

Tears of Gold: Stories of Hope and Restoration

- “We give great honour to those who endure under suffering.” James 5:11
- 245 million Christians are at risk of severe persecution across the world today. Christian women are often doubly vulnerable - targeted both on account of their gender as well as their faith. (Open Doors World Watch List 2019)
- Hannah Thomas organises art projects for abused women including the project in Northern Nigeria she is talking about today. This is part of an Open Doors trauma healing programme for Christian women, survivors of Boko Haram and Fulani violence.



- Advent is a season of waiting and preparing. We await our Lord's return and the renewal of all things, when He will 'wipe every tear from our eyes.'
- This third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday - is a reminder to rejoice that our Lord is near. He is also at work today, even in the darkest places of suffering.
- Mother Teresa: "God is loving the world through you and me and through all those who are His love and compassion in the world." He ministers His kindness and compassion to us, and this is often through the hands of others.

In closing let us to pray Mother Teresa's daily prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go.
Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love.
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine.
Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with
may feel Thy presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus.
Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others.
Amen.

There will be packs of postcards of Hannah's paintings from Nigeria available for everyone at the end of the service. For more information about Hannah's work see hannahrosethomas.com