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Build on a Strong Foundation

WRITTEN BY WDP WOMEN OF VANUATU



World Day of Prayer Writing Committee, Vanuatu

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On the Cover: “Cyclone Pam II: 13th of March, 2015”
by Juliette Pita for the program written by
WDP Vanuatu

We are Ni-Vanuatu

BY LAURENCE GANGLOFF

The 2021 Celebration theme “Build on a Strong Foundation” has been with me spiritually since the writing process began in 2018, and especially since COVID-19 entered our lives. In the face of illness, isolation, suffering, and grief, this theme forced me to reflect on what is most important to me.

The parable of the wise builder of the house on the rock helped me cling to Jesus’ teaching, to keep hope alive during the storm, and to discover the part of me that, at times, made choices more like the foolish builder. For Jesus’ invitation at the end of the narrative is indeed to listen to his words of life and to act on them.

In addition to the text of Matthew 7, which was the inspiration for the theme, the song composed during the writing workshop particularly touched me. The refrain invites the world: “Let us build up Vanuatu with love and unity. We are family, we are one. We are Ni-Vanuatu.”

What a joy to see that the intention set by the first stanza has become a reality for our sisters who did not yet know each other when they arrived to the workshop in April 2018 - “It is time to get together as a nation and family. Let’s forget our



differences and let us work in unity. From the North down to the South, all the islands we are one. In God we stand, brothers and sisters, we are one.”

The joy I felt was even greater while watching the live celebration on March 5th, 2021. I recognized all the sisters present at the same church! For me, it was like an affirmation that they had heard the invitation to work together, and that they put into practice the words of Jesus: “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). In front of my computer screen, I experienced a moment of grace that I wish for each one of you.

In the following pages of this Journal, you will discover many testimonies. Testimonies from countries or groups who may not have celebrated in person but found solutions to worship in a different way and continue building relationships. The creativity was incredible, and all the modern means of communication were used to hold a moment of prayer. You will also read that other groups were able to celebrate the World Day of Prayer in person, and that there too, the creativity was great, even extraordinary, to respect the sanitary requirements and experience a time of communion.

As the preparations for next year’s celebration, written by the women of WDP England, Wales and Northern Ireland, begins we discover a word of life given by God that we can make our own: “I Know the Plans I Have for You”.

I cannot end these few lines without expressing my gratitude for the work of each woman involved. By offering the best of ourselves, wherever we are, we become witnesses of the risen Christ. This is a blessing!

Worship Service Bible Text

MATTHEW 7:24-27



"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

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Build on a Strong Foundation

BY WDP WOMEN OF VANUATU



From March 3rd to the 5th, we celebrated World Day of Prayer on the island. On March 3rd, the World Day of Prayer (WDP) secretary and liaison, along with the Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC) Chairman and Secretary General, had a Talk-Back-Show at the Vanuatu Broadcasting Television Corporation (VBTC). We talked about the history of WDP in Vanuatu and the two-day celebration activities. People who responded to the show were grateful to know about WDP and expressed their interest in the ecumenical movement as it combined all women from different walks of life to come together and take part in the activities during the celebrations.

On March 4th we started the celebration with a parade led by the Vanuatu Mobile Force Band. The President of the Republic of Vanuatu made the official opening declaration for the two-day celebration at the Independence Grand Stand.

The Motto of our country is "In God We Stand" and the Church always upholds this belief in different situations in our country.

Then, on March 5th, we had the service at the Presbyterian Church as the weather did not permit us to have it outdoors. Afterwards, we had refreshments including a WDP cake for everyone.

WE ARE THANKFUL TO GOD

Vanuatu as an independent country is thankful for our small, beautiful nation in the Pacific Ocean. Our country was governed by Britain and France but through our faith in God, we achieved our independence in 1980. Our Constitution

states our freedom of worship and allows us to worship God in our cultural ways which enriches our fellowship with God. Our country is peaceful but there are real issues like natural disasters, gender inequality, health pandemics and corruption.

We try to uphold the words of the father of our Independence which says, "Respect is Honorable", as we remind ourselves of our human dignity and how we treat each other. We thank God that our government and churches allow our women to practice their cultures freely whether it be in their homes, churches, and communities. We are also thankful to God for using our women to preach the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ freely in our nation. We have ordained women in the ministries of the church. Opportunities are given to women to take up leadership roles in the government, church and communities even



though we still have not had a female member in parliament. The motto of our country is “In God We Stand” and the church always upholds this belief in different situations in our country.

BE THE FOCUS OF PRAYER AROUND THE WORLD

We look forward to the yearly WDP program in our nation. Women experienced the love of Christ in their hearts while participating in the worship service and sharing their stories and food. They felt that oneness in worshipping the same God who created all of them, even though they come from different denominations. They also felt for the women and girls who shared their challenging stories in the worship service. Recognizing that they are part of this ecumenical movement led by women around the world, made them believe that women are praying for Vanuatu and especially for the women who shared their stories in the service.

To be the focus of prayer around the world felt like a dream come true, but at the same time we were humbled to know that it was only through the grace of God that Vanuatu became a writer country. We believe that it was God’s timing for this opportunity for people around the world to pray for our nation. In the capital of Vanuatu, Port Vila,

women came from the surrounding villages to celebrate with us. Our women sang and danced.

