

## 7. Prayer for Special Needs

This prayer for those with special needs and their carers (and those who care for both of those) was written by Charissa Fong, a tutor-counselor at the SPD Adventist Media's Discovery Centre, the Bible correspondence school for the division.

Our loving Father in Heaven, welcome into our special worship service today. We come with humility before You, and pray that our worship will be acceptable to You. Being broken by sin, we all need Your healing in our bodies and minds.

You are our Great Comforter, our Maker, Redeemer and our dearest Friend. When others ignored us, You drew closer and comforted us. When others misunderstood us, it was You who loved and consoled us. You hear our cries for help when no-one else is listening. And so we thank You—thank You for being so good to us.

When life's challenges seem to be impassable or overwhelming, it is reassuring to know that when we belong to You. You take care of us and bring us through. You are the same God Who, because of Your love, healed the sick, the maimed, the blind and deaf so long ago when You walked this Earth, and You have compassion on us today too.

Lord, Your constant kindnesses to us lay bare the selfishness of our

hearts. We are sorry for the times we have been careless with our words and actions hurting others, sometimes deliberately ignoring them. Please forgive us for trying to mask the challenges we face from those around us; for pretending that we're okay when really we are broken and in need of You.

Thank you for Your promise to forgive us and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. Thank you, too, for strengthening us and motivating us to move beyond the stereotypes and prejudices around us, to a place of peace and refuge close to You.

We pray also for patience. Regardless of our disabilities, impairments, illnesses or physical challenges, please show us how we might be a blessing to those around us. We need the strength that comes only from You. May we never forget that nothing is too hard with You.

Thank you for Jesus Who came and died for us, so that we have forgiveness, healing and eternal life.

So be with our loved ones, and those who care for us we pray.

We love You, Lord and thank you for loving and leading us.

In Jesus name we pray, amen.