

I have written a hymn to the tune Bryn Calfaria (87874447).

It is based on Psalm 88.

Shalom -

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"Where are you, God of salvation?"

earth cries out to the darkest night.

Overturned is all creation

in the chaos of ocean's might.

Hearts and minds are

filled with anguish,

hell draws nearer -

numbered we among the dead.

All our help is gone and vanished,

lost, forsaken, we seem to be.

Earth's delight for us is banished;

grave and death-trench are all we see.

Heavy is our fear and panic,

flood and tempest

threaten all our hopes and dreams.

How can we still sing your praises

when our world is devoured by death -

in the village that flood razes,

where its people no more draw breath?

Dark is daylight,

dark as thunder,

dark is terror

as the abyss opens wide.

Easy answers would demean us;

empty promises have no place.

Close the distance set between us

in the chasm that shows its face.

In the struggle, of re-building,

give your courage to those making all things new.

(c) Paul P J Sheppy

Written after the tsunami of 26 December 2004 in Southeast Asia in which more 100,000 were killed in Thailand, Southern India, Bangladesh, the Maldives and East Africa.