

Prayer Letter July 2026

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

1 Kings 19:11-13

At this point of the biblical narrative, Elijah has been busy!

He had confronted Queen Jezebel, and he had taunted the priests of the national religion on Mount Carmel, bringing their gods into disrepute. Elijah was tired after all of this intense activity, and he was tired because he had been running for his life. This very active period and very tiring stretch also left Elijah feeling as if he was all alone. Feeling like God had forsaken him.

This is where we see Elijah having an encounter with God. There was a terrible wind, there was an earthquake, there was fire. But God was not present in any of these phenomena. Then came a still small voice. A gentle whisper. The sound of silence. And then Elijah and God had a conversation.

We live in a world that is fast paced, noisy, and filled with incentives to keep us engaged every waking moment. There are new inventions to explore, new apps to download, more and more places opening up to be visited, new methods of getting things done in the Church and in society. It is so easy to not hear the voice of God. Even when doing the work of God. It is indeed so easy to work hard among the noises of the world, that the still small voice of God is missed.

Sometimes it is not the busyness of work that takes control, sometimes it is natural disasters. A week ago, we in Winnipeg in Canada had thunderstorms with hail, and tornados touched down on the outskirts. A few weeks ago, Mindanao in the Philippines was hit by an earthquake. When you are in the midst of those noisy, scary situations, it is hard to hear the still small voice.

Sometimes it is personal health concerns, sometimes it is matters of the heart that consume our attention. The challenge keeps coming back – stop and listen for the still small voice, for the sound of silence. God’s voice in those times can offer comfort, strength and reassurance.



To Ponder:

What are the things that take up a lot of your time, threatening to drown out the voice of God?

What strategies can you put in place to ensure that you have a chance to hear the voice of God, which is never silent?

Prayer:

“As o’er each continent and island

The dawn leads on another day.

The voice of prayer is never silent

Nor dies the strain of praise away.”

(from the hymn – The day though gavest – written by John Ellerton, and found in the public domain)

Loving God, we pray for those who are in situations where it is difficult to hear your still small voice.

We pray for those who are challenged by ill health, by economic constraints, by bereavement or by concerns known only to you. We pray for those who are facing the difficulties caused by wars. We pray for those cleaning up after natural disasters.

May they know your strength, comfort, healing and peace. Holy One, wherever in the world we find ourselves today, may we be reassured that we are not alone, as so many of our sisters and brothers are offering prayers.

Hear our prayers now, as we ask them in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Rev. Marlene Britton, President DIAKONIA World Federation