We appreciated and acknowledged the great work done to promote Vanuatu around the globe. We felt the presence of God with us as we shared together in the celebrations. It was a powerful experience with choirs from different denominations and the preaching by the Secretary General, who urged the WDP National Committee to ensure that the WDP service be observed every year throughout the country, and that it should be a National Day of Prayer. We may liaise with the VCC Executive Board to work through the government to declare the first Friday of March as a National Day of Prayer for the nation of Vanuatu.

We believe that God already knew about the COVID-19 pandemic; but why was Vanuatu, a small, tiny nation chosen for this great task during this period?! The experiences we got out of this pandemic promoted us to another level of understanding and trust that God is in control of every situation. Vanuatu was so privileged that through God’s grace our country was free from the coronavirus. Every day our women prayed for the safety of our nation because we knew that anything could happen that could disturb our plans. Our women met

within their own churches and prayed against this virus and prayed for our government, that they may make wise decisions to always protect our beautiful country.

Using new technological tools for online meetings, our women experienced the real spirit of ecumenism not only in our country but around the world. We felt that we were part of this great family of God. We are also grateful that being a writer country has given us the opportunity to access funds for the empowerment of women in our country.

“BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION”

The theme was like a call to the people of Vanuatu to reconsider their spiritual positioning. This world is full of worldly desires; and sometimes we consider our actions to be right, but they cannot stand the storms we face in our daily lives. The theme reminded us to build an intimate relationship with Jesus because there will be storms that will test our faith and whether we can withstand or crash.

Women in Vanuatu face a lot of challenges, but we are still smiling, and it is only because our faith is rooted in God. There are a lot of non-government organizations and government organizations who work tirelessly on natural

disasters, women's access to education, child malnutrition and employment opportunities. The VCC has a Gender Policy and a Child Protection Policy where they advocate for gender equality in education and in the workforce and also for the rights of children to have access to food and water, as these are basic needs for life. In Vanuatu, child malnutrition is an unacceptable issue because we live in a communal society. Our churches are also very helpful but sometimes it is the negative attitude of parents that affect the lives of their children.

Our future plans to continue to promote WDP in Vanuatu include trainings,

workshops and materials to strengthen women's projects by sourcing funds to promote their livelihood.

The celebrations in our capital were successful and we look forward to promoting WDP in all of our churches so that every first Friday of March the whole country would be joining in the WDP worship service and also participate in our children's program and Bible Studies.

It was so touching to see the young and old enjoying the celebrations together. We really felt that oneness and that with God's love we break down barriers of denominations and freely worship God in

Spirit and in truth. We believe everyone enjoyed the celebrations.

We take this opportunity to thank our WDP sisters around the world for their prayers. May God richly bless you all in your endeavors and always keep you safe.

All the Praise, Glory, Honor and Thanksgiving be given to God alone for the wonderful things he did for us. Amen.

APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM WDP VANUATU

1. We would like to return all the Praise, Glory, Honor and Thanksgiving to the great God we serve. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for his grace in choosing Vanuatu to be the Writer Country for 2021. He knew about this pandemic, and he allowed all of us to face the situation and experience new ways of communicating with each other.
2. Our gratitude goes to our government, the leaders of our churches and our people who were supportive of this great achievement by our women in the church.
3. Our heartfelt thanks go to the WDPIC Chairperson, Executive Director and the Pacific Regional Representative who led us through the initial workshop for the Writer Country. We would not have done well without this help. Thank you very much.
4. We thank our hardworking Executive Director, Mrs. Rosangela Oliveira, who worked tirelessly with the National Committee to ensure that the materials were completed well in time before 2021. And the WDPIC team that assisted in finalizing the documents in time. We really appreciate the great help. Thank you for the Zoom Meetings with other sisters who encouraged us with their prayers for Vanuatu.
5. We appreciate the extra efforts by WDP Germany for sending their representatives to our country and getting first-hand information for their members. They also tried to get one of our youth members to their country, but the plan failed due to the lock down of COVID-19.
6. Thanks to a dear friend, Mrs. Annette Poirier from the Bahamas who organized a Zoom Meeting with their National WDP Committee to speak with us. We appreciate so much the help offered.
7. Our word of thanks also goes to the WDP Pacific Regional Representative, Mrs. Vicky Marney, for organizing the initial workshop with our women.
8. Thank you WDP Sisters around the globe for your prayers for Vanuatu. May God bless and keep you safe at all times.

Pacific



AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

We thank God for the efforts of our government in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic and pray for those who are most affected. Our national committee was inspired by the efforts of our local groups who managed to hold services, whether in isolation, small groups or online. As the Vanuatu islands are close to the hearts of New Zealanders, we were particularly eager to make an extra effort to hold their program. Overall, the feedback was very positive and the theme felt relevant. The service, which was prayerful and uplifting, was needed during a time of such uncertainty. Our offering will go to the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) which is promoting a seedbank concept for communities. The Vanuatu Christian Council has taken this initiative up and is working towards a long-term food security project. They believe that food security is a key issue for Vanuatu in the context of climate change and extreme weather. We will

also support a Bible Society project dedicated to using Trauma Healing Programmes with cyclone affected communities in Vanuatu.

