



Aline Nibogora praying with her family at home in Makamba Province, Burundi.

Aline's Story

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world financially. More than 70% of the population live in poverty.

Aline Nibogora faced extra challenges. A survivor of domestic abuse, she found herself homeless and separated from her children, living in extreme poverty.

Pushed to the brink, Aline pushed back

Aline joined a community workshop led by Christian Aid-funded trainers. She learnt about Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs).

Aline has used a loan to build a successful business. She has been reunited with her eldest sons and is building a new home. Aline is now chairperson of a VSLA that helps 25 families in her community.

Opening Prayer

God our comforter,
Source of our hope,
Be present to us today.
Unite us as we worship.
Give us ears to hear the Good News of your abundant,
transformative love.
Stir up in us a prophetic voice, that we may proclaim the
coming of your kingdom.
Inspire in us the courage to serve you in word and deed,
as together we build a world free from poverty.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, you made us and cherish us as your beloved
creation.
We confess that we have failed to care for the world you
brought into being.
We have polluted the earth; we have consumed without
thought for the future.
We have hardened our hearts
And turned away from communities devastated by the
climate crisis.

Out of the greatness of your love.
Lord, forgive us.

Jesus, you call us to love our neighbour, to go the extra
mile.
We confess that we have failed to love others as you love
us.
Too often we have ignored cries for justice.
We have given our energies to protecting what is ours
And have failed to consider the needs of others.

Out of the greatness of your love.
Lord, forgive us.

Spirit of truth, you breathe wisdom upon us and guide our
ways.

We confess those times we have relied on ourselves alone,
as though we had no need of you;
Those times we have rejected the help our neighbours
offer because it would cost us our pride.
We have declared ourselves dry ground, unable to grow
the fruits of love, peace, joy and gentleness.
Yet through all our failings and faults you never leave us.

Out of the greatness of your love.
Lord, forgive us.

A Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2024

Loving God,
Help us to hear the voices of those enduring extreme
poverty.
It is hard to listen to stories of pain.
Show us how compassion for others can bring healing and
fullness of life for all.
Help us to understand that we are one through your love,
for every human being is loved by you, beyond measure.

Loving God,
you call on us to build your kingdom of justice, mercy, and
truth.
It isn't a task for the faint-hearted.
When we lose our sense of purpose, fill us with faith.
When we doubt or throw up our hands in despair, fill us
with hope.
When we pass by our neighbour as though we did not
know them,
Fill us with the love that turns us back and takes us to their
aid.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever.

God we are thankful for your love: love that changes us,
turns our priorities upside down, and yet somehow makes
us more fully ourselves.

We offer our gratitude for those who have shown us
tenderness, care and compassion;
Those who have seen us through troubled times and
brought us hope.

We pray for those we love
And for those we have failed to love.
Remembering Aline's experience, we hold in mind people
around the world who know what it is to be treated as less
than human.
May we work together to uphold the dignity of every human
being, so that no one feels forgotten.

God whose love endures forever,
Hear our prayer.

God we are thankful for those who inspire us with their
strength, courage and perseverance.
We pray for people around the world brought to the brink
by extreme poverty,
Struggling to survive.
We pray especially for families in Burundi who do not have
sufficient food, clean water, or access to healthcare.
Fuel us with fire of your spirit.
Fill us with a fierce determination to end the outrage of
poverty.
May we hear the cries of those who are excluded from
power.
May we speak up with them for a more equal and just
world.

God whose love endures forever,
Hear our prayer.

God we are thankful for peacemakers and healers.
We pray for all those who are reaching across divisions and
acting to end violent conflict.
May political leaders use their power wisely to further the
cause of peace.
We pray especially for ...
[Pray here for places and people affected by war and
violence. You may wish to include prayers for:
Peace in the Middle East
An end to the war in Ukraine
Those affected by conflict in Sudan
Ongoing peace-making work in Burundi]
We remember with sorrow the lives lost in conflict.

God whose love endures forever,
Hear our prayer.

God we are thankful for love in action.
We give thanks for the cake-bakers, the runners, the
envelope-collectors.

We are grateful for those who give their time, energy and
resources to sponsored walks, craft sales, sing-a-thons,
cycles, swims, and to all kinds of fundraising challenges.
We pray that each of us may recognise the gifts we have to
share,
And that we may see too the richness of our neighbour's
gifts and talents.
Help us to remember that ending poverty is not just about
the things money can buy:
It's also about the joyful living that you desire for each of us.
May we all be free to live life joyfully, in all its fullness.

God whose love endures forever,
Hear our prayer.

God we are thankful that you offer comfort to us in our
sorrows.
We give thanks that when everything else around us seems
to crumble, you promise us that your love will remain solid
and steadfast.
Thinking of all that Aline has been through, we pray for her,
her children and her community.
We pray for others known to us who are suffering.
[Remembering particularly ...]
We pray for those who have lost someone they love.
[Remembering particularly...]
May those who grieve know your peace.

We offer these prayers in Jesus' name.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you have abundantly
blessed us,
your mercy knows no bounds.
We offer these gifts and commit ourselves to action,
following your command to love one another.
We give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid
and for all who support this work.
May these offerings transform the prospects of those living
in extreme poverty.
God of justice, mercy, and peace, send us out to serve you.
May your extraordinary love radiate through our words and
actions, every day of our lives.
Amen.

Prayer of Blessing

May we persevere in faith,
May we go out in hope,
May we act and speak with love,
By the grace of God, our creator, redeemer, and comforter,
Amen.

To donate or find out more

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