we said yes (although we're hosting them a year late!). March is the month this is happening. Personally, what has attracted me to Tearfund in the past has been their commitment to both practical service around the world and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. And with that in mind it's worth reflecting upon how we're called to be, everything we're called to be.....not just pursuing holiness in one area of life but not another.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us that we should '*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect*' (Matthew 5:48, NIV). Whilst we won't completely fulfil such a calling this side of eternity, it is a reminder that we can never in this life say 'I'm content with where I've got to, that will do!' Tearfund have sought in 50 years to serve God in different ways but as part of a single vision, perhaps they can inspire us as individuals and as a church to seek to do the same??

St Christopher's Church

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Memory Verse

'Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins' 1 Peter 4:8

March 2019