Website: <http://www.worlddayofprayer.co.nz/>

AUSTRALIA

We are thankful that there were no lockdowns in March and, despite some hesitancy, most of the WDP services were held. Large venues were used for social distancing, refreshments were individually wrapped, and masks offered as a precaution. We are also thankful that Vanuatu natives were present for some services. Many were enthusiastic to learn more about our Pacific neighbours. People became aware of the severity of cyclone damages and the other issues faced in Vanuatu. Their strength and resilience in the face of adversity shined through their service. For them, the foundation of strength is Jesus Christ on

whose love they depend on for their needs. This is something we can all learn from. A wise person is one who listens and then acts, loving our neighbours as ourselves. Our committee has partnered with the Bible Society of Australia, who developed a program in Vanuatu to combat domestic violence through trauma healing, advocating for women and empowering victims. Our offerings are also going towards a school in Espiritu Santo which was destroyed by a cyclone in 2020 and helping women rebuild gardens that were destroyed.

Website: www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

COOK ISLANDS

The WDP program is something our women look forward to every year. They come dressed in their white dresses, listen to the messages presented by each denomination and have an exchange of words of appreciation for each other. As





a country, our main challenge is to love one another regardless of our differences and we see the beautiful spirit of love in our WDP committee. We are thankful that in our country all children have an equal opportunity. During the pandemic free classes and trade trainings were made available to everyone. To hold the service this year was very challenging due to a tsunami warning that forced us to postpone it, and the restrictions related to COVID-19. However, we still came together in prayer. We were happy to have more children and youth involved in our service. We even had a young girl from Vanuatu help us with the music.



active in church activities and at home by taking up home gardening or making handcrafted items to sell and generate income. We believe the theme was perfectly selected. The Bible texts reminds us that we should always be wise in our life, in our decisions, rather than be foolish and doing what does not please God.

We also observed a moment of silence in honor of our sister, Henrica Marona, WDPIC Pacific Regional Representative, from the Cook Island WDP Committee who passed away earlier in the year. It was exciting and moving to watch the virtual Vanuatu service and see the different generations come together. Our lifestyle is very similar to theirs and we were able to identify with their experiences. We are thankful that over the years gender equality has been advocated for across cultural barriers and access to education for Tuvaluan women has become more accessible. The theme of the program was a reminder of the importance of building a good and strong foundation for ourselves as women and for our children. We face many challenges, but it is our strength that enables us to persevere and accomplish our goals.

Africa



BOTSWANA

BOTSWANA

Due to the pandemic, we did not gather as regions but as individual churches. Children were not allowed to come to churches as per government regulations pertaining to COVID-19 protocols. Because of this our usual program was badly affected. Irrespective of the situation, we continued praying. We were not afraid, rather we became very strong in our prayers: Jesus said - do not fear, for I am with you. This text made us strong, and we prayed together online. We prayed for families in adversity, for the government to use their resources wisely, and for children to be safe during this pandemic.

CAMEROON

We are grateful to God for the grace he has granted us to be able to celebrate in person and to carry out the prayer actions. We are grateful that, despite the multiple difficulties related to the climate of general recession due to the pandemic,



CAMEROON

women kept their commitment in the service of the Lord. We thank God for our health, which is priceless, and for our natural environment, family, children, and the spirit of solidarity.

We listened attentively to the voices of Vanuatu speaking to us about education, health, and employment. In our country, these problems have increased with the security crisis in the North-West and South-West regions, which have given rise to internally displaced persons. How do we manage these women and children who have left everything behind out of survival instinct (schools, houses, hospitals, businesses, rural activities, and other jobs)? We are running awareness campaigns to help them. We carried out an action of prayer in favor of the children. We gifted them with Bibles in French and English. We are convinced that teaching a child in the way of the Lord is to build on a solid foundation. So, they must be nourished by the Word of God. They will undoubtedly bring a new

breath, a new dynamic to this ecumenical movement. Our duty as a national committee is to encourage and supervise them.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

We are very grateful for the theme as well as the program that the sisters of Vanuatu have established. After the celebration, a mother shared with us this: "God is really great. God knows us well. God unites us regardless of the distance. Vanuatu is a small country that we could not see on the map, a country that is separated from us by hundreds and thousands of kilometers but God in his greatness makes us see the problems they have and together we prayed for it." We live the same sufferings as those in Vanuatu—poverty, misery, and unemployment, so with this celebration we have understood that we are not alone in our suffering, which is why the prayer of intercession has been dedicated to



these subjects. We must build our Christian faith on Jesus; he is the foundation. According to the pandemic projections made by the developed countries, Africa would experience many deaths because of the lack of health infrastructure, poverty and weak economy. But God in His sovereignty has not abandoned us.

GHANA

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we do things, and we are learning to live with the situation. We had 12 in person celebrations across 8 regions. The number of congregants had been reduced by our COVID response team so no more than 100 persons could be in a church auditorium at each point in time. The WDP services followed the same protocols, so participants were allowed to register a week before the celebration and were assigned seat numbers.

