

**PRAY
AND
ACT
FOR
PEACE**



Creator,

Make our minds and spirits full with your stillness. Relax our bodies into you.

Bombs fall across the entire northern border of Iraq daily. The Kurdish villagers who live underneath the raining metal hide, flee, mourn, worry and ache continually. Their children are killed. Their homes are destroyed. Their crops are burned. Their pockets are empty. Their tears are many.

Forgive us, that as we have grown weary of hearing, talking and thinking about the War in Iraq, we have forgotten our Kurdish sisters and brothers still suffering, and so many like them in our world. Forgive us that the busyness of our lives makes us deaf to the cries of your people.

A man scrambles across the ground in fear as a war plane strikes his village. He cannot run, because he has already lost one leg from a previous attack.

God, teach us to quiet our lives. Teach us to be still. Teach us to listen.

Children hide in covered holes in the dirt when bombs begin to fall. It is dark, dirty and small. Sounds crash. The earth crumbles in on them. The ground shakes.

God, teach us to quiet our lives. Teach us to be still. Teach us to listen.

Displaced communities have lost everything: homes, income, crops, schools, possessions, their dignity and their security. They live in canvas tents with little food, little water and hardly any protection from illness or the elements. Even so, they have hope. They work for peace.

God, teach us to quiet our lives. Teach us to be still. Teach us to listen.

Let us look into the faces of those who suffer so that we may see your tears and your power.

Let us have ears to hear and hearts to receive the stories of our Kurdish sisters and brothers so that we may know the stories that make you our God.

Teach us to be still and quiet so that we can hear your voice calling us into your vision of peace for ourselves, our communities and for the world.

by Hilary Scarsella, AMBS student and member of the Iraq Christian Peacemaker Team