



West Virginia Council of Churches

"Anchored in Faith, Together on the Voyage"

A Call for Prayer

As the Christian community moves towards the Western Church's celebration of the hope of Easter, and as the War in Iraq surpasses the five year mark, the West Virginia Council of Churches calls for a time of prayer and action.

- ❖ Pray thee for the coming of the olive branch that it may become a low hanging fruit irresistible to political powers and military personnel on the ground.
- ❖ Pray thee for families who daily feel the painful loss of an American military member or civilian personnel to the war.
- ❖ Pray thee the 3990 that on this date rings out as the total number of U.S. military who have died in Iraq, and pray further still for the countless Iraqi people who have suffered losses to death and injury.
- ❖ Pray thee for the troops who have returned home to West Virginia or elsewhere in the U.S. needing to readjust to life with family and community; and especially pray for those who return with physical and mental injuries often related to traumatic brain injury.
- ❖ Pray thee for the children near and far who have witnessed the ravages and sacrifices of this war.
- ❖ Pray thee for the care takers who seek to bring compassion and healing to a wounded military member and family. Pray for Care-Net: Caring Beyond the Yellow Ribbon serving as conduit for care for military families.
- ❖ Pray thee for the peacemakers who by protest bring pressure to bear upon the decision makers reminding us that "violence begets violence" and that many of our nation's current economic woes are related to the war.

And act, while you pray choose to focus your concerns in one or more of the areas of your prayer. Contact Care Net at the West Virginia Council of Churches to offer your service; become connected to the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program. Write the president, presidential candidates and your congressional representatives informing them of your concerns about the war and about the care of our troops and their families.

May the blessing of our caring God be upon you as you worship and act out your faith convictions.

In the Bonds of Peace,

The Reverend Dennis D. Sparks
Executive Director
West Virginia Council of Churches

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March 19, '08