

# A Prayer for Virginia Tech

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By Christina Dixon

Governor Kaine of Virginia's recent comments regarding there being "no manual for this" begs the question, after Columbine AND more than one episode like this in the past ten years of American history, is it true that there really is no manual for this? While no one wants to believe that something like this can happen in their area, the reality is that it has happened enough times that campuses at all levels should establish a strategy to deal with this kind of crisis.

When you consider how many people are "on the edge" these days, the response of burying our head in the sand and believing that it would never happen in our neck of the woods is not only impractical, it's cowardly. Somehow we've got to get a handle on the despair overtaking our culture. If I didn't know any better I'd give in to the sense of hopelessness that tries to enlarge itself during times like these.

Since I know that God cares and encourages us to cry out in times of trouble and despair I offer a prayer. After all, He's the only One Who really has the answers that can turn things around.



Father,  
Help us. We need Your help in so many ways. First Father I ask that You bring peace to the hearts of the students and faculty of Virginia Tech; especially those who interacted with Cho. Don't allow thoughts of regret or false guilt to immobilize them. Help us to realize that he is an example of what any of us could be if we were left to the darkness of our own hearts, void of community, love and healthy interaction.

Remind us to pray and not to joke around about others whose dark perspectives cause them to reject the love and tender connection that can exist in relationships with others. Yet, cause each of us to realize that consistent expressions of kindness and concern can sometimes make all the difference.

Father, help our leaders to develop effective strategies to minimize the carnage of such devastating events. Help those of us who are parents to lovingly exercise the authority we have to make a difference in our own homes. Empower us with the wisdom and courage necessary to combat the dark forces of our culture by truly loving and training our children. Help us to place the well-being of our children in its proper place. Don't allow us to be so concerned about our personal goals, bills, and what we want that we cause our babies to be left behind.

Help us to remember that we are NOT animals. As those created in Your image we have the capacity to overcome the base nature that drives us to bully others weaker than we are. Give us a desire to do more than watch with fear, curiosity or amusement when others around us are being bullied. When we have means and opportunity give us a wise, courageous and compassionate heart to reach out to others whom we see struggling.

Give us peace Father as we learn to discern the difference between an introspective child and an impulsive one. Once we discern the difference, give us the wisdom to know how to help them both. Cause Your people to be Your instruments of wisdom, strength, comfort and hope to dispel the dark worries and fears that attempt to grasp timid hearts.

Lastly Father, help us to realize that this is another harsh reminder to hold precious the moments we have to love, learn, laugh, and pursue our providential destiny with passion as we honor You.

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