

Prayer for Peace, Hope and Justice: Pointing

There is a spectrum and range of pointing that has become part of our normal living. I was taught as a child to not point; it was rude but also that three fingers were pointing back at me. The spectrum of pointing ranges from highlighting mistakes of others, blaming others for their behaviour to the violence of pointing guns at others. Our use of language violent images with deadlines for a submission and targets for projects and being triggered by something.

The number of people who die from a gun pointed at them each day is staggering and heart breaking. The murder rate statistics are beyond comprehension.

From mid-May to end of June 2023 (six weeks) police in partnership with business against crime and other crime fighting stakeholders collectively contributed to the recovery of more than 900 unlicensed firearms and 10 000 rounds of ammunition

There were 370 people arrested for possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition.

Sadly, a police sergeant from Bushbuckridge was charged with murder after using his service firearm to gun down the mother of his child at her workplace. This un-named mother was working at a petrol station and died close to midnight. The news report made no mention of their child. Too many children are suffering from the trauma of guns and violence.

On Tuesday 7th July SAPS destroyed and hopefully smelted 30000 illegal firearms, giving some hope in the midst of suffering. Let us pray.

All Embracing God who comes to us clothed in vulnerability and nakedness and a deep desire for our freedom from the suffering around us.

All Loving God, who sits at our tables, giving of Yourself, listening to our stories, and waits for our attention.

Oh, wonderful Creator who designed each and every molecule, small insect, animal and all of humankind, with such care and intention. Oh, how you long for all to live together as one.

It is hard to admit to ourselves how we have failed You.

We want to point to others for the reason of our behaviour, not too dissimilar to the blame of the snake in the garden of Eden, saying Not me, it was that one.

We try to hide ourselves from You, ashamed of our boldness to devour the things that do not belong to us.

Forgive us for pointing out the splinter in the eyes of others and yet carry the forest in our own.

We need Your grace to melt down our own hurt,

We ask for Your grace to melt the hurt we cause to others.

We need Your grace to melt down the hurt and trauma that is so part of our communities and daily living.

We ask You to teach us Your ways of love, patience kindness, and gentleness.

Show us Your ways of hope and life that this becomes part of our daily lives.

Be gracious to us and show us the ways of new life. Amen