

Prayer for a Hurting Community

Loving Jesus, you called children to you and held them in your arms.

Hold in your arms now the children who need healing in body and spirit: the little girls lying in hospital beds and the little boys who have lost sisters and friends.

May they sense your arms of love around them.

Jesus, lover of little children, hear our prayers.

Lord Jesus, we ask you to hold safely in your arms also the children and the wife of the man who brought grief and pain to his family and community.

May they also know your love surrounding them.

Jesus, friend of all who suffer, hear our prayers.

Loving God, may the teacher, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins find strength, comfort, and hope as they continue their journey with you.

Loving God, father of us all, hear our prayers.

Holy Spirit, we pray that the whole community, so torn by what has happened, will find healing, comfort, and peace as they reach out to each other with love and kindness.

Holy Spirit, Comforter, hear our prayers.

Lord, we who have been forgiven so much ourselves, still find it difficult to forgive others, especially those who hurt little children. We pray for humility and for the power of love to forgive even when we cannot understand - to forgive as you have forgiven us.

Forgiving Father, hear our prayers.

We pray for all children in our schools, churches, communities. May the adults who have the responsibility to nurture, protect, and love be able to help children deal with their fears and questions.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers.

Loving Shepherd, you are with us. Even as we walk through the valleys of darkness, you help us walk toward the light with the assurance that you are the resurrection and the life.

Jesus, Savior, hear our prayers.

By Janet Gehman

Community Prayer Service

October 3, 2006 6:00 pm

Hershey Mennonite Church

401 Hershey Church Road

Kinzers, PA 17519