

Mennonite Central Committee Prayer for March 30, 2003

God of mercy,

You have promised to hear the cries of your people. Our hearts weep as we witness the war that is being waged on your earth, among your people. And so we bring you our cries of anger and anguish, grief and sorrow. We offer our prayers to you.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for the people of Iraq. We cannot imagine the suffering they are experiencing. We pray that there may be medicine and medical care for the sick and the injured, food and clean water for those under siege, shelter and safety for those displaced from their homes. May the fearful be comforted. May the weary find rest.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for soldiers on both sides of this conflict. Be close to them in times of terror and fear; hold them in your embrace. Open their hearts and minds to your leading. Help them to see the "enemy" as your beloved children.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for world leaders. Help them to understand that violence cannot bring peace. Move their hearts with compassion for the all the people of this world. Help them to make decisions that promote justice and reconciliation Help them to choose life and not death.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for our earth -- your good creation. May the devastation to soil, air, water, and animals be limited. May your creation be preserved and protected.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves. Forgive us where we have been silent or indifferent, where we have failed to witness to your way of peace. Forgive us where we have trusted in military might or national security for our safety. Help us to place our trust in you. And grant us courage and strength to be your messengers of hope and reconciliation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

<http://www.mcc.org/respub/worship/index.html>

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