

PRAY  
AND ACT  
FOR  
PEACE  
IN IRAQ



## A Prayer for Iraq

*Prince of Peace,*

We confess our self-imposed insulation to the violence and death caused by war. We acknowledge our desire to focus on the happiness of Christmas rather than the horrors of war. We admit our smug satisfaction about our personal non-participation in this war or our nationalistic support for militarism and war-making. We confess our veiled hostility and judgmental attitudes toward people who see the war in Iraq differently than we do.

For these sins, we ask your forgiveness.

*Prince of Hope,*

We request the improvement of conditions that make for peace in Iraq. May the people with power open the tap and let fresh water flow, flip the switch so that electricity's power may hum, fill the marketplace with food, the hospital with medicine, the school with students and teachers, and the store with clothing. We pray that all combatants in Iraq exchange the weapons of death for tools to build hope, peace, love and joy.

*Prince of Love,*

Let our Advent prayers be filled with expectation and hope. Let us recognize that you are bending history toward peace. Please baptize the violence of war with the peace of Christ.

*Prince of Joy,*

May our prayerful actions overcome evil with good. We ask that you increase our joy so that the profound losses of war will not overcome our prayers for peace.

With advent-like anticipation we wait your response, *Lord of History.*

*Dick Davis is pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Dallas, TX.*