

Praying through wider-world awareness - It's all about perspective

I find prayer a challenge! I think prayer is so much more than the words we say, its about the actions we take as a result of our words.

Obviously in my role I spend a lot of time seeing devastation that causes tragedy for the lives of the most vulnerable across the world. And in that context it is surely quite easy to become disheartened that anything will ever change. Indeed, I once gave that as a response in an interview for a course I wanted to attend on instigating change! Thankfully those leading the course were able to help me see that change is happening all the time. Of course sometimes it's not the change we might want to see happen, so what can we do to help bring the change we want to see in the world?

Unquestionably I also get to see the very best of what can be achieved through you the support people like you give to Christian Aid through your prayers, gifts and actions.

I recently completed an online quiz to test my knowledge on the positive changes that have happened in the world. I did slightly better than if I had chosen my answers at random! Thankfully in many places life for the poorest on our planet is improving. But we're not always listening to the right voices to hear that message.

I'd love to be a much better photographer and one piece of advice a wonderful photographer gave me was to change where I was standing to get a better picture. I don't always remember but when I do I usually get a better picture. I then see things from a different perspective and the image becomes focused and captivating. Unfortunately getting the best picture sometimes means standing in an uncomfortable or awkward position. And so you can end up looking a bit weird, crouching on the floor or ascending a wall to get in the right position. Standing up for justice, equality and dignity sometimes means being courageous and there's been a long history of people bringing transformation through being courageous



Although you can't see her face in this picture, her name is Jen and she's from Malawi. She's holding pigeon peas, we know them in this country as yellow split peas. What's so powerful about this image is that the peas look small and insignificant. But the pigeon pea has been revolutionary for Jen and her family, and many others across Malawi. The pigeon pea is drought resistant and has enabled Jen to generate income to send her children to school. A seemingly small intervention but by working together with others her life has been transformed.

So for me prayer is much more about trying to become aligned to God's priorities than trying bend God to mine! When we try and stand in the right place to see the world how God sees it and become an active participant in making things better we fulfil the purpose for which we are created. On our own we can't bring the change we want to see. By making small changes, having a shared vision of the world we want to create, and being ready to be active participants, together we can enable people to experience justice, dignity and equality and be the answer to their prayers.

Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Our voices, prayers and actions are stronger together. Together, we are united in hope!

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