

Something to think about 27 February 2011

We cannot pass this week without thinking of the people of Christchurch. We honour their courage and the community spirit with which they are facing this tragedy. It is with love and compassion that we hold in our hearts and minds those who have died and those who love and grieve for them. We are conscious too, of those who have been severely injured, all who have been badly traumatized, and those who face loss of property or income. As has been said this week, we are all - in our small nation - 'holding hands' with the people of Christchurch. An event such as this faces us with our own mortality and makes us mindful of the fragility of our human bodies on the one hand, but the enormous courage and strength of the human spirit on the other. As we gather today in this sacred space, and go about our lives in the days to come, holding the people of Christchurch in our hearts and minds and thinking of them with love and encouragement from time to time, prayerfully, will be a positive contribution we can make from here. I heard the question "Where 'God' is God in all this tragedy?" My response must be - 'in God we live and move and have our being'. So we see the love of God at work wherever there is human compassion, courageous actions on behalf of others, respect and empathy for the emotional trauma and physical deprivation. God's love and life-giving energy is present – human to human – through the work of the rescue teams and those who work to keep hope alive. Our earth home – also God's home – has flexed her back. We human creatures stand in awe of the power and the energy of God in all its manifestations. Susan

From the leadership of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa-New Zealand:

... We have contacted our wider Anglican Communion around the world and asked them to pray with us. We reach out in this prayer to the people of the city of Christchurch and the wider Canterbury region, asking the God of all the earth to give everyone the strength and endurance that they need to survive and to recover. We pray also for all those who are involved now so dramatically in civil defence activities, hospital services and community organization as people begin to try and process what has happened and to work out the way ahead.

We pray for our Prime Minister, our Government, the Mayor and City Council of Christchurch as they respond to this tragedy.

We also, along with New Zealanders throughout the land, pledge ourselves, in whatever way is useful to come to the assistance of this stricken city.

May God guide and guard us all.

*Archbishops David Moxon, Brown Turei and Winston Halapua, and the Standing Committee of General Synod/te Hinota Whanui. February 22, 2011*