



Hope for the world

Taking Steps Together From Paris

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Well, it's only 14 more days till Christmas! I wonder what you are hoping for this year? As for me, I am currently in Paris with colleagues from Tearfund, attending major UN talks on climate change which end today. My hope is for a good outcome that limits global warming and protects our world.

When we stand alongside the world's poorest people, it can be hard to see hope. The communities Tearfund works with are facing the terrible impacts of what we have done to our world – stresses on the land, overuse of water, shrinking rainforests, and dangerous climate change.

Yet despite all of this, when we turn to the Bible, we know God's story has a happy ending. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God began restoring us – but also the whole of creation – to himself.

This is a story we as Christians, led by his Holy Spirit, have the privilege of continuing to be a part of now. And it is a story we know will end in victory when Jesus comes again, when every knee will bow and every tongue confess and all creation will be renewed and restored.

God's people speaking out to world leaders for a good outcome from the Paris climate talks is part of that story. We have seen amazing change in recent years. Billions of dollars of unpayable debts have been cancelled from the world's poorest countries. Billions more have been released in aid money to help them.

There has also already been significant progress on limiting greenhouse gas emissions, protecting vulnerable ecosystems, and re-establishing many of God's species that were close to extinction. All of this began with ordinary people like you and me praying, writing to our MPs and turning out to demonstrate.

Whatever the results from the Paris talks today – whether good, bad, or as often a bit of both – there will be further to go. My hope and prayer is that you will join us and sign up to campaign with A Rocha, Tearfund or one of the many other great Christians groups advocating for environmental justice for the world's poorest people and all of God's creation.

We can take the next step together, full of hope, encouraged by how far we have already come, and in the knowledge that God has already won the ultimate victory.

Bless you, and a very happy and hope-filled Christmas.



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