However, there was no Children's Programme as there was a ban on children services. We have worked with very limited resources but with some great results. Many churches had access to the Vanuatu celebration that was recorded by the WDPIC Executive Committee and the Vanuatu Committee and most of them found it very inspiring as they could see themselves in Vanuatu.

The churches shared their various programmes to support women and children. A notable one is the Hope for Teens Project by the Methodist Women which has provided livelihood support to teenage mothers in the Kaneshie area. Other churches have also outlined the various empowerment programmes that are run in the rural communities. All in a bid to respond to the health, education and cultural needs of the family.

IVORY COAST

We affirmed through this theme that Jesus Christ is our Hope, the Rock in whom we are assured and the one we must lean on to build everything. A wise person is one who fears God and consults him constantly. She makes God her delight. We are grateful to the Lord who has done wonders for us. Indeed, the kindness of the Eternal has been shown to us in all the activities that we have organized, despite the health crisis which has slowed down all kinds of women's projects.

This celebration allowed us to experience the beauty of living together and to share experiences in sister communities. Locally, women led the prayers in the families during the confinement; prayers of thanksgiving and petitions to the Lord to intervene in the pandemic. We are strengthening our social actions

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We must build our Christian faith on Jesus; he is the foundation.



through donations in cash and educational support for widows and orphans, who are the most vulnerable segment of our population.

KENYA

The global pandemic left us feeling uncertain about how we would celebrate with the sisters of Vanuatu. Churches were closed and, because of health restrictions, children and youths could not participate. However, while observing the proper health guidelines we were able to have two committee meetings in-person and use online services when needed. Our services were conducted with the necessary precautions, but our usual role plays were not done. This

situation made us realize how important the youth and children are to our services as they were greatly missed. Still, it was great to stand in solidarity with the sisters of Vanuatu. We resonated with the challenges they highlighted like lack of education for children, malnutrition, unemployment, and early marriages. Based on the WDP motto of “Informed Prayer. Prayer Action,” we sustained our prayers as a foundation that needs to be strong and consistent. A wise person believes in God and God’s mercy, but a foolish person does not.

MADAGASCAR

Many local groups were unable to hold a WDP service and for our committee it

was also difficult to prepare our own. Despite the difficulties all members prayed and came together for the preparations, so we managed to celebrate at our national WDP center. At the center we also have handcrafting session for young girls in need. Some of these girls participated in our service and really identified with the story of Rhetoh. Just like in the story, their families cannot afford a better education. However, at the center they can study and learn to craft items, such as handbags, to sell at the market and earn a living for themselves. The Vanuatu program really resonated with us as we deal with some of the same issues, like child malnutrition. But we are still thankful for the grace and steadfast love of God. Jesus Christ is the only strong foundation for the Christian people.

MAURITIUS

Actions speak louder than words. The works that flow from faith are inseparable from salvation. Putting Jesus’ teaching into practice is inclusive from the beginning, even before we build. During troubles, it is encouraging to remember that God is a solid rock.

The four celebrations took place just a few days before the announcement of the lockdown. A 93-year-old person was able to attend the service with the help of her niece and nurse. We are thankful for the opportunity to see and listen to the executive members and Vanuatu ladies in the WDPIC video service. We invited three women to give testimonies of how they were able to cope with their problem by relying on Jesus. The first shared about her problems accessing water, which could have prevented her from organizing a prayer cell at her home. The second, who works on a



cruise ship, was finally able to return to the island following COVID-19. And the third became a widow at the age of 30 with a one-month-old baby.

SEYCHELLES

When we first received the worship service program there was a lot of anticipation about how we would prepare and celebrate. And though we looked forward to the activities and the theme of this year's program, we were unable to hold a service. Some people were able to watch services on YouTube and the responses were very positive. We pray that next year things will be better. We were, however, able to have a Bible Study session together before the COVID-19 pandemic reached our country. The discussion on the Bible story and theme were very fruitful. We agreed with the message that to be wise is to be accepting or seeking God's wisdom in your everyday life. For God's blessing we are most thankful!

SOUTH AFRICA

Due to the pandemic, we faced a hard lockdown and many churches were

unable to congregate. We increased our social media presence to stay in contact with our local groups, which was a new learning experience. Despite this, we were inspired by the sisters of Vanuatu and tried to display a positive attitude during the lockdown. In learning about their beautiful island, we were motivated by the Vanuatu people's resilience. Under constant threat of natural disasters, the people survive and put their trust in the Lord. The invitation to return to the only solid foundation of Faith, to us was very precious. We are thankful to have celebrated with the sisters of Vanuatu, and that they were unaffected by COVID-19. We are thankful for the lives that are being saved and for the freedom to pray for one another.

Website: <https://www.wwdp.co.za/>

UGANDA

The Fellowship of South Sudanese Arabic speaking women in Kampala organized one service that brought joy and a sense of belonging to the worldwide sisterhood. The stories of Rhetho, Mothy



The discussion on the Bible story and theme were very fruitful. We agreed with the message that to be wise is to be accepting or seeking God's wisdom in your everyday life. For God's blessing we are most thankful!

and Jacklynda that were told in the service reflected our own stories. We all have hope and are encouraged that God is with us and we lean on him for our future. "Build on a Strong Foundation" is a very powerful theme. The sister that we invited to help us meditate, stressed the hope that whoever trusts in God is like a wise builder who builds his house on the rock where all the destructive powers do not affect, and the house cannot fall. Because of the lockdown restrictions many children were not involved, they mostly led the entry procession and carried the gifts to the table.

ZAMBIA

Women have access to education despite the challenges with school fees, that is why our committee partnered with the Non-Governmental and Community Based Organisations to address



women's empowerment. We also applied for government COVID-19 relief funds to help women continue with their small business, support their children's education and improve their livelihood. We were thankful for the theme, because it gave us confidence to be firm in our Christianity. God is the only answer we need to build on a strong foundation. A wise person will always be firm and focused on her faith and in doing things. The word of God is not temporal, it must be strong in our hearts, so we never give up in times of trouble or persecution. As Christian women we need to hold on to the cross and pray without ceasing. Our service went live on Facebook and we added a

prayer for peaceful elections, good health, and life by God's grace.

ZIMBABWE

Our committee was excited but troubled once we received the Vanuatu program. At the time there was a lockdown and it was difficult to plan but, with God's grace and guidance, these challenges brought us together in search of new ways to communicate and begin preparations. When the lockdown restrictions were relaxed, we were able to hold our WDP service. As we listened to the voices of the women and children of Vanuatu it brought us closer to home as we face many of the same issues. As our sisters have advised us, we must put our faith in

God who is our foundation and ask for the strength to care for the betterment of our wellbeing. A wise person trusts God no matter the circumstances. We thank God for the worship services full of hope and for the encouragement to trust God's love. We are grateful for the gift of life and remember those family and friends who are no longer with us.

God is the only answer we need to build on a strong foundation. A wise person will always be firm and focused on her faith and in doing things. The word of God is not temporal, it must be strong in our hearts, so we never give up in times of trouble or persecution.

Asia



INDIA

Preparing for the WDP program presented a lot of challenges. In person gatherings were not allowed so women met online. We helped sisters prepare online worships and assisted with technical help for various platforms. WDP's presence in India has certainly increased during the pandemic. All 30 major main-line churches conducted month long prayer chains and weekly prayer fellowships. We prayed for more women to gain access to the internet and for the safety of those who were gathering in person. We have held mental health workshops to boost the morale of women who have lost jobs and are suffering from various reasons. The stories of Vanuatu impacted and encouraged our women to move forward during these difficult times. Our situation is not much different from theirs. This year we want to focus on how we can bring food to the table of the most vulnerable. In our context, a wise person is one who stands firmly in their Christian values. Our faith has been greatly tested,



especially during the second wave of the pandemic that hit us.

JAPAN

The women's committee of Japan Christian Council (NCC) encouraged local Christian women groups to hold their WDP services if they were able, the groups were small, and the necessary precautions were taken. This effort resulted in 470 different churches around our country holding prayer meetings from March into May. We work hard every year to share the service in our country. The materials are translated into Japanese, and several prayer meetings are held in preparation. Although big celebrations were not allowed,

learning more about Vanuatu and praying for our sisters in Christ was still a blessing. We deeply appreciate the work of the WDPIC because it gives church women from various denominations a chance to inform the world about their situation and their country. Through the prayer of Christians around the world we have a chance to learn, share problems and pray for each other.

Website: <http://cloister171.blog.fc2.com/>
and www.ncc-j.org
Facebook: @nccinJapan

MALAYSIA

We were excited to prepare the program and learn the stories and culture about the women of Vanuatu. We prepared a display with fruits, beadwork, the flag and other items representing Vanuatu for our online service. We prayed for God's guidance through this time and that many women would be able to join us in prayer. Our hearts were overwhelmed with how many participants we had! Various local churches also held their own worship services in their



church with women and children in attendance. Vanuatu was made known, prayed for by many of us with one heart, one soul and one mind. May God's Spirit continue to move and touch the hearts of Vanuatu's people. We thank God for the opportunity to observe so many countries throughout the years through WDP. We are thankful for the peace in our country, the unity among multi-racial people and the freedom to worship at any time in any place. The theme, "Build on a Strong Foundation," reminded us of the importance of reading, listening and understanding the word of God; to incorporate God's teaching into our daily lives. This is our strong foundation - we will follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life.

NEPAL

We thank the Almighty God and our Vanuatu sisters for sharing with us about prayer and allowing us to be a part of World Day of Prayer. We learned about Vanuatu, which is a country we did not know much about before. It is a beautiful country just like ours. We were inspired to see how many things we had in common. It was a wonderful blessing.



We held two worship services on different dates. At each service we began by singing hymns and remembering those around the world still suffering from the pandemic. We briefly shared about the history of WDP services and why we come together. We discussed the Bible text and the idea that our faith, even during this pandemic, is our strong foundation in our relationship with God. At this crucial time, we need to express our love for one another and begin healing together. All of our members joined hands to glorify God and uplift all people. It was a great time for all of us even though we were from different churches and of different faiths.

