

Prayers, poems and reflections

Let us pray...

The prayer we have from Jesus is collective, stressing the family/communal nature of our relationship with God and with each other.

Our Father
Give *us* our daily bread...
...*our* debts... *our* debtors
lead *us*... deliver *us*

not *my* Father
not *me* or *my*
...not *my*
not *me*...

Help us Lord...

Help us Lord...

As we stand together...
for the ideals and practice of fair trade
for the welfare of grassroots craft workers

Help us Lord...

As we stand together...
against child labour
against the exploitation of craft workers, farmers and growers.

Help us Lord...

As we stand together for fair business.

(Based on Traidcraft 21st birthday reflections from Moon Sharma, Tara Projects, India.)

Thank you Lord...

Small producers have benefited with Traidcraft. Better and sustained incomes from fair trade have brought real change in the quality of life. The enabling process has made for a remarkable growth in skills.

But real growth for the producers has been in the intangibles, learning and evolving, a sense of belonging and togetherness.

(Based on Traidcraft 21st birthday reflections from Shabbi Kohli, Sasha (SSA), India.)

A life to the full

Generose Suyao works as a capiz worker for Saffy in the Philippines, which is a Traidcraft supplier. She says she has been helped *"to face the real challenge of life through skill training programmes and value formations... Saffy is not a venue of luxurious life, but a life to the full that is blessed with Christian principles and living faith."*

A little of God's wonder

Salay in the Philippines provides some of the beautiful handmade paper products which are sold by Traidcraft. One of Salay's paper makers sends this message:
"When I make these sheets my heart swells with the fulfilment of creation. It's only paper but it is also me! And when I hand you this to keep and enjoy, a little of me is with you; a little of God's wonder I give to you!"

Making the Connection

Think of the difference fair trade brings,
the dignity of wages for work that is valued.
Pride in the history of learning to grow,
to carve, to stitch: that sense of purpose.

Think of the power of a coffee bean,
the taste of satisfaction. Crops grown,
enjoyed by others, appreciated,
giving the pleasure of making plans.

Think of the fingers that made that stitch,
weaving us together, thread to thread,
touch upon touch, smile meeting smile.
Imagine the dream and feel it taking shape.

Think of connecting hope with reality,
one world with another, lives and hearts
and voices in a joyful celebration.
Rejoice in the difference fair trade brings.

Fiona Ritchie Walker