

A prayer by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of South Africa

Loving God, Prince of Peace, we pray today for our sisters and brothers in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo;

*We pray for the victims and survivors of violence in those nations,
We pray for refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries, and for the millions of people crowded into camps for displaced people,
We pray for their politicians, that they will learn how to become servant leaders, dedicated to the interests of their people.*

*Lord Jesus, you are our hope,
Our faith in you grounds us in hope,
It gives us certainty that peace can be made,
It strengthens our resolve that peace must be made,
And hope helps us to triumph over all.*

*We pray that the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan,
Will focus on the hope that you inspire,
Hold one another's hands,
Look upon one another, eyeball to eyeball,
And resolve to build united, peaceful nations.*

*This we pray in your precious name,
Amen*

A Prayer for the People of D R Congo (Adapted from a Prayer in the Congo Swahili Prayer Book 1998)

O God,
Loving parent of all,
comfort your children
displaced, wounded, lost or orphaned by conflict in D R Congo;
and give the people of that country
courage to seek enduring peace with justice and freedom,
that their children might grow up without fear,
for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ
Amen

Almighty God, maker of all, enemy of none,
we pray to you for the people of Congo,
whose troubles are in your heart and ours,
whose hopes are set in your promises.
Stretch out your arm, your mighty hand,
and touch this wounded land.

Lord of heaven and earth: ***bring peace and healing***

Touch those whose lives have been scarred by violence and death;
as they look on the cross of Christ, bring them from pain to joy.

Lord of heaven and earth: ***bring peace and healing***

Touch those who are guilty of greed and cruelty;
by your Spirit bring them through repentance to new life.

Lord of heaven and earth: ***bring peace and healing***

Touch those who wield power, of government, of arms, and of commerce:
give them a vision of Congo rebuilt, united, free and prosperous.

Lord of heaven and earth: ***bring peace and healing***

Touch your church, troubled and tired, and give it new strength,
so that with Bible and hoe, prayer and medicine,
it can tell of your love and show your compassion.

Lord of heaven and earth: ***bring peace and healing***

Touch our hearts too, renew our solidarity with our brothers and sisters,
and show us how we can support them in their difficulties.

Lord of heaven and earth: ***bring peace and healing***

Stretch out your arm, your mighty hand,
and touch the wounded land of Congo;
for Jesus' sake. ***Amen.***

With thanks to Rev Ian Tarrant and Rev Tim Naish