PHILIPPINES

World Day of Prayer is built on a strong foundation. Ecumenical Christian women have come together in "Informed Prayer.

Prayerful Action," since 1927 on the solid rock that is our loving God. The theme challenged us to make decisions that are strong in faith and fully put our trust in the Lord. No matter how hard and frightening our situation is today, we will be like the house built on a solid rock. Our WDP is

thankful that in the midst of a very difficult situation, the ecumenical church women in our country united together for the 2021 Vanuatu worship service. It was a new experience for us to have a big mix of denominations gathering in prayer virtually. We prayed for success when using new technologies. We prayed for the people of Vanuatu, for their message to be heard around the world. We felt blessed at how successful our first online service turned out to be. We thank all our ecumenical partners who participated and held their own worship service for WDP all throughout the country.

SINGAPORE

We were under strict orders during the pandemic and no gatherings of groups more than 8 were allowed. Still, the worship service was observed by small groups and individuals who were moti-



vated to pray with Vanuatu. We are thankful that God made it possible, though it was challenging, to pray together and be introduced to the sisters of Vanuatu – a country we have never connected with before. The hymn “In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth...” holds true meaning in this experience. The information that was sent to us and the videos we saw helped us immerse ourselves in the Vanuatu culture. We were able to pray effectively and intelligently. The foundation built is based on the Lord Jesus Christ and His word makes us wise. We must put God first and be obedient to Christ.

SOUTH KOREA

Every year the worship service fills the members of Korean Church Women United (KCWU) with delight and grace. Everyone is excited to learn about WDP and the focus country. Next year we will celebrate the centenary of WDP worship services in Korea, which began in 1922! Usually, once we receive the materials, we have several meetings and translate them into Korean. The materials are then distributed locally, and services are planned. It is almost like a festival.

Because of COVID-19, we were unable to host meetings this year, but our committee made a worship service video and sent it to all the local regions. Whether in small groups at church, socially distanced, or personally at home, the Vanuatu program was celebrated in all districts. The video was moving and there was the grace of God over us.

Website: <http://kcwu.org/>

SRI LANKA

It was quite challenging to prepare for the worship service while grappling with the uncertainties brought on by the pandemic. Despite the restrictions imposed, our committee was united and continued to plan a recorded service as well as an in-person gathering. We were comforted by the fact that the challenges we faced this year were universal and we were not alone in our trials. We are so thankful we were able to accomplish both goals and as a result the recording was distributed to other churches in regions where women could not physically attend services. While we are very proud of our accomplishments as Christians and strive to work hard in God’s vineyard, the theme and Bible text was an eyeopener and made us realize that our

faith and actions are subject to questioning. Many of us seek outside help to sort out our problems. Our foundation is shaky, and we need to place more trust in God. For us, the context of the theme was of great value. Many of our people were discouraged and affected by the pandemic, not only physically but economically and emotionally as well. This program reminded us to work on our personal lives and “Build on a Strong Foundation.”

TAIWAN

Although there are sporadic outbreaks of COVID-19 in our country, we thank God that our government has an excellent epidemic prevention plan with a high degree of cooperation from the people. Overall, we had a safe environment where WDP services could still be held. Participants were required to wear masks, take their temperature, disinfect with alcohol and provide personal contact information for records. The Vanuatu program was translated into eight languages including sign language. There was an increase in children’s services this year and we hope to continue this trend so we can pass this wonderful movement onto the next generation. We have worked hard to share the WDP



program with as many churches as possible over the years, especially now that the Taiwan committee was selected as the focus country for 2023. Everyone is becoming more aware of the significance and honor of participating in the WDP movement. We are grateful to be able to bring many ecumenical organizations together for WDP. We are also thankful for the opportunity to learn about the history, culture and people of Vanuatu. Though they are not a big country, they still choose to trust God and God cares for their beautiful country faithfully. It reminds us that as a small country, God is also watching over us.

Website: <http://women.pct.org.tw/> and <http://www.ywca.org.tw/>
Facebook: @WDPTaiwan and @YM-CATaiwan

THAILAND

"I rejoice with the beautiful islands, culture and traditions," and "WDP is a great moment of worship and opportunity to learn about a new country," are just some of the expressions shared by participants after the service. Vanuatu is a beautiful country and the things we learned amazed us. We have seen how great God's creation can be. We are thankful for the provisions God gives us



in our lives. We do, however, note how many problems there are for women and children. The Vanuatu sisters have done an excellent job supporting those who face domestic violence and vulnerable situations. We continue to pray with them. The theme challenges us to choose to be wise or foolish. In this worldwide pandemic, it is important to have a firm foundation. As many people go through hard times it is important to have a firm belief that God will give us the strength to live day by day and trust in the guidance from above.

The Vanuatu sisters have done an excellent job supporting those who face domestic violence and vulnerable situations. We continue to pray with them.

