UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
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Rev. Dr Gao Feng
President
China Christian Council
219 Jiujiang Road,
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<u>Prayers for Flood Victims in China</u>

Dear Rev. Dr Gao,

The peace of the Lord be with you. I bring greetings from the Uniting Church in Australia.

Over the last few days, we have been watching the unfolding news about the floods in China. We have learned that 26 provinces are impacted by heavy rains, over 100 rivers are on flood alert, and 33 million people are affected. Having just travelled through China in May, I understand the impact of the Yangzi River to the millions of people living along its banks.

The Uniting Church in Australia stands in solidarity with the Chinese people. We pray for those affected by the floods, the hundreds of thousands being evacuated, and millions of famers who have lost their crops. Above all, we pray for families who have lost their loved ones. To all the rescue workers and relief forces, we pray, let the Lord's mercy strengthen your work.

During this period of emergency, we also hold the Chinese Church in our thoughts and prayers. In Christ, "if one member suffers, all suffer together with it". (1 Cor 12:26) As you reach out in love, we pray for local congregations involved in emergency relief, particularly in Anhui and Jiangsu provinces. We pray that people seeking care can find in the church a household of hope. May the Lord give comfort to all the people in suffering, and our solidarity give them support in their time of need.

This week two of our national agencies, UnitingWorld and UnitingCare, will send the prayer request through their networks. As Christ's love transcends geographic, cultural, even religious boundaries, we encourage all people to abide in this love. Inside this love is compassion. Inside love is the One, holding many together with blessings. (1 Cor 12:8)

May the Lord bless your church, and sustain all with his rising peace.

Shalom 主内平安

Stuart McMillan
President
Uniting Church in Australia