

**Faculty Gathering in Prayer for Peace
March 19, 2003**

Holy God, heavenly Father, hallowed be your name.
May your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Today, I pray concerning the issue and prospect of war in Iraq

1. that Iraqi authorities will cooperate with the United Nations on the basis of international law;
2. that we as a powerful leading nation in the world will not act alone separate from the United Nations and possibly outside of international law
3. that war is always the last solution ... and the worst solution for resolving international conflicts.
4. that war even when just is still evil and, accordingly,
5. that our country will not act like a powerful empire.

Lord God, Suzerain over the nations, help us to identify more with the perspective of the Third World, the needs of the poor, the suffering of those in want of the necessities of life.

Help us realize that the terrorists in the world, led by Osama bin Ladin, want us to go to war against Iraq; that terrorists want social, religious, and political disruption to prevail, that terrorists want anti-Americanism to flourish, that Osama bin Ladin through war in Iraq believes he can bring new recruits to his cause and that war, therefore, benefits his aims and purposes.

Help us, O God, not to be unrealistic about Saddam Hussein. Help us remember that he has gassed and bombed many, and that he has deprived the human rights of many. Help us to remember and not to forget the evil for which he is capable ... but help us to see that war solves little.

Help us, sovereign Lord, to appreciate the case made by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell at the United Nations, but may his case cause us more diligently to seek out diplomatic solutions,

Help us, Holy God, to weigh carefully what will happen to Iraq during a war and after a war—the death, suffering, and deprivation of innocent people.

Help us realize that the cost of war ultimately will be born by our children.

Help us to be committed to the task of peace, to allow you to judge between the nations, to arbitrate for the world's peoples, so that more and more we will be devoted to beating our swords into plowshares, our spears into pruning hooks, that nations will not lift up the sword against nations, that we will learn the futility of war.

I pray in the name of the Prince of Peace who taught us to love our enemies so that we may be children of you, our heavenly Father, the one who calls us to be perfect and merciful.

Amen.

Dr. Stuart Love

Professor, New Testament and Christian Ministry