Caribbean & North America

ANTIGUA

Preparing for the worship service was difficult because we were not able to meet face to face. However, members of different congregations still managed to come together and hold two online services. We prayed for the world and our Vanuatu sisters. We felt as though this program allowed us to strengthen our relationship with God through regular prayer meetings, online Bible studies and daily intercessions via mobile group chats. The theme reminded us of how important it is to be wise and take the necessary steps to ensure that we build a solid and firm foundation. We were inspired by the stories shared by the women of Vanuatu and the situations experienced by women and children. We plan to help women and children in our country in similar situations by distributing food packages and providing counseling.

BAHAMAS

In spite of the lockdowns and ongoing pandemic, we are thankful for the technology that allowed us to come together for prayer meetings and our WDP services. Although local celebrations were not realized, we were all very enthusiastic about the Vanuatu program. The theme was relevant to our groups because it encouraged us to build on a strong foundation in Jesus Christ in the midst of difficulties. Since September of 2019, our country has been dealing with the aftereffects of Hurricane Dorian.



People have been forced into situations of homelessness, unemployment, school closures and lack of water and food supplies. Through the Vanuatu program our prayer life was strengthened. We prayed for wisdom and protection for front line responders, essential workers and their families. Though the winds might blow, and the storm clouds arise, we shall not fail or fall once with Jesus, we will stand the test of time.

Facebook: @YWCABahamas

BARBADOS

It was most certainly different preparing for the service during the pandemic. All preparatory meetings and rehearsals were done virtually. While praying with members of various congregations we lifted up the safety of all persons during this time and the Vanuatu sisters. We are thankful to WDP for these opportunities to share with writer countries, to pray for the rest of the world knowing that we are in a place of privilege. New churches shared in the worship service this year which was a great experience. Many of them had not



heard of Vanuatu but saw themselves reflected in the stories shared. This caused these new members to inquire more about WDP. The Vanuatu program brought everyone together in a way that was reminiscent of what WDP has been called to be—an ecumenical movement working together to serve God.

CANADA

We are thankful for the inspiring theme and service given to us by our Vanuatu sisters. Amid the darkness of a pandemic, they reminded us of our hope and called us to trust in Jesus our foundation. Prayer underpinned our work leading up to the service with 15-minute Facebook live sessions, called WDP Pray NOW. Viewers and participants prayed and learned eagerly about Vanuatu. We produced a video of the service and received very positive feedback of the new highlights such as a liturgical dance for the processional, an interview with a sister from Vanuatu, a children's moment with Legos and a song, choir music with local photos, and a devotional message. We have been able to "Build a Strong



Foundation” for the future by moving resources, meetings, and training/preparation sessions to an online format. One of the blessings of this year was the opportunity to gather online nationally and engage new people in the WDP movement. We move forward confident that WDP as a movement of prayer and solidarity continues, no matter the changes this past pandemic year has brought.

Website: www.wicc.org
 Facebook: @WICCanada
 Twitter: WICC_CA

GUYANA

The theme was appropriate given the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a reminder to rely on God through any hardships because with our faith we can withstand the difficulties. We are thankful our members, family and friends have remained safe and healthy. We are grateful to God for showing us grace and mercy each day. Our committee had several meetings in preparation for our services. We even went on a retreat to mentally prepare and pray together after being physically separated for so long. We prayed for good health, strength, creativity and an open mind. We observed the proper protocols, and felt it was wise to do this for a successful



celebration. Our services went well, and young women performed a skit of the scripture passage. The Vanuatu program was very impactful, and we are thankful to the sisters for sharing it with us.

JAMAICA

Under government ordered curfews and limited in person meetings we held a virtual WDP service that was attended by locals and persons abroad. The responses were very positive and as a result we have experienced an increase in interest shown in our local activities. We congratulate the sisters of Vanuatu for a refreshing and enlightening program! The issues that impact the women of Vanuatu are similar to our own. Our education system has suffered immensely during the pandemic. Most children are at a disadvantage and lack the proper amenities to facilitate online learning. Domestic violence has increased and

women struggle to sustain family life. The scripture challenged us to ground our hopes and beliefs in God. Despite the difficult times we are experiencing we see the goodness of God manifested in our daily lives. We are encouraged to anchor our faith firmly in Christ.

USA

This year, like for many, was challenging for us. Not being able to meet in person was a huge setback for our local WDP women and there were less participants than usual. There were many who created virtual worship services, including our committee, but it was no substitute for meeting in person. Some took to social media platforms to pray together for each other and the women of Vanuatu. Women were excited to be introduced to a country and culture they were unfamiliar with. We are thankful for the ability to use technology to reach others. This experience has reminded us that we need to strengthen our foundation as a committee and extend our reach across all states, increasing our bond. We are committed to reaching out in different ways. Technology is a great source of connection for people who are far apart.

Website: www.wdp-usa.org
 Facebook: World Day of Prayer USA

Europe



ALBANIA

To build on a strong foundation, is one of the best lessons we can learn from the Bible. We should follow this principle in our life. If we build relationships based on this principle, then nothing will destroy it. We were full of enthusiasm and hope for the possibility of being with other sisters again. We prayed that we could do the service outside in nature. But the situation changed, and we met online. We felt God's love and care for our sorrows. We prayed for the people we lost, for the economic situation, for our country and the world facing COVID-19. We felt united and closer to Jesus more than ever. We learned to be happy and thankful. We appreciate the solidarity within WDP. We decided to support the education of girls and young women in the Roma community.

