

17<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## Emergency

**“A man’s mind will very generally refuse to make itself up until it is driven and compelled by emergency.”**

*Anthony Trollope, Ayala’s Angel*

This past week has been our annual Christian Aid Week in the UK. Many people would have been doing door-to-door collections, running fund-raising events, joining in sponsorship challenges and accepting donations. But not this year. We’ve had to change how we normally express our commitment to Christian Aid because of the restrictions on us. The needs of the poor, however, don’t change one bit, nor does the commitment of charities to alleviate poverty and suffering. So, Christian Aid still needs our commitment, and not just for one week either.

Christian Aid has an “Emergency Coronavirus Appeal”. But *all* of its work stems from emergencies. And because of limitations on fund-raising, it’s facing its own emergency too. Its strap-line this year is:

*Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.*

Expressions of that love must surely not be limited by time or circumstances. If “love never fails”, we have to ensure it never fails the people who need it the most. So, unashamedly, as Christian Aid Week comes to an end, or fades from the memory for this year, or, perhaps, hasn’t been in our thoughts at all, I urge you to think about its work. There’s a lot you can absorb from <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>, including reference to sending a personalised e-Envelope to family and friends to further publicise Christian Aid’s work and to encourage more people to consider donating. Please have a look. Please offer support.

Covid-19 is an emergency. Christian Aid has an emergency. Its work is “compelled by emergency”. But the poor and marginalised should *always* be our emergency. Some things will never change.

### **A prayer for today**

*Loving God, we thank you for the work of Christian Aid. We pray that, in our personal emergencies, we will be more aware of the constant emergencies others face, and for all those who seek to alleviate their distress and suffering. Amen*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>