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## PRAYERS FOR PEACE

with contributions from KLAUS-OTTO NICKELS, CLAIRE FISHER, CHRISTIANE WEST LITTLE, MICK BENDOR, ALEXANDRA HAWLEY, TODD HERZER, BETH CAREY, DAVID WILMAN, JOAN HUNT, JANET CLEMENTS

*Following the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, DC, the Sentinel published numerous prayers of love and healing that readers sent in response. In this reprise of that feature, readers once again share their inspired thoughts and prayers for the world.*

KLAUS-OTTO NICKELS

Hamburg, Germany

In recent weeks, a couple of thoughts have accompanied me in my prayer for the world. One came out of the love I felt for my own children after looking at pictures of them in a photo album. It occurred to me that, in a way, God is constantly looking at everyone in the world — His children — and loving them infinitely, rejoicing about each individually. This love of God is all that really affects you and me, and all.

Another thought I had came out of God's promise in the Bible, "I will pour out my spirit" (see Joel 2:28, 29). God pours out His spirit of love, peace, mutual understanding, and unity on all His people. This is true for everyone I'm coming in touch with today, everyone I hear or read about — just anyone.

CLAIRE FISHER Park Ridge, Illinois, US

As "the light of the world," Jesus began his prayer with "*Our* Father" (not "My Father"). Oh may we find the spirit of this *our*, and pray for *our* families, *our* communities, *our* countries, our world. May we feel the spirit of this prayer embracing "us." All of us.

I pray: "Feed us, forgive us, lead us, deliver us. Feed us with grace. Forgive us our divisions, enabling us to forgive others of theirs. Lead us to live Your oneness and allness."

CHRISTIANE WEST LITTLE

Alexandria, Virginia, US

Pray for peace! How shall I pray? Words I heard almost daily from my dad since childhood come easily: "Make me an instrument of Thy peace!" (St. Francis of Assisi).

But today, I pause. I do not ask. I wait on my heavenly Father's words. I listen, and I hear: "You are all instruments of My peace. Each one. All included. None excepted. Man, woman, child. Muslim, Jew, Christian, Buddhist, unbeliever."

I think: Each one an active instrument of God's peace. Each one a powerful instrument in God's hand to spread to every corner of the world — and beyond — the sweet savor of His love, His peace, His gentleness, His wisdom, His blessed healing power.

I hear: "You are Mine, My idea, My expression. All without exception, children of God, and therefore by your very birthright blessed peacemakers."

"Yield, yield, yield, and be!" I tell myself. "God's infinite power has already established and forever maintains His peace, in every consciousness, everywhere."

MICK BENDOR

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

My daily prayer is striving to gain a better understanding of divine Love. To heal any latent hatred in my heart. To connect with "Our Father." To only reflect His love.

ALEXANDRA HAWLEY

Atherton, California, US

Praying for the world used to seem overwhelming to me because there are so many problems, and my contribution felt so little. Then the image of a small nightlight in a large room came to me. Just as that small light takes away some of the darkness, so the prayers of our brothers and sisters everywhere are like millions of nightlights, joining in one grand illumination. Every hymn, every prayer, every right thought acknowledging God's power and goodness, embraces those in need of His love. Sometimes I just say quietly, "Father, thank you for Your presence everywhere, for guiding, protecting, and caring for Your children all over the world. May Your peace fill the hearts of us all."

TODD HERZER Dana Point, California, US

In my spiritual healing practice, I'm feeling a deeper call develop the qualities of a spiritual seer. The aggressive nature of the hostilities in the Middle East try to overwhelm us, but right where the picture of conflict presents itself, Soul's senses enable me to see more of the spiritual nature of man governed by a universal law of harmony. I feel I'm working more closely with God, to help me set aside firmly held political opinions, deeply entrenched in a material sense of world situations, and achieve spiritual clarity. There are moments in my prayers when I am actually feeling God move my thought above the general hopelessness to a genuine degree of confidence that paths for peace will begin to emerge.

BETH CAREY

Traverse City, Michigan, US

Peace is more than a cease-fire. In my many travels to Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Egypt, I've seen only God's children at every turn. My prayer for peace is a recognition that despite religion, race, country, or past action, each individual is always the perfect image of our one FatherMother, God. Peace flows from realizing this oneness of identity, as we see our brothers and sisters through this lens of love.

DAVID WILMAN Cambridge, England

In prayer I think of man as "the expression of God's being" — spiritual and not material (*Science and Health*, [p. 470](#)). In this case, mortals fighting over scarce resources, such as land, water, and oil, present a limited and mistaken view of man. It is better to see man as "satisfied, complete, divinely fair" (Susan F. Campbell, *Christian Science Hymnal*, [No. 149](#)).

JOAN HUNT

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

My constant prayer for the world is: "One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations; constitutes the brotherhood of man; ends wars; fulfils the Scripture, 'Love thy neighbor as thyself;' annihilates pagan and Christian idolatry, — whatever is wrong in social, civil, criminal, political, and religious codes; . . ." (*Science and Health*, [p. 340](#)).

Those first four words declare God's allness, supremacy, limitless goodness. All of us are deeply loved by this one infinite, all-good God. As we acknowledge God's love and accept that our brothers and sisters are so loved, we can expect to see evidence of the good, unity, brotherhood, peace, and freedom that belong to each one of us inherently. Nothing and no one is left out of this prayer.

JANET CLEMENTS

Chicago, Illinois, US

I rejoice that the God of peace is with us all, is ever present, embracing us in a ribbon of calm. Our God, who is ever-caring Love, fills our hearts with mercy, leaving no room for strife. Our God, who is intelligent Mind, gives us boundless thoughts of wisdom, not revenge. Our God, who is the supreme governor, weaves the divine law of neighborly love into the fabric of our being, leaving no room for terror. I rejoice that in knowing this one divine lawgiver, we can "follow peace with all men" ([Heb. 12:14](#)) and see that each of us is held tenderly in the peace of Soul forever.

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