



CHURCH BOOKLET

**Ideas to help you twin
your church toilets**



Sita's story

Sita sits under the huge mango tree beside her home in Ivory Coast, enjoying the sweet scent. Not long ago, the stench was overpowering: there were no toilets in the village.

Sita's children were constantly sick with diarrhoea and the family made regular visits to the medical centre for vital medicines they couldn't afford. Sometimes, the nurse would give them a week's grace to pay. But Sita and her husband are casual labourers on the local cashew plantation and work is poorly paid and scarce.

Occasionally, they would borrow from neighbours to pay the nurse. But it was rare that others had money to spare. So the debts mounted up.

'We felt hopeless, trapped,' Sita says. 'We didn't want to live any more.'

Since Toilet Twinning's partner MAP started teaching people about hygiene and sanitation, families like Sita's have built a latrine behind their home. There's a new community water pump by the school too – and a village water management committee to ensure it's properly maintained.

Now, Sita's family are healthy and no longer have to spend money on medicines. They can afford to send the children to school – and have started to build a new home.

'Now, thank God, our village is clean, my family is much healthier and there's no more debt.'

Toilet Twinning's supporters dug deep so that change became possible. Sita and her family have been blessed – and they know it. Their health, hope and dignity have all been restored.

Watch our film about Sita on vimeo:
<https://vimeo.com/294530528>



Abundantly blessed

God is a faithful, loving God who delights to shower blessings upon his children – so they can bless others. Through Toilet Twinning, your church can be a blessing to communities overseas.

In this booklet, you'll read about Sita and her family in Ivory Coast, one of the poorest countries in the world – and about how a simple toilet transformed their lives. It's also the story of how people in the UK have shared their blessings and shown God's love to others, to free them from debt, despair and disease.

Could you dedicate a Sunday service to Toilet Twinning, maybe at harvest, or around World Toilet Day (19 November)? Or could you put on a fundraising event and create a Toilet Twinning display at the back of your church?

2.3 billion people across the world still don't have a proper toilet. In Ivory Coast, more than three-quarters of the population lacks a loo. Your church can transform lives overseas by twinning your toilets.

Included in this booklet:

- Talk outline
- Fundraising ideas for the whole church
- Ideas for youth and children's groups

Church talk: Abundant blessings

'AND GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.'

2 Corinthians 9:8

What does it mean to be blessed – and to be a blessing?

We have perhaps become over-familiar with the phrase 'God bless'. We say we're 'blessed' to have good neighbours, a new car, a nice house. The #blessed tag on social media has been linked to 'humble bragging'.

But how often do we count more basic blessings like having a toilet and clean water on tap – everyday essentials that millions of people still don't have?

When we spoke with the residents of Sita's village, people said repeatedly how grateful they were for our partner's work. Sita herself knows she is blessed and cared for. Knowing that their village has not been forgotten, and that God is faithful, has restored their hope.

So let's 'forget not all his benefits' (Psalm 103:2)... including toilets.

God showers blessings on us, not so that we will hoard and guard them for ourselves – but rather to bless others and point them to Christ.

2 Corinthians 9:8 talks of an inexhaustible supply of grace which God wants to pour out through us so we may 'abound in every good work'. We're called to be a conduit for his love so that we can be 'salt and light' to the world (Matthew 5:13,14).

The ultimate blessing, as the Beatitudes show immediately before this (Matthew 5:3-12), is an intimate relationship with our loving heavenly Father, resting in him and being fully satisfied in his presence, whatever our circumstances.

Fundraising ideas

Why not try one or more of these tried-and-tested fundraising ideas for harvest or World Toilet Day (19 November)?

A (No) soggy Bottoms bake sale: it's a piece of cake!

A pun-tastic bake sale after church to raise funds for Toilet Twinning is a piece of cake!

You will need:

Bakers

Over the years, our twinners have proved their weight in butter with their ingenious toilet-themed cakes and flan creations, including: Lemon widdle cake, Chocolate log, Bog-shaped biscuits or Poo emoji cakes!

Games and on-the-spot Twinning

Invite people to give generously with:

A 'Chicken Poo Bingo' board

(available to download from our website)

£2 to play

A 'Guess the weight of the toilet-themed cake' contest

£1 to enter

A display of Toilet Twinning certificates

order a Make-A-Stand kit – see back page

£60 to twin

Blue for the Loo

Invite everyone to come to church dressed in blue and make a donation to Toilet Twinning!



For your young people

Inspire your children and young people about why loos are lifesavers and raise funds to twin some toilets.

Get sporty

Hold a sponsored water-carrying walk or cycle ride or a 'Run for the loo'. The average round-trip for women and children collecting water in the developing world is 6km or 3.7 miles. Your young people could walk, cycle or run together, or cover the distance in relay teams.



Big Squat

Challenge your young people to do as many squats as possible in one or two minutes. Could you hold a Big Squat for World Toilet Day on 19 November? (Most latrines we help build are squatting toilets).

Loo-se change

Use a (clean) loo or a large picture of a toilet and fill it with small change.



Craft ideas

Make loo roll art (here's one we made earlier) Who can build the tallest tower of loo rolls? Build a bridge using only loo rolls and string Make a mummy/clothing with loo paper.



Make a weekend of it!

The young people at Ryton Methodist Church led a service on a toilet theme and sold cakes they had baked during a toilet-themed games evening and sleepover the night before. They encouraged church friends to twin using a Make-a-Stand kit.



Tough it out

Middle Church children at St Devenick's in Bielside, Aberdeen, held a sponsored bike ride and slept outdoors under cardboard. Could you do something similar to push yourselves outside your comfort zone and step into the shoes of people in poverty?

Donations can be made online via a BACS transfer:

Account name	Toilet Twinning
Bank	Barclays
Account	53798860
Sort code	20-00-00

Or you can send a cheque (payable to 'Toilet Twinning') to our postal address (overleaf).



Your church service checklist

You can order or download these resources from the 'Churches' section of our website: www.toilettwinning.org

- Short film:** Watch the Sita film on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/294530528>, or find it on our website.
- A PowerPoint:** Use a slide deck of photos and Bible verses alongside your *Abundant blessings* talk.
- A Make-A-Stand kit:** Create a pop-up Toilet Twinning stand and offer your congregation the opportunity to twin their toilet at home – either before or after a service, or as part of a Blue for the Loo event or Soggy Bottoms bake sale.
- Recipes for a bake sale:** We're delighted to have the support of celebrity bakers who've donated recipes to inspire your creativity.
- Fun activities:** Chicken Poo Bingo, Build-A-Bog 'beetle drive', Toilet Quiz, craft ideas: loo-themed fun and games are just a click away!
- Advertising:** Download a poster template and add in your event details.

Get in touch if you need any more ideas or resources.

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