



By Dr. Jim McGinnis & published  
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Institute for Peace & Justice,  
475 E. Lockwood, St. Louis, MO 63119  
314-918-2630  
ppjn@aol.com  
or online at [www.ipj-ppj.org](http://www.ipj-ppj.org).

Helpful supplements to the book at  
[www.ipj-ppj.org/prayingforpeace.htm](http://www.ipj-ppj.org/prayingforpeace.htm) include:

- Websites for the actions with each prayer
- Annotated film list for each country/issue
- A daily calendar for praying for peace
- "Praying for Peace with Urgency"
- Prayers for additional countries
- Other prayers for peace
- Multi-faith prayers for peace
- Poetic reflections on war by David Smith-Ferri
- A preface by Chaplain Ken Briggs

In 128 pages, this book invites us to pray and act for peace in 40 different countries and around 13 different issues of peace and justice on a daily and weekly basis. Each prayer page includes

- a short description of the situation on the country or issue
- a longer prayer for peace from that country or issue
- suggestions for action (with the action websites in the website Supplement)
- a shorter prayer of petition that can be used in worship services

Praying for Peace...

- Deepens our understanding and sense of solidarity with God's whole human family
- Enables us to be more committed and effective peacemakers
- Gives individuals, families, and faith communities a deeper sense of global mission
- Enriches our prayer life and deepens our relationship with the God of compassion and peace

What others have already said about Praying for Peace...

*Most importantly, this book points to the power of prayer and the importance of praying for peace as part of our spiritual discipline. The message throughout is that we, sinful humans, are reliant on one another and the grace of God, even as we are called to be co-workers with God in building a future we can only glimpse. In short, I have found it to be a hopeful and practical book that will have a central place in my own devotional life.*

MICHAEL KINNAMON, GENERAL SECRETARY, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*This beautiful book helps us to hold a hurting world in prayer and to walk a very contemporary Way of the Cross. May it deepen our compassion and our commitment to work for peace.*

MARIE DENNIS, DIRECTOR, MARYKNOLL OFFICE FOR GLOBAL CONCERNS,  
CO-PRESIDENT, PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL

*Here is a beautiful mosaic of prayers for justice and compassion, mutual respect and nonviolent transformation in our world's many places of violent conflict. Jim has drawn together a prayerful vision of God's reign on earth as it is in heaven – for all of us to pray for, work for, and die for, in fulfillment of the will of our Creator.*

JIM DOUGLASS, PEACE ACTIVIST AND AUTHOR OF *JFK and the Unspeakable*

*In a world torn apart by violence, we turn to our creative, redeeming God begging for the gift of peace. This volume is not only a "prayer book," it is also a call to do justice, the basis of lasting peace.*

ROBERT F. MORNEAU, PASTOR OF RESURRECTION PARISH, GREEN BAY, WI;  
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF GREEN BAY

*If we pray these prayers in a space where silence can have its say, avail ourselves of the resources that accompany this book, and—most importantly—put faces on the tragedies of violence and injustice found herein, we will find ourselves taking our crucified world into our hearts as well as our hands and find our feet being guided into the path of peace. (from the Foreword)*

FR. BRYAN MASSINGALE, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AT MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

# Praying for Peace in Iraq

(ESPECIALLY THE WEEK OF MARCH 18, THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR IN IRAQ IN 2003)

What is currently Iraq resulted from the break-up of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, with borders having no roots in history. In 1958, the Iraqi monarchy was overthrown and Iraq became an Islamic republic. In 1979, after twenty years of military rule, Saddam Hussein emerged as the sole power and suppressed all opposition. As an Islamic counter-balance to both Egypt in the 1950s and Iran during the Iraq-Iran war in the 1980s, the United States supported Hussein until 1990 when he invaded Kuwait. When he failed to withdraw by a UN deadline, the United States began a month-long bombing campaign that ended in February 1991, with one hundred thousand mostly Iraqi military killed and Iraq devastated. Economic sanctions during the 1990s further destroyed Iraq and killed a UN-estimated five hundred thousand children. Under the pretense of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and Iraqi connections with al-Qaida, the United States launched an all-out war in March 2003 that continued into 2009, with devastating consequences in both Iraq and the United States.

**Prayer for Peace:** Loving God, we pray for ourselves: that we may be the body of Christ, saying “No” to war and “Yes” to peace; that we may be followers of the Prince of Peace, learning to love our enemies; that we may be faithful disciples, bringing good news to the poor and release to the captive; that we may be united by Christ’s cross, patient and passionate, tender and tenacious.

We pray for others: for the people of Iraq, whose lives and dreams are broken daily; for the victims of torture and abuse and their perpetrators, whose bodies, hearts, minds and souls are being scarred forever; for soldiers and their families, torn apart by war, sacrificing more than many of us can understand; for communities suffering from poverty and violence, fear and division; may they each know that they are held in your love and in our prayers.

We pray for your world: that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, that human shall not lift up spear against human, and that no one shall study war, or greed, or prejudice.

We pray for peace: make us your peacemakers, that we may learn in our hearts and words and actions, in our votes and policies and halls of governance, to overcome hatred with love, evil with good, and violence with peace. We pray for peace in the name of the One who offers us the peace of Christ. Amen.

“PRAYERS FOR PEACE,” CHRISTIAN PEACE WITNESS FOR IRAQ

**Action:** Consider visiting a returning veteran, perhaps at a VA hospital, and supporting Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. View one of the Iraq films and/or read the letters and stories from Iraq through Voices for Creative Nonviolence and Electronic Iraq, as well as the Iraq poems of David Smith-Ferri in *Battlefield Without Borders*. Consider the action suggestions from Voices and the Iraq “Wage Peace” campaign of the American Friends Service Committee.

**Prayer of Petition:** O God of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad! Bring peace and tranquility to the people of Iraq who have been plagued with pain and suffering. O God, we appeal to you bring our soldiers back safe and help our nation to be one that is given to truth and justice. O God, we ask you in submission and humility to allow wisdom to triumph over vanity, truth over falsehood, and love over hate. Amen.

EXCERPTED FROM “A MUSLIM PRAYER FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,” DR. SAYYID M. SYEED, SECRETARY GENERAL, ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA