

Diakonia Prayer February 2021

'But seek the welfare of the city...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.' (Jeremiah 29:7) This was written to the Hebrew people as they were in exile in Babylon. They were being encouraged to live, putting their hope in God and each other. Their situation was different from ours yet these words still speak to us, as deaconesses and deacons around the world. If we are not living in a city, we can instead say town, or community, as it is here that connections are made so that we can support and encourage each other. This includes online communities as well.

The restrictions that the virus have brought have helped us realise how important these connections with each other are. If you are feeling isolated at this time, either personally or as an organisation, please be assured of prayers for you. We also give thanks that there has recently been an opportunity to offer grants of money from Diakonia World Federation to support diaconal programs to those in need, in these Covid times.

Prayer:

Gracious God, we pray for people affected by the virus, either personally or through family, friends or neighbours. We also pray for wisdom for leaders of countries as they make decisions about the best ways in which to respond. As medical staff and hospitals in many places are struggling to cope, we lift these to you.

Creator God, we pray for this world which you so lovingly have made. We think of the natural world and see the ways that it is being destroyed in many places, by the selfishness of people. Forgive us for the ways in which we turn away from caring for your world. Help us to be advocates for the animals, birds, fish and plants that live in an interconnected way with us.

We pray today for the people of many countries around the world where there is inequality in how people are treated. In Australia we particularly pray for our indigenous people. We also pray for the refugees who have come to our country, looking for a safe place to live, only to be detained with an uncertain future.

Loving God, may we turn to you for the peace that only you can bring. Help us to live out our calling to love, pray for and reach out to all people- not just those who are easy to love but those we find difficult to love.

We bring our prayers in Jesus' name, Amen.

Rev Christa Megaw, Australia

Diakonia Executive Committee, DAP.