O God, we offer to you now in this hour our fears, our sense of helplessness, our lethargy, our often misplaced anger and outrage, our conflicting emotions about allegiance and loyalty.

We pray for clarity – for a clear mind that seeks the right.

We pray for strength to do what we know to be right.
O God, deliver us this day from all that would keep us from serving Thee and from serving humankind as we ought.

Deliver us from all coldness of heart; deliver us from all weakness of will; from the indecision which cannot make up its mind; from the irresolution which cannot abide by a decision once it is made; from the inability to say no to the tempting voices which come to us from within and without.

Deliver us from all failure in endeavor; from being easily discouraged, from giving up and giving in too soon; from allowing any task to defeat us because it is difficult.

And grant us this day the grace to respond, even at the point of sacrifice – sacrificing the paralysis of fear, the allure of easy answers, the ease of non-involvement, sacrificing the easy and arrogant habits of consumption and assumption of what we are entitled to, rejecting the sense of helplessness, rightly focusing our anger and outrage against injustice and abuse.

And above all, acknowledging that our highest allegiance and loyalty is yours and yours along.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Prayer by Jeanette Holt, then associate director of the Southern Baptist Alliance and member of the BPFNA board of directors, offered at the January 15, 1991, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America "Service of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East" at First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C. (A portion of this prayer is adapted from a prayer by William Barclay.) This was published in Baptist Peacemaker, Spring 1991, Vol XI, No. 1.