

Prayer in response to the 2005 Asian Tsunami



O God our Father, Creator of heaven and earth, our hearts go out to our neighbours who have suffered so great a disaster, who are bereaved and cry out for help.

Lord, comfort them and enable help to reach them. Thank you for generous aid given and promised – may it keep coming, and not be lost to corruption and greed. May each one of us be truly generous.

Heavenly Father, protect them from disease and further harm, we pray. Send medical help, food, shelter, access to clean water, sanitation. Thank you for volunteers young and old, doing wonderful jobs in horrific circumstances.

Lord, enable relief workers of all kinds to be effective and compassionate and to cope with the demands they face. May they draw on your strength.

Father God, we think of bereaved parents, and children who are orphaned and at terrible risk. Please protect them.

Lord Jesus, have mercy on the children. Keep sending people to love and care for them in Your name.

We remember that in Sri Lanka and India especially, many Christian believers were among those swept to their deaths, bereaved, injured or made destitute.

Lord Jesus, may the Church worldwide care for them and keep on doing so. May we show love in action.

We think of fellow Australians who have lost loved ones in Thailand and other places, whose bodies may never be found or identified, who may never have a proper funeral.

Lord, in their sorrow draw them to know You, the God of all comfort, and to find closure for their grief.

In Sri Lanka and Aceh, where civil war has raged, we pray for peace and co-operation so relief and reconstruction can proceed. We ask for freedom for the gospel especially in Aceh where few have heard of your love.

Thank you Lord, that at present armies and navies are on missions of mercy. May that continue, we pray.

Your word promises that other troubles will come, falling on the just and the unjust alike. This tsunami swept away the lives, homes and hopes of old and young, rich and poor. Jesus said that wars, earthquakes and disasters of all kinds will continue till He returns.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Lord, we trust you even where we cannot understand. In the darkness let your light shine - Jesus Christ, the hope of the world.

Almighty God, we know that you are both just and loving. In your love you sent Jesus, who died and rose again to save us from the death beyond death.

Give us hope and a firm trust in Jesus. In humble repentance may we know the wonder of his forgiveness and his promise of life after death.

Amen.