

October 14, 2016

Dear Friends,

Two weeks ago, just days into the Syrian ceasefire I wrote hopefully about a peace agreement. Today Aleppo lies just weeks from absolute and total annihilation if current bombing patterns continue.

Then one week ago we sent you the prayer of our colleagues Rebecca and Paul\* who prayed for comfort as Hurricane Matthew bore down on their island home and their neighbours. MCC is responding in both places of levelled dreams and lives.

In Haiti, the storm has moved on but the destruction has not. The storm in Syria is more than five years old with few signs of abating. MCC has been working in both places long before the storms began.

I always say we need four things from you our supporters. We need you to give material gifts like blankets and kits, to volunteer your time, to share your money, and to pray.

Today along with the first three, I am especially asking you to pray. And not just you but your whole congregation. If you do spoken prayers in your church we invite you to pray this together when you gather. If you distribute prayers to your people for their use, we invite you to use this as a resource.

And thank you for your continued care for your sisters and brothers from Haiti to Syria.

In Christ's peace,



Rick Cober Bauman  
Executive Director  
MCC Ontario

## **Prayer for Haiti and Syria**

God of Love who made each in your image.  
You have not, we know, forsaken any of us.  
Even though when we look beyond our yards and our borders we wonder.

We wonder how the now childless mother in Haiti can sense your love.  
We wonder how the teacher with a wind-smashed school can sense your love.  
We wonder how the eleven year old in Syria with land mine shrapnel in his face can sense your love.  
We wonder how the pilot dropping barrel bombs on Aleppo can sense your love.

But in the same place where we wonder, we have faith.  
We have a deep conviction that you are especially present to this mother, teacher, boy and pilot.  
To their deep cries only you can respond.

Today, in wonder and in faith we cry too.  
We cry for wisdom that will call powerful ones to seek the welfare of the poor so that their resilience can grow, and their vulnerability diminish,  
We cry for wisdom that will call powerful ones from the battlefield to the table of talk,  
Because you are in the deep heart of the powerful ones.  
We plead that they may sense the call of your love. A call to your justice. A call to your peace.  
May they choose to live in your love, not in their power.

And because you are deep in our hearts too  
We confess the ways, known and unknown...  
That we benefit from other's poverty. That we gain from violence.

And with assurance we accept your grace.

In Jesus the Christ,  
Present in flood-broken villages as the comforter,  
Sent to our battlefields as the prince of peace,  
We plead that all, weak and powerful, lamb and lion can find rest.

Amen

\*Rebecca and Paul Shetler Fast, originally from Goshen, Indiana and Waterloo, Ontario respectively, are the MCC Reps for Haiti, based in the capital.