

Written prayer

For when the nations shake

We first wrote and used this prayer after a couple of weeks where the international headlines were dominated by heartbreaking situations. (You can read about the original context [here](#).) It can be used to pray for any spectrum of nations – and so we have italicised the section that highlights particular nations so you can replace it for changing contexts, or simply leave it out and finish at the end of the more general prayer.

A prayer for when the nations shake...

Lord Jesus our hearts are heavy right now -
Sometimes with grief,
Sometimes with horror,
Even at times with anger.
And always - always with tears.

The nations shake -
Sometimes spiritually,
Sometimes politically,
Even at times physically.
And always - always there is pain.

Lord Jesus we stand beside each one -
As they ask questions,
As they struggle to frame a coherent response,
Even at times as they harden their hearts.
And always - always in their grief.

We know we are simply joining you -
For you are already there,
Always at work,
Always interceding from a deeper grief even than theirs.
And always - always ready and able to heal.

Lord Jesus we come to you -
Always the comforter,
Always the hope,
Always the healer.
And always - always our strength and power for change.

We know we are echoing your heart -
As we pray sometimes for reconstruction,

Written prayer

For when the nations shake

Sometimes for peace,
Even at times for softened hearts and gentler words.
And always - always for the healer of nations to come.

Even so come - Healer of nations. Even so, come.

Come to America, and especially to Boston.

Come to Iraq, and especially to Baghdad.

Come to Iran, to Pakistan and to Papua New Guinea.

And come here Lord - where we also so desperately need your transforming love and healing power.

Even so come - Lord Jesus we pray. Even so, come.