



**Coronavirus impacts us all  
But love unites us all**

Christian Aid Week will run from Sunday, 10 May - Saturday, 16 May 2020. Image courtesy of Christian Aid.

**"This Christian Aid Week we can fight against  
Coronavirus alongside our sisters and  
brothers living in poverty."**

**God is good... all the time ....**

**Opening Prayer: Love never fails**

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope. Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far. Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before. As we pray in our individual homes - around the nation and around the world - we are united as one family. So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in prayer. Amen

**A prayer in times of isolation**

*'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*  
(Romans 8:38-39)

God of heaven and earth, during this time of isolation, apart from loved ones, distant from friends and away from our neighbours, thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails continue to be shared

through our acts of kindness. Empower and use us to help your people, near and far and in all ways we can, to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care and use us for your glory. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

**CHRISTIAN AID (2019) PUZZLE**

Find the words hidden in our puzzle.

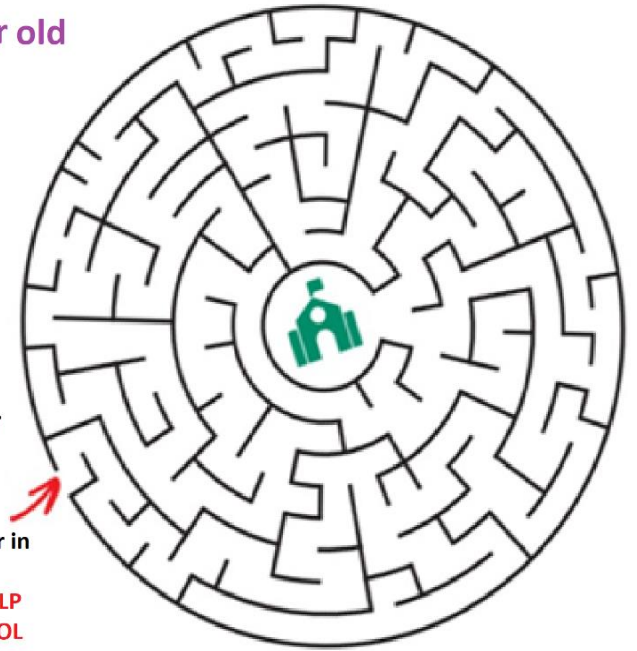
SIERRA LEONE	GIRLS
CHRISTIAN	BOYS
AID	DOCTOR
KADIATU	HELP
SCHOOL	PRAY

S	I	E	R	R	A	L	E	O	N	E
B	O	I	T	A	V	S	A	V	C	I
D	S	J	F	I	L	V	P	M	U	B
W	C	K	O	R	N	E	R	T	A	O
C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	B	Y
F	O	G	F	P	U	I	V	I	P	S
N	O	Z	D	M	D	T	K	A	D	I
P	L	X	S	A	G	Y	N	U	C	M
V	S	E	K	L	N	C	H	R	A	W
H	E	L	P	B	D	O	C	T	O	R

**This is eleven-year old Kidiatu**



She is determined to fulfil her dream of becoming a doctor. She refuses to allow anyone or anything to stand in her way. This includes the many challenges girl-children in her community face. Let's keep her in our prayers. Also, with this 'simple' prayerful act, **LET'S HELP KADIATU TO GET TO HER SCHOOL AND TO STAY IN SCHOOL.**



## Parable of the Sheep and the goats

(Matthew 25:34-40)

<sup>34</sup>“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ <sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”



### Brief reflection/ prayer points

Our reflection this Sunday (10/5/20) on the parable of the sheep and the goats follows Muriel Gilligan's brilliant service and reflection therein on the parable of the good shepherd, the sheep and the gate. Today, I humbly share with you the short reflection below, in a form of five prayer points.

- First, join me, in prayer, to allow the words ‘I was ... and you’ in this parable to speak to us. Jesus says, we visited Him in prison, we fed Him and we clothed. The words, ‘I was... and you’ invite us to see and sense Jesus in others whose needs we have been privileged to meet.  
**May we continue to open the door to Jesus Christ, in everyone we meet.**
- Secondly, note that the people (mentioned in the parable above) on the King's right hand have in their lifetime, provided for the most basic of human needs in God's family. Furthermore, they have done it for ‘the least’- not for the mighty and powerful, but for the least. One question we should ask ourselves as individuals and indeed as a community of faith is, are we selective in our giving of time, money, material or spiritual gifts? Prayers or even faith without action is not enough. As the counter-reformer and founder of the Society of Jesus, St Ignatius of Loyola said, ‘**Love is found in deeds rather than in words.**’
- Thirdly, this parable calls us all reach out to our sisters and brothers (in church and community) who are vulnerable or in need. In and with Jesus, we look at our lives and ask, how can we, the people of God, enhance the way we share our faith, gifts and time with others? **We listen, in this portion of scripture, to way Jesus is spurring us on unmistakably to deeper faith, greater compassion and the respectful sharing of His gospel, in word and through our actions.**



- Fourthly, Jesus' identifies with the needy (referred to in the parable as ‘the least’) and asks us to imitate Him. As one man said, ‘**Christians exist to love God and to love all the people Jesus loves and for whom He died**’. We may not be able to do much for others, especially those in need. But we can pray for them (or with them), reach out to them through acts of loving kindness, treat them with respect and help to promote their dignity.
- Lastly, during times like this of trouble and uncertainty, people often ask, where is God? How do we find him? With this parable Jesus provides the answer. He is everywhere and with everyone around us, especially those in need. He is with all his brothers and sisters in suffering, grieving, hunger, prison and other locked places. We see Jesus in and through others and whatsoever we do to or for others in need, we do it unto Him – for His glory and in a way that qualifies us to be for Him and with Him, here and hereafter. Amen

### CHRISTIAN AID SONG - ‘KINGDOM COME’

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BCu\\_yGLC20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BCu_yGLC20)

### Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

We remember in prayer:

- ✚ those who are bereaved, grieving, lonely, anxious or concerned for loved ones
- ✚ those who are unwell, immune- suppressed, compromised and in the ‘most at risk to coronavirus’ categories
- ✚ the health workers tending the seriously ill,
- ✚ the scientists and researchers analysing data, identifying trends and working on a vaccination
- ✚ the supermarket workers, hygiene and sanitation providers and the media outlets working to communicate the reality of Covid-19
- ✚ the good news stories of recoveries and effective planning and the awakened appreciation of what is truly important
- ✚ the singing from balconies by locked-down communities and the notes through letterboxes offering help and support
- ✚ the recognition that isolation doesn't need to mean loneliness and the internet, telephones and technology that connects
- ✚ those who are afraid to be at home, those who have no choice but to go out to work and those watching their entire income stream dry up

God, our healer, comforter and protector. Raise us to be your well-washed hands, faithful feet and to respond with love in action – if even from a safe distance. God, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

### Final blessing

**We are all held secure in the palm of the Shepherd's hand, through all the days of Christian Aid Week and beyond. May God's richest and choicest blessings be with us all, now and forever, Amen.**

*God is good ... all the time...*