

## Unlimited generosity

You asked for my hands  
that you might use them for your purposes  
I gave them for a moment then withdrew them  
for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth  
to speak out against injustice.  
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes  
to see the pain of poverty.  
I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life  
that you might work through me .  
I gave you a small part that I might not get "too involved".

Lord,  
forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you  
only when it is convenient for me to do so, and  
only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father,  
forgive me  
renew me  
send me out  
as a usable instrument,  
that I may take seriously  
the meaning of your cross.

*Joe Seramane, South Africa,  
from Lifelines, Christian Aid, 198*

## Basic necessities of life

We pray for the Church throughout the world,  
that she may be a voice for those who lack even the basic necessities of life,  
tirelessly serving them and calling for change.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the world's leaders,  
that they may not hide behind their power or abuse it,  
but work for the good of all humanity,  
particularly the poor throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for our local community,  
that we may show our love through our respect for each other  
and for our environment, gladly sharing what we have with those in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

*Linda Jones/CAFOD*

## Malaysian prayers

Lord Jesus, open our eyes so that we can recognise the injustice around us that is not always obvious.

Allow us to be moved by compassion for the victims of injustice and to act in accordance with your will,

to defend the poorest and to save the children in need.

**Amen.**

Lord God, you feel so strongly about the needy,

the afflicted, the weak, and the imprisoned – and you love them so deeply.

Inspire the leaders among us to uphold the rights of the downtrodden

and to serve with fairness, justice and integrity.

**Amen.**

*Anil Netto, Malaysia*

# Prayer to make poverty history

Christ our Lord,  
your light shines into the shadows,  
and shows us  
where the obstacles to change lie.  
We know that often  
they are in our own hearts,  
in the way we live,  
and in our daily choices and actions.

We pray that we may accept  
the light of your love  
as a challenge to change  
ourselves and our world.

We pray that, each day,  
we make the choices and  
take the actions  
that will bring an end to poverty and hunger,  
and lead us all  
towards a fairer world.

Be with us, Lord,  
as we face your challenge  
and learn how to live  
our lives in love.

**Amen.**

*Linda Jones/CAFOD*

# Poverty, Peace and Justice

**A prayer from an ecumenical conference in Brazil, calling for an end to poverty as the first step on the path to peace through justice.**

O Lord, God of life,

who cares for all creation, give us your peace.

May our security not come from arms, but from respect,

May our force not be of violence, but of love.

May our wealth not be in money, but in sharing.

May our path not be of ambition, but of justice.

May our victory not be from vengeance, but in forgiveness.

Open and confident, we want to defend the dignity of all creation,  
sharing, today and forever, the bread of solidarity and peace.

In the name of Jesus, your holy son, our brother,

who, as victim of our violence, even from the heights of the cross  
gave us all forgiveness.

Amen.