



My Burdens

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

In times like these, many people feel as though the weight of the world is on their shoulders. People see decisions being made and directions taken they do not support and cannot control. People long for life to be good and comfortable. If someone promises to make it so, some will forget that ends do not justify the means and they will turn a blind eye to deplorable behavior, deceit, and dishonesty for the hope in those promises – even when the promised outcomes do not (even cannot) materialize. It is easier to think only in terms of our personal wants and needs because thinking about the wants and needs of others may seem to be an endless burden that will only make life harder for us. It is too easy to say: concern for others does not seem to make a difference anyway, does it? . . .

The answer for some is throw up their hands, say, 'turn the whole mess over to God', then sit back, and wait for God to fix it. The problem with this is that God does not call us to a passive faith. We are not alone on this planet. We are responsible for others. God does not say give me your burden and go take a nap. He says give me your burdens and take on my yoke and we will work on solutions together.

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **Puerto Rico earthquake victims.** A 6.4 magnitude quake hit January 7th. The entire island is affected. 3 power plants were badly damaged. Everyone lost power; many also lost water at least for a time. The island has been experiencing tremors since December 28th. Puerto Rico continues working to recover from the hurricane that devastated the country 2 years ago. The people are still waiting for the disaster relief aid the government promised them. The current administration has refused to send it and has blamed the Puerto Rican people for their situation.
- **Remember the people of the Philippines** – On January 12th the Taal volcano erupted sending ash 9 miles into the air. By the 13th, more than 25,000 people had already fled and were seeking shelter. Some 450,000 people live within 8.7 miles of the mountain and should be evacuated. There have already been 144 earthquakes since the eruption. More eruptions are possible.
- **The people & Wildlife of Australia** are facing an unprecedented fire season. There are at least 136 fires burning. At least 1,300 homes have been destroyed and at least half a billion animals have died or face extinction as a result of the fires. There are 300 native species in the country. 81% of them are found only in Australia. The fires have already burned 18 million acres.
- **The people of Iran and the political leaders involved on all sides.** Recent U.S. action has heightened tension in the area and resulted in an increasingly dangerous exchange of threats. Pray for restraint and reason to prevail. Pray that all sides seek dialogue not violence. Also remember the **families of the airline passengers** accidentally killed in the incident and with those who are protesting that tragedy.

Take a Moment to Pray for Peace #80 January 15, 2020 Linda Fry, District Peace & Conciliation Advocate



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