

11 Million People 3 Countries 1 Crisis What Is Pembrokeshire Doing To Help

According to the television adverts, we will buy over 500 million Christmas presents this year! We have already started getting into the Christmas spirit by putting up lights, writing cards and buying our Christmas treats. Our Stockings are pinned up and waiting to be filled, it's an exciting time of year!

However, some local people have turned their heads from present buying for friends and family and are looking to a different family. Tearfund partners have released information about a family in Malawi as part of their emergency crisis appeal for Southern Africa: Wizaki Joseph, (47), buried his 21-year-old daughter Serena. The divorced mother of two was unable to fend for herself as food shortages tightened their grip on southern Malawi. She gradually succumbed to hunger and died, despite the watery porridge her family begged and borrowed from neighbours in the village of Fombe, in the district of Chikwawa. Wizaki and his wife Esnat are now looking after Serena's two young children aged five and seven months.

"I am old and my legs do not work well, so I cannot find work in other villages. My family is relying on relatives to provide us with porridge. I do not know what will happen to my family because if the rains do not come then we will just die." States Wizaki. This is only one family in millions who desperately need help.



Photo Captions:

After the death of his 21-year-old daughter Serena, Wizaki Joseph (47) and his wife are now caring for five children in the village of Fombe, southern Malawi. He is pictured here, from left, with John (1) Andiwo (9) and Solomon (5). Photo: Layton Thompson/Tearfund.

We can join Tearfund and take action. 11 million people will go hungry this year, unless we act **now**. Help is desperately needed to provide immediate relief to families across Southern Africa. The 3 worst hit countries are Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. According to Tearfund partners in these areas, people are running out of food, their cupboards are bare and so are their fields. Due to erratic rainfalls crops have failed and hopes are now doing the same.

Unless the people receive emergency aid, they will starve. Unless they receive grain to plant, they will surely face famine. In these countries it is now time to sow seed for next years harvest in April, but there is no seed to sow. But this can be prevented. If we raise funds and send help via Tearfund we can give these people hope and a future.

Pembrokeshire has already made a start in doing this. Churches are working together to raise funds. Bethel in Pembroke Dock and Broad Haven Baptist Church have already raised a sum of £340 towards the appeal. Francis Maul, a Tearfund Volunteer in Pembrokeshire, said the churches were thankful that they could contribute to the Tearfund crisis appeal saying: “ Thank you for giving us the opportunity to give”

Churches in Tenby have also joined forces to combat the crisis. Deer Park’s Junior Light Seekers Sunday Club has made two giant Christmas cards. One of these is being signed by friends in Deer Park as an alternative to sending individual Christmas cards. Each person gives a donation to the Tearfund crisis appeal and then signs their Christmas message to the Church. The second card is being passed around the community. Starting at a craft fair held at The Adlerian Counseling Center in Narberth on Saturday 10th December, and continuing its journey to St. Mary’s Church in Tenby.

Can more of us in Pembrokeshire get back to the true meaning of Christmas? Can we turn our heads from our 500 million presents and give those with nothing the gift of hope? Together we can make a difference.

If you are interested in getting involved in raising funds for the crisis appeal or would like to have the giant card at your church or Christmas event, please give me, Sharron Hardwick (Tearfund’s Voluntary Media Officer for Pembrokeshire) a call on 07791646076. Perhaps you can design your own card and send off the proceeds to Tearfund directly. We would

love to keep you updated with any events concerning the appeal so please let me know.

Tearfund's Southern Africa Crisis Appeal was launched on Thursday November 24th. Donations can be made by credit card via the website www.tearfund.org

For further information or photographs, please contact:

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