



Listening to the plea

A prayer to stop the new war against Iraq

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: God, we come before you to hear your invitation to us to be ministers of reconciliation to our government.

Leader: We hear the grief of the people of Iraq.

People: The Iraqi people have already suffered two decades of war and sanctions.

Leader: According to MCC partners in Iraq, for most Iraqis, "Every day is an emergency."

A voice: We hear the plea of an Iraqi teacher to an MCC visitor: "Go. Be our message of peace."

All: We heed this call.

Leader: We accept the ministry of reconciliation given to us by God through the life of Jesus. (2 Cor: 6:16-21)

People: "We will witness to the nations by being that 'city on a hill' which demonstrates the way of Christ." (*The Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective and Matthew 5:14*)

Leader: We lift up our national government leaders and the men and women of our armed services. Grant them wisdom and open, compassionate hearts.

People: May they hear your voice amidst the fear and insecurity that drive nations to seek violent solutions to problems caused by violence. May they do no harm.

Leader: Strengthen our voices so they will be clear and strong.

People: Help us speak to government leaders a clear call for creative alternatives to war.

Leader: Give us courage to ask political leaders to consider the devastating cost of military action.

People: We will request dignity for the Iraqi people and call for an end to the sanctions depriving Iraqis of healthy and secure lives.

Leader: Let respectful dialogue replace threats and propaganda.

People: May we live peace so our voice has integrity. When we offer alternatives to war, our voices have the integrity our lives speak.

Leader: Empower our communities of faith to overcome evil with good and to reconcile enemies.

People: May we strengthen our voice for peace, decrease our dependence on oil, develop healthy responses to conflict, and find alternatives to paying war taxes.

All: Gracious God, give us courage to speak, act, and even suffer for peace in the days ahead.

Credits:

MCC Peace Office Newsletter, July-September 2002, Volume 21, Number 3, authors Elsie Wiebe, Esther Epp-Tiessen
MCC Washington Memo, September-October 2002, Volume 34, Number 5, authors J. Daryl Byler, Lois Y. Barrett

Action

- Until September 29, your congregation may still sign the Iraq letter by Jim Schrag, Mennonite Church USA Executive Director, to President Bush. For information, go to: <http://peace.mennolink.org/>
- You may fax President Bush at: 202-456-2461.
- You may find fax information for your Senators at: <www.senate.gov> and for your Representative at: <www.house.gov>.



Executive Board

Susan Mark Landis, peace advocate, and Dick Davis, Cynthia Friesen, and Cathleen Hockman-Wert, PJSN volunteers. For more information, see the Peace and Justice Support Network web site, <http://peace.Mennolink.org>