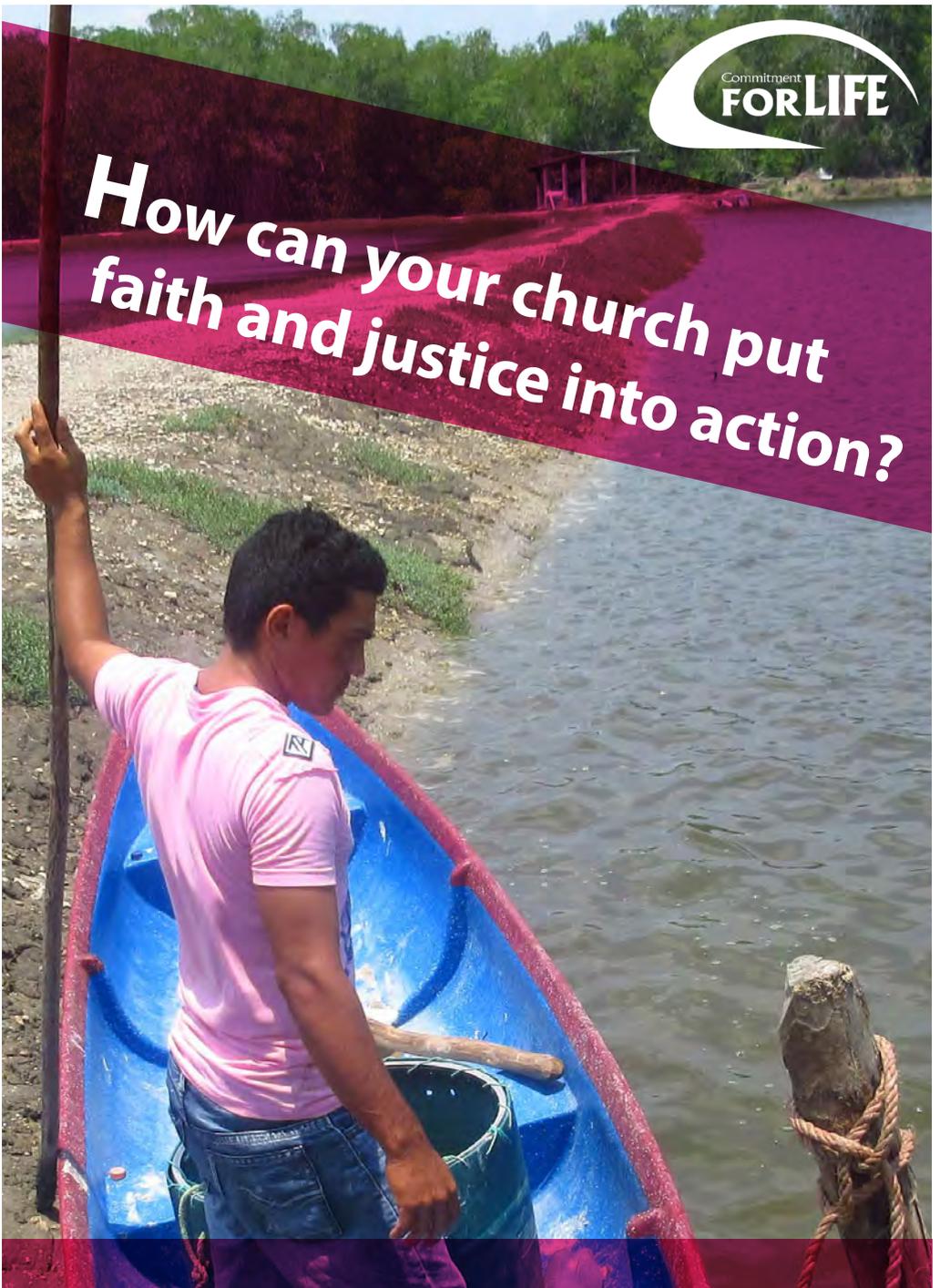




**How can your church put
faith and justice into action?**



'I will show you my faith by what I do' James 2.18 (TNIV)

What is Commitment for Life?

It is a programme of General Assembly which exists to encourage all United Reformed and Local Ecumenical Partnership churches to take action, pray and give for people across the world. By linking with campaigns, partners and projects through Christian Aid and Global Justice Now (previously the World Development Movement) you can make a real difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people.



