

Black Saturday 10th Anniversary Prayer (10.02.2019)

In the 10 years since the bushfires there has been much re-building of towns and homes. The land continues to re-generate, but it still bears the scars of the fires. It's the same for those impacted by the fires...there are emotional scars and for some, physical scars...scars that remain and remind them of what they experienced. Scars that need tending and ongoing care. With that in mind, let's join in prayer...

Prayer

Loving Heavenly Father,

As we remember and reflect on the events of Black Saturday, we give thanks for the measure of healing that many have experienced. We give thanks that You are the God of all comfort, You are near to the broken hearted, and are able to save those who are crushed in spirit.

Father, we lift before You those who continue to struggle as they live with the tragic devastation and horror of what they saw, heard and experienced during that time. We pray that in their struggles they will reach out to You and personally experience the reality of Your promises and find comfort, strength and hope, that moves them closer to emotional healing and wholeness. May they feel sustained by the love and support of those around them.

We give thanks and pray for those who supported the survivors...emergency service people, Counsellors, Chaplains, call centre personnel. We pray for John Graham and others who continue to live with the challenging consequences of having journeyed with those who suffered great losses. As John expressed in his book, help him to rest in You and Your promises.

Father, for all those who continue to be impacted by Black Saturday please give them strength for the tough days and help them to experience joy and recognise the many blessings You provide.

Lord, we know that there are people struggling because of other recent natural disasters. We continue to pray for those living with the consequences of the floods in northern Queensland and the bushfires in Tasmania. We ask that you bless the efforts of those working to ease their suffering, and we pray for our brothers and sisters, please help them to trust you in these trials such that their love and steadfast faith in You Lord Jesus would draw others to You.

We pray too for those facing crises of a different kind, such as victims of abuse, those who are homeless, in financial crisis or who are struggling with long term unemployment or social isolation. Lord, these are such big issues that we hardly know how to pray. But, we pray your blessing and guidance for those who work to find solutions to these big social issues. Help us to recognise when You are prompting us to act.

Lord, as we look ahead to the coming week, help us through the controlling indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to openly be people of compassion and hope who love You and others as Jesus did. Help us to develop authentic relationships with those we share life with, that we may be Christlike in all we do. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.