

Mission for the month - Tearfund

Jesus famously offered his disciples life 'to the full' (John 10:10). If it's possible to have life to the full, it also must be possible to have a life that isn't full. Life, but less abundantly.

Perhaps it's possible to have a life that's closer to empty than full. So how do we make sure that our lives are abundant - that we are fully alive? The key lies in our relationships, and in the one who restores them.

At the heart of a broken world there are broken relationships. In a life that seems less than full, this is one of the first things we should look to. For an abundant life, we need to look to our relationships with God, with creation, and with ourselves - as well as with others.

This is why Tearfund is so passionate about working through the local church. In Zimbabwe Tearfund knows that it is the restoration of relationships that will enable people to lift themselves out of poverty.

Zimbabwe, pray for:

- the people as they continue to recover from last year's Cyclone Idai
- all who are struggling to feed their families in the midst of a huge drought
- the end of the drought - there has been some sporadic rain in parts of the country
- livestock to recover and for crops to grow
- Tearfund's local partners as they respond to this crisis
- the government, that it will govern the country fairly without corruption.

Vicar's Comment

The period leading up to Easter which we call Lent reminds us of Jesus' time in the wilderness, and can also remind us of the need for self-sacrifice - as we seek to follow in his footsteps. However, if we're not careful it can also be a contradictory time. For example, in Matthew 6 Jesus describes fasting as something which is 'done in secret' by his followers (6:18, NIV), and yet perhaps we've not always been shy about telling others we've given up chocolate or whatever for Lent!

We don't have to fast during Lent (in fact we're not commanded to fast on any particular day of the year), but Jesus' teaching for when we do fast should remind us that such things should always come out of our relationship with God, not out of a desire to be seen as holy by others, or out of merely following a tradition, or as a way of 'earning' God's favour (as if that were possible!).

In our walk with Jesus, let's remember those words we often use in confession, which remind us of how personal and humble our faith should be: 'To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8, NIV) And that humble walking with our God - whether during Lent or not - is of course only possible because of the Easter story: Christ's death for sins and resurrection.

St Christopher's Church

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On 18th March 2019 Zimbabwe was seriously affected by Cyclone Idai.

Memory Verse

'Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.'

James 1: 22 (NIV)

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