

Prayer for flood-affected school children

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The devastating Queensland floods have impacted many children preparing to begin the Australian 2011 school year. With 500,000 sq metres of the State affected by flooding, it's no surprise that some 92 state schools, 14 TAFE campuses, and 80 kindergarten and childcare centres went under water. Some schools are still inaccessible, others remain inoperable. Even students at Brisbane's picturesque University of Queensland had to remove debris, mud, and ruined books from their flooded campus.



Many families, schools and teaching staff have lost everything - their homes, possessions, school books, uniforms, and even classrooms. One school had to throw out every book in its library. Despite the huge loss of material goods and the cost of replacing them all, the biggest concern facing school principals is how to support students, staff and families reeling from the destructive floods.



Because the dislocation and emotional cost is huge, help is needed at this important time. For some pupils, this will be their first school days. Other students need to continue their education. While it's not possible for everyone to help with the cleanup of flood-damaged schools, there is something that anyone, anywhere in the world, can do. They can pray about the well being of school children in flood affected areas.

Prayer blesses those whom our thoughts rest upon. It's like a pebble dropped into a pond. Prayer doesn't sink out of sight. Each prayer-pebble sends out ripples. It has a beneficial effect on those who are near us, as well as on those living far away. I experienced this firsthand when I worked in an area being devastated by the tragedy of war. I definitely felt the love and prayers of friends and family back home. Their heart-felt prayers supported and sustained me as I witnessed scenes of death and destruction. That's why I know we can confidently pray for the well being of students and staff members in flood-shattered school communities.

So how can we pray?

Pupils resuming school need a sense of continuity and stability. Despite the daunting nature of the flooding, harmony can be achieved. It's possible for us to affirm with compassionate certainty that God's dear love is always present. God's love for His little ones is rock-solid. It continues uninterrupted each day. The tender love of God is steady, stable. It guides and governs. It leads to right ideas that can prepare the way for a smooth return to classes. Each pupil and teacher is able to feel this comforting, reassuring presence with them as they walk through the school gate.

Children who have experienced a flood disaster, just want life to get back to normal again. That's why every parent and grandparent can affirm in their prayers that each youngster has within them the spiritual qualities that enable them to bounce back from disaster. God has made them buoyant, resilient, courageous and strong. These are spiritual qualities that no amount of raging water can tear from them. God's spiritual qualities are indelible and permanent.

To young people struggling with epic scenes of devastation, trying to focus on learning may be a battle. This is where the peace of God can help bring calmness and harmony to the classroom. God has made His children cool, calm and collected and He keeps them composed in difficult circumstances. The peace of God is not disrupted by flooding, so neither can the harmony of pupils be disturbed as they begin the school year. God is keeping them safe, secure, and feeling His perfect peace.

The Bible has this promise for troubled pupils entering the new school year.

"O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." Isaiah 54:11,13

God's promises are kept. Pupils who have lost loved ones, homes and schools, can feel God's peace and go forward with confidence.



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[Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures](#) by Mary Baker Eddy, is her textbook on Christian Science healing practice and her class textbook in teaching Christian Science healing.

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