THANK YOU FROM TEARFUND

St. George's two year financial support has now come to an end, and, on behalf of all those people who have been helped by your donations, I would like to sincerely thank you. Over these two years you have been part of a group of over 90 thousand Christians who have reached out and responded to 1.1 million people affected by disasters, and 3.8 million people through community development work in over 50 countries and working towards ending extreme poverty.

Tearfund works with local churches, on long term projects as well as immediate disaster relief. We hear little of the 'Arab Spring' which has meant war for the past 7 years, but Tearfund have been working in the area and in Iraq alone have supported 90,000 vulnerable people.

More recent in the news has been the Rohingya refugee crisis where by this time last year 800,000 people fled to Bangladesh to escape appalling atrocities in Myanmar. Bangladesh is already poor and recently suffered flooding where one third of the country was underwater. Tearfund are there, in the Rohingya refugee camps distributing food water and medicine. At the same time St George's have supported Tearfund and the Bihari people in India who suffered terrible hardship as a result of extreme flooding and your donation helped 34,000 Biharis with food and essentials lost in the water.

Climate change and natural disasters have always been with us and will continue to cause suffering but Tearfund recognise that sending food, money and materials can be lifesaving and useful but preparedness and resilience vastly reduces the impact of disasters flood and famine. Last year Tearfund added another 4 countries were we have helped to develop disaster preparedness, bringing the number of countries to 16. We have learned that building earthquake proof shelters means less death and injury, that local early warning systems can mean people can escape with food and belongings in time meaning we do not have to replace wasted resources. Tearfund also teach micro banking, sewing, baking and craft work so people can work and trade themselves out of poverty rather than receive handouts. Your money has also helped toilet building, rainwater gathering, well digging and filtering and basic medical training because poor people are poor enough without losing income through illness.

So on behalf of the people of Iraq, the Rohingya refugees, the Bangladeshi, the Bihari, all the bakers, seamstresses and ladies in charge of the village jar of coins, as well as the many other nations that Tearfund support, I thank you for your two years of support.

Although St. George's two year financial support has come to an end you can still support Tearfund through your prayers, or individual financial donations, and you can find copies of Tear Times under the church notice board with the latest work Tearfund is doing and ways of supporting that work.

Thank you.

Rolf Buwert
On behalf of Tearfund
November 2018