

10 May 2007

DaySpring Baptist Church, Waco, Texas

Please join me in these prayers for each other and for our world.

We pray for our wobbling and troubled world, O Lord, especially for those who are caught in the horrors of war—in Iraq and Afghanistan, in Somalia and Darfur—and in all the other places where hatred and violence and bloodshed are the daily diet of millions of our brothers and sisters. Bring peace to your war-plagued people, O Lord, even as you transform us into peacemakers.

We pray also for the many thousands who struggle to survive on the mean streets of our cities, especially the ghettos and barrios of Waco, but also and along the broken back roads of rural America: the homeless, the hungry, the indigent, the unemployed, and the many souls who simply cannot cope with life's ordinary difficulties: Bring deliverance to your struggling ones, O Lord, even as you prompt us to become their deliverers.

We pray also for the sick: for those who are bedfast, homebound, and pain-stricken—no matter whether their agonies be mental or physical. Heal them, O Lord, of their bodily misery and their spiritual torment, even as you enable us to become healers of these your stricken ones.

We pray also for the countless lonely souls who have not a single friend, for the many families that are broken by insult and injury, for the many marriages that are riven with betrayal and infidelity. Befriend and restore them, O Lord, even as you make us your ministers of reconciliation.

We also pray for enemies, for those whom we have grievously offended by both our sinful thoughts, and words, and deeds, but also for those who have grievously offended us without cause. Forgive them, O Lord, even as You have forgiven us.

Finally do we pray for ourselves and our church. Make us into a faithful community of peacemakers, of deliverers, of healers, of reconcilers. Through him who turned the water of our unredeemed lives into the wine of the world's salvation. Jesus Christ. Amen.