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**Prayers**

Lord, our Heavenly Father,

We come to you in prayer through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul declared to the crowd in Athens *“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands”*

We praise you for your sovereignty over our lives and your providence in our care.

The lives that we often enjoy, and sometimes endure, the time, the place and all that gives shapes our existence - they are your gift to us.

If this is true for us, it must also be true for other peoples and races around the world.

So we are perplexed when we learn of the hard lives of others, in countries like Ethiopia and Haiti.

Why should we be so well off, relatively speaking, compared with others? While they struggle to provide the essentials, many of us have more than we need.

Could it be, Lord, that our affluence of resources is merely an opportunity to test our faith and our fraternity, and our generosity?

Jesus summarises the law in saying *“Love God… and love our neighbour as ourselves”*

You have shown us a way out of our stifled compassion, not by closing our eyes but opening our hearts, to see as you see, and act as Jesus would.

We pray for the Ethiopian farmers as they adapt to new ways of working. We pray that they will find reason for hope and be sustained in both food and faith.

We pray for the church in Haiti and the people it serves.

We pray for those who grieve the loss of a loved one, a home or an income since the earthquake on 5th August. Lord, bind up their hearts, refresh their spirits with new opportunities to revive and rebuild. We pray protection over your workers, and for integrity in those they meet.

As plants grow in Ethiopia, and reconstruction takes place in Haiti, may all those who benefit from this Development Appeal give you all the praise. Through the agency of believers in Ireland you will prove yourself to be faithful

In Jesus’ name we pray.

AMEN

**INTERCESSIONS**

Our prayers are a commitment to the love of God.

Let us pray

As our loving God, according to our true needs, please confront and save your children.

Discipline or soothe, break down or build up, discomfort or comfort us.

May all nations, communities, friends, family and church, know both the pain and joy of being in the hands of a loving heavenly Father.

Please receive our concern for the farmers in drought stricken Ethiopia. For their families who are finding it hard today: We pray for a successful harvest with different plants and new methods of cultivation.

Please receive our concern for the island of Haiti as it struggles to reconstruct the buildings lost in the earthquake. Hear too, our concern for those who have suffered: the heartbroken and weary, anxious or lonely.

Please receive our concern for the church in these two countries. May faithful people become beacons of hope for this life and the next. Bless the work of Christian Aid and Tearfund as they bring resources and initiatives, organisation and development skills.

Please receive our concern for this world. In the face of a changing climate, show us how connected we are. Make us care about the impact our way of life has on others. Teach us to share what we have.

Loving Saviour, we rejoice in your abundant resourcefulness and your endless faithfulness. Deepen our trust in you. May your name be praised and your will be done.

For Christ’s sake.

Amen!