

## A Prayer After the Earthquake in Haiti

Lord, at times such as this,  
when we realize that the ground beneath our feet  
is not as solid as we had imagined,  
we plead for your mercy.

As the things we have built crumble about us,  
we know too well how small we truly are  
on this ever-changing, ever-moving,  
fragile planet we call home.  
Yet you have promised never to forget us.

Do not forget us now.

Today, so many people are afraid.  
They wait in fear of the next tremor.  
They hear the cries of the injured amid the rubble.  
They roam the streets in shock at what they see.  
And they fill the dusty air with wails of grief  
and the names of missing dead.

Comfort them, Lord, in this disaster.  
Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still,  
and shelter them under your wings when homes no  
longer exist.

Embrace in your arms those who died so suddenly  
this day.  
Console the hearts of those who mourn,  
and ease the pain of bodies on the brink of death.

Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion,  
we who watch from afar,  
as the poorest on this side of the earth  
find only misery upon misery.  
Move us to act swiftly this day,  
to give generously every day,  
to work for justice always,  
and to pray unceasingly for those without hope.

And once the shaking has ceased,  
the images of destruction have stopped filling the  
news,  
and our thoughts return to life's daily rumblings,  
let us not forget that we are all your children  
and they, our brothers and sisters.  
We are all the work of your hands.



For though the mountains leave their place  
and the hills be tossed to the ground,  
your love shall never leave us,  
and your promise of peace will never be  
shaken.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
now and forever. Amen.

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*Photo: "Weeping Christ" by Broken Lens via  
Flickr.com. The sculpture, titled "And Jesus Wept,"  
is on the grounds of the Saint Joseph's Old Cate-  
dral and the diocesan chancery offices  
for Oklahoma City, OK, which is right across the  
street from the Murrah Building Memorial.*

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