

Thought for the day – Monday 7th August 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Occupied Territories Prayer God of Life, teach me to listen.

I have thoroughly enjoyed Garth's challenging book, it is good to hear his voice.

This is one of Garth's prayers from Time for action.

God of life teach me to listen –

To know your protest over exploitation

To feel your pain over the tearing of the fabric of life and community

As the poor get poorer and the rich get richer.

I have heard the poor speak of their misery –

Of feeling the pain in their flesh – of their hunger

Of not being able to get healthcare for their children

So they die of easily curable diseases

I have stood with the young man whose wife died in childbirth

Because the proper care was not available

God of life teach teach me to listen –

It is not enough to say 'We didn't know'

Or to say 'When did we see you hungry?'

You are the God who says 'Do it to the least'

Never has our world known such wealth – such skills –

Such healthcare – such education

Yet Such inequalities

Future generations will ask 'Why were you silent?'

God of protest at exploitations and misuse of resources

Can we claim to be followers – if we do not listen –
If we do not raise our voices – if we do not protest

Lord give us your compassionate heart
And take not your spirit of protest from us
Lord help us to remember – and take up the cross of caring
And take not your spirit of protest from us
Garth Hewitt making Holy Dreams come true.
Occupied territories Garth Hewitt IVP

Perhaps we can pray as we read, watch, or listen to the news.