What happens when your church joins?

You choose which country/region you would like to take an interest in. Commitment for Life churches are linked through Christian Aid to one of the four countries/region below:

- Bangladesh
- Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua)
- Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory
- Zimbabwe

Each church has a link person who is the vital link between your church and Commitment for Life. Through your link person, your church will then receive mailings three times a year.

We encourage you to have a special Commitment for Life service each year to learn more about the partners in your chosen country/region. This time can also be used as the focal point for your personal giving.

Giving

There are many ways you and your church can support Commitment for Life financially:

- by giving 1% of your income as a committed giver
- by holding monthly envelope collections. Gift aid can be added via the church
- by leaving a legacy (ask for more details)
- through a yearly Sunday service
- by hosting social and educational events

Mailings include:

- news straight from the country
- the latest information on campaigns
- posters and leaflets for your church
- ideas for action
- opportunities to give
- worship and prayer resources
- links to extra resources and ideas on the website

The communities you support

Together with your committed support we made a difference to thousands of men, women and children living in poverty each year. The funds you raise are divided equally between the following four countries. Thank you!

● Bangladesh

Alongside corruption, poor governance and an over-dependency on natural resources, tackling poverty in Bangladesh has become increasingly difficult due to the impact of climate change. Whether preparing communities for climate related emergencies, supporting farmers to improve their harvest and income, or ensuring women participate fully in vital decisions that shape their lives, Christian Aid partners are committed to ensuring poor and marginalised people enjoy thriving and dignified lives.

● Zimbabwe

Political instability lies at the heart of Zimbabwe's problems. The majority of Zimbabweans are emerging from the socio-economic crisis and every year, millions of people rely on food aid in Zimbabwe. Drought and erratic rainfall patterns, a ruined infrastructure and an economy in collapse means many people can't grow enough food to survive. Church partners here focus on a range of issues from food security and nutrition, to HIV, health and gender equality.

● Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory

Failure to secure a lasting solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is causing poverty to deepen, and allowing violence and despair to persist.

Christian Aid has been working with the poorest people in the region since the

early 1950s, when they provided help to Palestinian refugees. Today they are working with more than 20 Israeli and Palestinian organisations to protect human rights, access to services and resources, and to build peace based on justice for all.

Their development and humanitarian relief reaches Palestinians and Israelis; Jewish, Muslim, Christian and secular.

● Central America

Christian Aid works in four countries in Central America: Guatemala; Honduras; El Salvador and Nicaragua. We reach poor and marginalised families prioritising women, young people and ethnic groups historically excluded from society. We help small farmers access markets, produce higher quality products and obtain a better price for them. We work to build resilience of communities in areas along the Pacific coast which are particularly prone to disasters and environmental hazards such as floods and landslides. Finally, we enable people to lobby their governments to develop policies which take into account the voices of the poor and marginalised.

Campaigning

A vital part of Commitment for Life is campaigning. You will be sent information regularly on how you can work practically to change the systems, structures and processes that keep people locked into poverty. Commitment for Life links directly to statements 8, 9 and 10 of *vision2020*, the mission framework of the United Reformed Church.

10% of the money goes to Global Justice Now to support their fight against poverty. 75% is to support the work of Christian Aid's partners in the four featured countries.

15% is for co-ordinating the scheme, advocacy work and grant giving



I feel privileged to have seen the work of Christian Aid partners. I was impressed by the work at a community level changing the lives of ordinary people and the work with governments changing possibilities. The money we give turns into action that improves conditions for some of our poorest global 'neighbours,' and it is important that we continue to support Commitment for Life.

Revd Simon Walkling, Moderator,
Synod of Wales



Together we are stronger, and the success of our advocacy and fundraising efforts to shift the balance of global power depends on your individual actions – so please do not underestimate your role in this journey. Thank you for your committed support.

Loretta Mingella, Executive Director,
Christian Aid



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**Want to be part of the programme?
If you are interested in the programme
we would love to hear from you.**

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For more information visit the Commitment for Life website www.cforl.org.uk

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Christian Aid UK registered charity number 1105851 Company Number 5171525
Global Justice Now registered charity number 1064066 Company number 2098198