

## Praying for Change

**Characters** Narrator (could also be the voice of God at end.)  
Miss Potts                      Phyllis                      Mrs Almond  
Mr Rafferty                      Rosie                      Mario                      Janeth

**Setting** church prayer group. Miss P, Phyllis, Mrs A. and Mr R. sitting in circle.  
Table and chairs nearby.

**Props** Tea and coffee containers – one side with fairly traded packaging, the other with the words TEA and COFFEE. Kettle, cups etc all on a tray.  
Bicycle (if possible!)

**Narrator:** Let me introduce you to the church prayer group. They meet every week without fail to make sure that God is aware of the mess that his world is in. But, sshh, it's almost half past. Time for Miss Potts to lead the closing prayer.

**Miss Potts:** Lord, you know that we long to see your justice and peace reign in the world. Please touch the hearts of all those who can make a difference.  
Amen.

**Prayer  
Group:** Amen.

**Miss Potts:** Right, folks. This church doesn't get any warmer, does it? Just as well Phyllis has the kettle ready for a cup of something nice and hot.

*(They move from the circle to a nearby table with chairs round it. Each sits down. Phyllis brings over a tray with kettle, jug, mugs etc plus a jar of coffee and box of tea. She begins making drinks and distributing them.)*

**Mr Rafferty:** It's a terrible situation, isn't it. Watched it on the news last night. Dreadful. All those people suffering. If only we could do something.

**Mrs Almond:** But we can! Let's organise a jumble sale. Of course, we can't do that for a few weeks, because we've got the concert in aid of the homeless coming up –

**Miss Potts:** And the church coffee morning. Don't forget our roof fund.

**Mr Rafferty:** Lord only knows how we'll ever manage to help them then.

*(Roll of drums/cymbal marks entrance of Rosie.)*

**Rosie:** He certainly does!

*(Everyone stares at her)*

**Mrs Almond:** What do you mean?

**Rosie:** Didn't you say it in your prayers? Somewhere near the beginning I think.... Ah yes, that nice bit where you were praising God. All-seeing I think you called him.

**Miss Potts:** *(looking coy)* Oh, that was me. I'm glad that went down well.

**Mr Rafferty:** Just a minute. How do you know what we were saying? Were you hanging around outside?

**Rosie:** Don't you worry about that. I'm not going to stay long. It's just that you made a request and I've come to help you.

**Miss Potts:** Request? I've never met you before in my life. We certainly didn't request that you came along – not that we're an exclusive group, you know. We're quite welcoming, it's just that no-one new ever comes to join us.

**Rosie:** Please touch the hearts of all those who can make a difference. Isn't that what you prayed? *(The others look mystified, but nod.)*  
Well, I've come to tell you that you have made a difference! And I've brought my friend Mario to tell you how.  
*(Mario walks on, stands by Rosie.)*  
He's a coffee farmer in Nicaragua and because your church drinks fairly traded tea and coffee, he want to let you know the difference that you've made to the lives of him and his family.

**Mrs Almond:** *(Starting to look disconcerted, edging towards the coffee and tea jars so that she's standing in front of them.)*  
Well, we did try some coffee, Nicaraguan wasn't it? That must have been in Rev Blaithwaite's time.

**Mr Rafferty:** Yes, he was always very keen on this fair trade issue, wasn't he? But when he left we didn't hear much about it.

**Miss Potts:** But we're eager to help with overseas charities and we have at least four fund-raising efforts a year and *(her voice trails away as Mario begins to speak).*

**Mario:** Beforehand we were paid by the middlemen who paid us whatever they felt like. Now the price is steady. If we are paid very little for a product we have nothing to buy food with. Now I have money to buy my little children their little clothes. I could build my house. Day to day things are improving and this is because of the better price.

**Mr Rafferty:** Sorry, but I can't help you. I can't stand coffee. Tea's my tippie. Well, before sunset anyway, so –

**Rosie:** That's fine. Then meet my friend Janeth.

*(Janeth walks on pushing a bicycle.)*

**Janeth:** Working with Kibena Tea has enabled me to support my life with my family. Though I don't have my own house yet, I've been able to buy a bicycle, schooled my children, paying for fees, exercise books etc.

**Mrs Almond:** *(whispering to Phyllis)* Quick, hide the packets. Don't let them see what we've been drinking.

**Rosie:** So you see, He just wanted you to know that your prayers really do make a difference. Just like the tea and coffee you drink at the end of your meeting.

**Miss Potts:** But we're such a small church. We drink what, half a dozen cups each meeting? How can that make a difference?

**Rosie:** But everyone's half a dozen cups of coffee adds up. That's more than three million cups of fairly traded coffee drunk in the UK every week. It means a lot more people who can feed their families, provide homes, send their children to school. Your prayer meeting really does make a difference!

**Mr Rafferty:** *(whispering to Miss Potts)* This is terrible. *(He puts down the cup of tea he's been carrying.)* Suddenly I'm not in the mood for this.

**Rosie:** Well, I think I'll have a cup. All this travelling around makes me thirsty.

**Miss Potts:** But I thought you'd want to drink fairly traded tea and coffee?

**Rosie:** I do. *(Takes cup of tea from Phyllis)*

**Mrs Almond:** Well, I'm afraid we drink this because we like the taste.

**Rosie:** So do I. *(Takes a drink)*

**Mr Rafferty:** What do you mean?

**Rosie:** Go on, tell them Phyllis.  
*(Phyllis turns round the tea and coffee containers to show teadirect and cafedirect. The others gasp.)*

**Miss Potts:** But we don't like them!

**Phyllis:** I changed over last year, when they had all those specials in the supermarket. No-one seemed to notice, except Mr Rafferty who said it was the best cuppa he'd had in ages.

**Rosie:** How did your prayer go again?  
Lord, you know that we long to see your justice and peace reign in the world. Please touch the hearts of all those who can make a difference.

**Voice  
(God)** Amen - and thanks.