

## Written prayers

### Praying for oppressors

*This prayer was initially written in the lead up to Easter 2011, as part of a [blog post](#) on praying for oppressors. This entry was written in response to unrest in Libya at the point where international forces became involved, and the media was focused on condemning Colonel Gaddafi's use of cluster bombs, and considered more widely how we pray for oppressors, as well as the oppressed. The challenge before us is to defend the poor whilst loving our enemies – their oppressors – and to pray for transformation, mercy and grace for 'tyrants' as well as victims – for none of us is faultless enough to pick up the stone and claim the right to judge (John 1:11).*

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, come.

Soften my heart and unclench my fist from round this stone. Judgement is yours and I surrender it to you now. I recognise that your cross is higher and wider than I could ever imagine. I accept that your grace is so radical it offends the law of justice - so much so that it welcomes me - a sinner - into your very presence.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, come.

Soften the hearts and unclench the fists of those I perceive as 'tyrant', 'abuser' and 'oppressor'. Thank you that your mercy triumphs over your justice. I bless those that persecute. And I pray for a Damascus road conversion for them - that they might adopt your way, your truth and your life - that the oppressed may go free, and the oppressor may step into your best plan for their life.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy come.

Soften my heart to love your mercy, enlarge my view to see beyond my desire to label people, and increase my faith to see your transformative love reach out to those who are broken, and those who are breaking. Let your kingdom come, and your will be done, today, and forever.

Amen.