

SOCIAL JUSTICE PRAYER NETWORK  
Prayers for the Period beginning May 1, 2010

In 2010, more than 220,000 people have already died in natural disasters—earthquakes, floods, storms, volcanic eruptions. And countless more have been left homeless, jobless, ill, hungry and hopeless.

My daughter celebrates her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 40 years after the Kent State tragedy. In so many ways the world is not a better place for us or our children. We see the suffering we inflict on ourselves—shootings, bombings, terrorism, wars, oppression, economic debacles, greed, hate. And multitudes are left homeless, jobless, ill, hungry and hopeless.

**We long desperately for a new world. We long for peace.  
We long for Peace with Justice, not just on Sunday, May 30,  
but whenever we look around us, whenever we pray.**

Whenever we pray for earthquake victims--Haiti, Chili, China  
Whenever we pray for the creatures and people of the Gulf affected by the explosions of  
greed and disregard for consequences  
Whenever we pray for miners in West Virginia or China, trapped by  
avarice and indifference to safety  
Whenever we pray for those who are hated and rejected and persecuted  
because of race, birthplace, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation,  
religion, or political differences  
Whenever we pray for countries torn by war and violence and terrorism  
Whenever we pray for an earth destroyed by greed, selfishness and neglect  
Whenever we pray for those afflicted by curable diseases such as malaria  
Whenever we pray for the reduction of nuclear arms or the elimination of chemical warfare or  
a decrease in personal firearms.

**Whenever we pray, we long desperately for a new world. We long for peace.  
And so, we celebrate Pentecost. And we remember the promises.  
And we believe the promises as we pray.**

*[Jesus said,] "I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught."\**

*"God lives among human beings. God's home will be among us;  
we will be God's people, and God will be our God, god-with-us.  
God will wipe away all tears from our eyes;  
there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness or pain."\**

\*Scriptures in order:

JOHN 14:27, THE MESSAGE, LECTIONARY MAY 9

REVELATION 21:3B-4A, ADAPTED, THE NEW JERUSALEM BIBLE, LECTIONARY MAY 9

To suggest concerns for listing on the Prayer Network, contact: Edie Harris, SJPN Facilitator: [edieannah@gmail.com](mailto:edieannah@gmail.com)

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To be added to the SJPN mailing list, contact: Methodist Federation for Social Action

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