



Florence Muthiani says a prayer outside of her home in the village of Kyenge, Kenya.

A prayer for deliverance from enemies

Based on Psalm 10

Lord, why don't you do something?
How can you bear to stand by and watch,
while the poor are caught in the traps that the rich have baited?
Why don't you scam them for a change?

The rich don't even try to hide their greed.
In fact, they're proud of it!
'Who's going to stop me?' they brag.
Not you! Not your God!

They mock our attempts to curb their excesses.
There's always another way to evade tax, exploit the planet,
bypass the regulations, run rings round the authorities.
They think they're untouchable!

They are such predators!
It's always the poor, or the vulnerable,
the elderly, or the innocent that they target.
They're always on the lookout for the next easy mark,
and they think they are getting away with it!
They think you don't notice. Or don't care.

But you do see it, Lord!
You do hear the voices of the poor.
You do listen to their secret longings.
And you will be their comfort.

You will audit the accounts of the rich,
And it will be a terrible reckoning.

One day, your Kingdom will come,
And the countless phony kingdoms of this world will collapse,
Sending all those 'jobs for the boys' and 'nice little earners' crumbling to dust.

But, in the meantime, we will not be silent:
'This is not how the world was meant to be.'

Anne Muir, retired BBC television producer. Anne is also a member of Christian Aid Scotland's Advisory Committee, and of the Side By Side Scotland Steering Group.

Prayer

God our father, we thank you for your presence in our lives, and we thank you that you daily load us with your benefits.

We thank you for equipping us with knowledge of good from evil, and helping us understand your plan and purpose for humanity.

We bless you for your love that has been shed abroad in our hearts, and even as we daily lament over the injustices we see in our communities, because of the imperfection that is resident in our mortal flesh.

We are encouraged to remain resistant in our supplication, because we know that you will do all things well.

We know Lord, that in all that we see around us, your vision will come to pass in our communities.

God of Mercy, our help from ages past,
our very present help in the times of need,
be gracious to us your people as we ask that you bless us with the heart of love,
that continually sees you in every boy, girl, man and woman in our communities and in our world,
that we be your footprints here on earth and become vessels through which injustice will be eradicated in our world through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Dr Anne Ene Adah-Ogoh, Christian Aid's Programme Manager for Health, Africa.

Prayer

Loving creator God and Lord of all,
we know that you hold close to your heart
the hungry and the poor,
the vulnerable and the marginalised.
You bring down powerful people from their thrones.

You invite us to join you in your global mission
to bring about justice and equality,
dignity and love.
You challenge our choices and our lifestyles.
You challenge our vision and our hearing.

As we daily make our selfish choices to buy this or that
luxury,
you see those whose choices for the basics have been
taken from them.

As we dither about what we can do about fossil fuels,
you see those whose homes are being washed away.

As we debate about whether gender justice really
matters,
you see women who are excluded from owning land.

As we look for the best of education for our children,
you see those who never get to survive infancy.

Lord open our eyes and ears to see the world that you
see.
To hear the voices that you hear.
To listen to the people who ache for justice.
To rage with them.
To hope with them.
To trust and work with them for a better tomorrow.

Even as you fill the hungry with good things,
may we not be among those who are sent away with
empty hands.
In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Liz Hughes, Presbyterian Minister (retired), and
presently Chair of Christian Aid Ireland and
Chair/Convener of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's
Global Mission Council.

Prayer

Bringer of good news to the poor,
You said she was worth more to your Father than a
sparrow,
I remember she looked as thin as a bird.
You said he counts every hair on our heads,
I remember the few she had were wet with tears and
rain.
You said your Father will clothe us like the lilies of the
field,
I remember the rags that shielded her from nothing.
You said we will all be fed and not to worry,
I remember how she held her little one to her dry
breast.
You said the meek would inherit the earth,
I remember she had lost even the little that she had.
You promised magnificently to lift high those of low
degree,
but the world was still holding her down.
You said the sad would be comforted,
but here there was no comfort to be had.
You told the humble not to be afraid,
I remember the fear in her eyes.

Help me to channel my anger at contradictions
into seeking with you and her,
that earthly paradise of peace and plenty
where contradictions are reconciled.

Lord I believe,
help thou my unbelief.

Michael Taylor, Director of Christian Aid from 1985-97.

Pre-order your copy

The book, 'Rage and Hope: 75 prayers for a better
world' is available to pre-order at
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/rage-and-hope>

