



**PRAY
AND ACT
FOR
PEACE
IN IRAQ**



A Prayer for Peace

Lord, you are the giver of peace. Jesus came into this world to bring healing and reconciliation to a violent world. Yet, those bent on selfishness, injustice and domination did not heed his teachings and continued on their path of destruction. Many people listened and followed him, even to the cross. They were given a ministry of reconciliation as they followed him.

We, your servants, have inherited this ministry. So often this ministry seems daunting because there is so much violence in the world. Everywhere we turn there is violence ...in our neighborhoods and in our cities. In our homes where we should feel safe, there is violence. God, we ask, "What causes so much pain and violence?" When we look around us, we see so much injustice being done in your name because of the economic lifestyle that we choose and the worldly ideologies we espouse.

Wars are started and people conquered because of greed for the world's resources and ideological differences. We see this so plainly in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. People there are dying and suffering. They long and ask for peace. We long and pray for peace. Yet, peace does not come.

Lord, we have some clues to what will lead to peace. Yet, we often remain silent and inactive. Forgive us for our inability to see injustice in our midst. Forgive us for our lack of responding to the pain and suffering around us. Christ, help us to understand that peace begins with us. Help us to open our hearts to respond to the violence in our homes, communities and the world. Where there is a lack of compassion, give us the passion to move forward and be Christ-like as you are calling us to be in this unrestful and violent world.

Loving God, let me be a bearer of your loving and caring peace.

Creator God, hear our prayers. Holy and compassionate God, hear my prayer.

Amen.

John H. Powell is Director for U.S. Ministries, Mennonite Mission Network.