

Prayer for Peace

Rescue humanity from the caves of fear, anxiety, war and conflicts



In July 2018, while governments were quarrelling over the G7 and NATO, the world was transfixed in the extraordinary mission of saving 12 Thai boys and their coach. They were trapped 800 feet below the surface in a watery cave. For ten days a nation with prayer in their lips and hope in their hearts waited till two heroic British divers found the boys in dark and frightening caves, starving but alive. A miracle, an enduring sign of human resilience.

Disasters and tragedies unite humanity. When after 17 days the boys were miraculously extracted from dangerous caves, the world celebrated as if their own children were rescued. The cave became a metaphor. The rescue which involved more than 20 countries with commendable generosity of strangers, once again brought back hope in humanity.



What was rescued was our common Humanity: taking a reprieve from the war and conflict in the Middle East, tensions between big powers and blocs, the world celebrated this rescue. As a commentator observed; “What was rescued that day was not only those twelve boys and their brave coach, but the whole human family, the hope of humanity was once again rescued from an often uncaring world.” Just weeks ago inhumanity saw children torn away from their mothers and incarcerated in separate enclosure in the US.



But the cave boys provoked the best in human beings. Thousands prayed for boys who were not known to them. Thousands realized that in the face of suffering, people break their walls and reach out in compassion. Humanity asserts – that is the natural instinct of all.

Observers commented that conflicts among human beings and lack of peace in many places can be traced to some of our powerful leaders trapping themselves in a cave of selfishness, and macho display. Rich countries are trapping themselves with the flood of anxiety, trapping themselves in the caves of xenophobia. Walls are raised to prevent migrants, and refugee boats are sent away. War and conflict are the major caves from which humanity needs rescue. Caves abound. Sometimes in our fears and anxiety. Among nations in their war and conflicts.

Reflection:

- What are the caves in which I have trapped myself?
- What are the imaginary phobic floods that keep me away from people who are different from me?

Scripture: Be Alive, not buried in Fear and Hopelessness - Rev 3:1-3

Thai caves held 12 boys and one coach for more than 15 days and let them be rescued. Society has many cruel caves. Many are trapped in those uncaring caves.

Let us Pray for the people who are trapped in man-made caves and waiting for rescue through our mission - that all may be rescued to Peace and harmony.

1. *For those who are trapped in the cave of human trafficking*
2. *For those who are trapped in the cave of war and displacement*
3. *For those who are trapped in the cave of gender violence*
4. *For those who are trapped in the inhuman cave of domestic violence*
5. *For those who are trapped and incarcerated in the caves of unjust judgments*



6. *For those who are trapped and destroyed in the cave of abuses*
7. *For those who are submerged in the flood of indifference.*
8. *For those who are submerged in the inhuman flood of poverty*
9. *For those who are submerged in the flood of ethnic hatred and violence*
10. *For those who are trapped in the caves of starvation and malnutrition and die and get buried at a very early age.*
11. *For those who are trapped in child labor and lost their childhood*
12. *For those who meet their tomb in the womb and never see the face of the earth*
13. *For those who break their caves of fear and anxiety and reach out to their fellow human beings in the times of need.*

For Silent Reflection

“This generation will weep not for the evil deeds of bad people

But for the appalling silence of the good People.” – Martin Luther King

“Injustice anywhere is a threat of justice everywhere” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Be a miracle maker. Miracle is not always walking on the water. Miracle is moving from what we are doing towards what we all CAN do.” - Mahatma Gandhi.

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.” - Mahatma Gandhi.

War is a cave: PEACE IS POSSIBLE, PEACE IS THE ONLY WAY

FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED MOVES MOUNTAINS



Rescued Boys

Prayer Prepared by Lucy Aung,
Province of East Asia (Myanmar)