

Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) 2005

In Memoriam of the Victims of the Tsunami in South East Asia

(Dan GONZÁLEZ, Mexico, Latin America and Caribbean Region)

Leader: In the name of God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Brother in solidarity, and the Holy Spirit our comforting Mother. *Amen.*

I. Song of Praise to God the Creator

1. Litany for the Forgiveness of Sins

L: We implore Your forgiveness Father, for we have behaved foolishly.

A: Father, we ask for Your forgiveness.

L: We implore Your forgiveness for what we have done and for what we have not done.

A: Father, we ask for Your forgiveness.

L: We implore Your forgiveness since our actions have not been just and merciful as You are just and merciful.

A: Father, we ask for Your forgiveness.

L: We implore Your forgiveness, because we have not learnt to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

A: Father, we ask for Your forgiveness.

L: We implore Your forgiveness, for we have not suffered with those who suffer and have not cried with those who cry.

A: Father, we ask for your forgiveness.

L: We implore Your forgiveness, for we have not loved and taken care of Creation, but we have devastated it, and in doing violence to it we have done violence to ourselves.

A: Father, we ask for Your forgiveness.

L: We implore Your forgiveness for there is much need following the tsunami in Asia and we have not been light in the midst of darkness.

A: Father, we ask for Your forgiveness.

L: We implore Your forgiveness, Good Father, for we have not been able to ask for forgiveness. Only You are faithful and just and able to forgive our sins.

A: We adore You, Good Father. Amen.

2. Assurance of Forgiveness

L: "And when God smelled the sweet odour, God said in God's heart: I will never again curse the ground because of humankind; nor will I ever

again destroy every living creature as I have done. As long as the Earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8, 21–22)

A: "Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For You have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, You would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Amen." (Psalm 51,14–17)

II. Song of Praise to God the Son

1. Prayers of Intercession

L: "When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation." (Revelation 5,8–9)

A: Jesus of Nazareth, our Brother, You know the pain of those who are suffering. You carry the cross of the crucified, You accompany the suffering of those who were left desolate in Asia: all mothers and fathers left without daughters and sons, daughters and sons left without mothers and fathers, peasants left without land, land left without peasants, fisherfolk left without the possibility to return to the sea, a sea that swallowed the fisherfolk, people left far from their countries, countries that were left expecting the return of their people.

L: Jesus Christ, listen to our cry, for we cry to You for the children left without homes, homes left without children, students left without schools, schools left without students. We pray to You for all Creation that cries with us and expects a sign from the daughters and sons of God. Amen.

L: "And I heard a voice from heaven saying: Write

this: Blessed are the dead who from now die in the Lord. 'Yes', says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labours, for their works follow them.' (Revelation 14,13)

**2. Hispanic Creed
(by Justo GONZÁLEZ)**

L: We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
A: Creator of Heaven and Earth, Creator of peoples and cultures, Creator of languages and races.
L: We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Lord,
A: God made flesh in a human being for all human beings, God made flesh in a moment for all ages, God made flesh in a culture for all cultures, God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.
L: We believe in the Holy Spirit,
A: Through which God incarnated in Jesus Christ is present in our people and in our culture, for which God the Creator of all that exists empowers us to be new creatures, Who with infinite gifts makes us one people, the body of Jesus Christ.
L: We believe in the Church,
A: Universal as a sign of the coming Reign, more faithful as more colourful she appears, where all colours paint one landscape, where all languages sing one praise.
L: We believe in the coming Reign, joyful day,
A: Where all the colours of Creation will be united in a rainbow of harmony, when all the peoples on Earth will be united in a banquet of joy, when all languages in the Universe will be united in a choir of praise.
L: And because we believe, we commit ourselves,
A: To believe for those who do not believe, to love for those who do not love, to dream for those who do not dream, until what we expect becomes a reality. Amen.



**III. Song of Praise
to God the Holy Spirit**

1. Prayer of Commitment

L: Holy Spirit, our comforting Mother, gather us under the warmth of Your wings. We long to experience new life. Raise us from dust and desolation, strengthen our faith and help us walk in the world with a lively hope. Give us the joy to celebrate knowing that we are not alone, let us repair the damage we have done to our sister Creation so she may not demonstrate her pain with more pain. Help us dream and work for a new Heaven and a new Earth. *Amen.*

2. Concluding Prayer

L: God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Brother in solidarity, and Holy Spirit our comforting Mother, accept these offerings of solidarity for our sisters and brothers affected by the tsunami. To the dead give rest, to the living give hope and strength. To us give compassion and the resolution to work for Your justice and peace for all people. *Amen.*
L: We pray for Your blessings, God, on students throughout the world; that they may use their studies, their minds, their hearts and wills for the common good. *Amen.*
L: We pray for Your blessings on the work of ecumenical Student Christian Movements in schools, colleges and universities in this and every country, that they may witness to your gospel. *Amen.*
L: We pray for Your blessings on the World Student Christian Federation; its officers, staff, senior friends and students; may she be a messenger of peace, hope, justice and unity for the Church and for the world. *Amen.*

3. Blessing

L: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up the Lord's countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6,24-26)
A: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make God's face to shine upon us; that God's way may be known upon Earth, God's saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Amen. (Psalm 67,1-3)