

Candle of Peace Hope and Justice Prayer – Drug Addiction

1] This past week I witnessed repeatedly the struggle – the tormenting struggle of addiction. Sick and spaced out sat at the piano ... beautiful melody ... before falling asleep over the keys.

2] Another – I am using again Pastor. I want to be free. I am in this group and don't know how to get out. They my friends. Nowhere else to go. I can't manage my using.

3] Nyaope – a tsunami overwhelming our land. A cocktail of low-grade heroin, marijuana, cleaning detergents, rat poison and chlorine. Is cheap and highly addictive. Providing a short high...only a few hours. Self-medicating the despair and disillusionment and rage and hopelessness and feeling forgotten and frustrated. Especially young people. Narrowing life to focus on the next fix. Can cause one to go for days without eating – which weakens the immune system. Lying and stealing...violence and crime.

Addicts' dilemma

I am desperate to stop. I am desperate for another hit.

I want to be free – so let me stop. I want to be free – so give me another hit.

Let us pray:

Liberating we pray for those who are held captive in addiction.

You are the One who hears the cries of the entrapped and enslaved.

You are the One who says these are my people – I alone am their God.

You are the One who has power over what has power over us – declaring: Let my people go.

You are the One who split open oceans of impossibility, enabling entire nations to walk free.

You are the One who draws near when the land of our bondage looks more enticing.

You are the One who provides manna when we crave again the food of captivity.

You are the One who teaches us how to live again in life giving ways.

You are the One who brings us into a spacious place ...

Truly you are a liberating God.

Freedom enabling God, Hear the groans – the silent pleading – the screaming rage of those in the grip of addiction. Hear the melody played from this piano as a prayer to you – a testimony to the beauty within all that longs to be free. Hear all these as prayer.

We pray that you will soften and heal the hardened hearts of all those who deal in drugs.

To those who are using again – who want to be free – who feel powerless yet also find it so difficult to admit powerlessness. Be their strength. Be their strength. For is not your strength made perfect in weakness. Be their strength. Break the spell. Shatter the chains. Did you not say that your grace is sufficient – sufficient to set people free. All people free. In your grace, speak their name. Call them by name. Give to them a blessed assurance of your love. Remove their guilt and shame and despair as fast as the East is from the West. When all ways to freedom are closed – make a way. Draw near O God with a firm embrace when the withdrawal symptoms threaten to rip apart their insides. Provide wholesome nourishment, when they crave to return to the diet of bondage. Help them to keep site of their own beauty and the possibility for change alive, through the beauty of a sunrise, stars at night, a bird song. Through friend, family, stranger, therapist, social worker – use whoever you can ...

We pray too for waiting parents – parents who scarcely ever sleep – who are forever scanning the horizon praying for their child to come on home. Parents who wait and wait and wait.

Amen.