

The Marginalised - Claire Rogers, World Vision CEO

Lord God,

We bow our heads before you in a spirit of humility, and give thanks for our many extraordinary blessings.

We give thanks that we live in a free, peaceful and democratic nation. We give thanks for this chance to pray for the city of Sydney. Lord God, we turn our minds, our hearts and our hands to the marginalized people of this city.

Grant us the honesty to see the role we may have played in casting out the marginalised. God, give us hearts that cry out for justice. Give us hands that reach out to those in need.

Just as in Christ's story of the man who commanded his servant to go into the streets and alleys and highways to compel the poor, the blind and the lame to share the feast, so we must go -- to the doorways and laneways and park benches. Lord, we pray for real solutions for Sydney's homeless people, some of whom are employed full time but still can't afford housing.

We pray for the traditional custodians of the land on which Sydney is built, the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, in the spirit of reconciliation. May we heal the hurt done to Indigenous Australians, and walk with them towards a just future. Lord, we pray for the refugees in Sydney, many of whom come from unspeakable situations. Give us the heart to welcome them, and the hands to help them.

And we pray for the war-torn countries so many refugees have left behind. May peace come to the swamps of South Sudan, and the bombed cities of Syria and Iraq. Lord, we pray for the prisoners, the aged, the sick, the disabled, and the desperate, that Your light may shine throughout the city.

Finally God, let us pray for the forgotten children, for those with no loving family, for those who are hungry, or suffering abuse, or neglect. Give us eyes to see them, the heart to love them, and the boldness to help them, so they may know the love of their Creator.

May the love of God enfold us all, And the re of the Spirit inspire us, And the example of Christ guide us, For then we may be called peacemakers. In the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen