Prayer for Peace

Almighty God, Our Creator, Giver and Sustainer of Life, we face the horrible prospect that vast numbers of parents around the world will soon bury their sons and daughters. This is against all understanding, for we believe that the more natural flow of life is for children to bear their parents to the grave. It is an agony of which we can barely speak, but which is now constantly on our minds. Unable to find worlds, we trust that You will hear us in the midst of our groanings.

May we be so bold, O God, to ask that our Spirit descend upon those who so quickly speak of the need and then vote for war, so that they may somehow begin to view this horror as though their own children were on the front lines.

We pray for all the men and women in uniform, many whose names are known and now spoken in the depths of someone’s heart. We think of them, we remember their faces, we ask for their safekeeping. We pray for them all, those who stand with us and those who are supposedly against us, all who are poised for battle.

We pray for the families of these soldiers. Too often they now feel the wetness of tears on their cheeks, knots in their stomachs, and a great heaviness in their hearts. Such feelings are known to parents, spouses, children, brothers and sisters of Iraqis as well as Americans. Be to them all, we pray, strength and light for such a time as this. We claim the promise that You will never leave nor forsake.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Prayer by Gary & Patti West, BPFNA members from Statesville, NC. At that time they directed shelters for the homeless and battered women. Parts of this prayer were televised by CBS News. This prayer was 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. This was published in Baptist Peacemaker, Spring 1991, Vol XI, No. 1