ARMENIA

There was a war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2020, and thousands of women lost their husbands, children and brothers. This is the context of our



mission today, which is to help these women overcome their grief through the Word of God and offer financial support and pray for people's safety. The Sermon on the Mount's practical teaching is summed up with the words "Listen" and "Do." Obedience to God's will, by making it the goal of life, is taught by the example of a wise man, who built his house on a rock. Because the WDP service was online, it was difficult to immediately assess participants' enthusiasm, but it was evident during the post-worship discussions. We thank God for Vanuatu and Armenia, for our nature, clean air, faithful people, for the Bible in our languages and the will to overcome all difficulties through God. We praise the Lord.

AUSTRIA

We were positively surprised by the creativity of the local women celebrating under the given circumstances. We appreciate their dedication and engagement. We organized an online presentation about the challenges for the inhabitants of the different islands

of Vanuatu caused by climate change. Several online worship services were prepared to offer the possibility of participating from home. The highlight was the live transmission of the service in Vienna on the national public service broadcaster, Austrian State Television. Others celebrated in small groups according to the health regulations. Some groups prepared a full day's activity in their church, while others preferred to cancel or postpone it. Even though it impacted the collection, we received enough donations to support all the projects for 2021. We selected 14 projects in 11 countries to empower women and girls in the areas of health, agriculture, education, and training to fight violence against women as well as prevent human trafficking.

Website: <http://weltgebetstag.at/>
Facebook: @weltgebetstagderfrauen

CROATIA

We are grateful for our community of sisters, who work ecumenically in love.



We are grateful for our families, our homeland and its people who have been so resilient in the face of the earthquake of December 2020. We thank all those who selflessly helped, financially or otherwise, to bring our people's lives back to normal. We designated our WDP offering to a local family so they may rebuild the roof of their home that was severely damaged in the earthquake. "Build on a Strong Foundation" became a more meaningful theme to us after the earthquake as we could not feel the ground still under our feet. The words of Matthew reminded us of the continuous work of building a peaceful dialogue and helping the needy. Women and men in our country struggle with unemployment or underpaid job to such an extent that the situation is sometimes recognized as modern slavery. WDP gives them a voice and enables them to stand for a better future. A social and geo-political strategy to build a global healthy and just world for all is very important.

We held the service online with 80 people from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Slovenia representing 13 Christian denominations. Our committee helped organize the first WDP service in

Bosnia and Herzegovina. We felt the work of the Holy Spirit that united us in a special way through the several online activities we did. We are grateful for the COVID-19 vaccination for increasing the possibility of having activities back in person.

Website: <http://www.wdp-croatia.com/>
Facebook: Svjetski molitveni dan
Hrvatska - World day of prayer Croatia

DENMARK

COVID-19 was a big challenge. Some of our members could not be connected online and gave up participating. We felt sorry about that, but it opened our eyes to new possibilities. There is a family of four generations that attend WDP services together: grandmother, mother, daughter, and grandchild. They used our booklet and had a very blessed afternoon together! God and God's work is not bound by COVID-19 or anything else! We are so spoiled because we have access to material things and education. We think that we rule our own lives and can handle everything by ourselves. The theme was a reminder that God is essential part of our lives, congregations, and nation. Many were enthusiastic to make

Vanuatu known in their "circles." We love getting to know new countries, especially when they are almost unknown to us. Truly, we are thankful for being in this chain of prayer!

Website: www.kvindebodedag.dk

ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

We have managed to survive a difficult year and succeeded in holding WDP celebration in some form throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We have been encouraged by the creative ways churches have managed to celebrate with the women of Vanuatu. We managed to be in constant communication by phone or online meetings. It ensured that the individual members felt valued and important to us. Our service booklets were requested in large numbers and people read through it at a pre-arranged time online. The offering received is given out as grants to Christian charities with a particular emphasis on supporting women and children both in our own country and the world.

The aim of the Y-Pray? Annual Conference is to build on a firm foundation to



ensure a positive future for WDP. Two young women who participated at the Conference have now been coopted onto the National Committee. We would represent the foolish person if we did not empower younger women to take WDP into the future. As always, the opportunity to unite in praise and prayer with the whole world is the highlight of the day. We celebrated and empathized with the women of Vanuatu in their desire for a better future.

Website: www.wwdp.org.uk

Facebook: @WorldDayOfPrayerEWNI

Twitter: @WWDPforEWNI

FRANCE

To be able to share the celebration in person in our churches was a reason to be thankful, even if some celebrations had to be re-scheduled for June or September. We are thankful for the medical research and the people acting on the common good to develop the vaccines at such a speed. God does great work! Drawing on the expertise of the younger generations, we used the new communication technologies to share information and support each other in the national committee and abroad, like the sisters in



Guadeloupe. We created a WhatsApp group, posted a pre-recorded celebration on YouTube, and held a service on Zoom. Using all these new technologies was quite a challenge that pushed us out of our comfort zone. However, we had such a wonderful reward when realizing that we have developed efficient ways to remain in communion throughout this whole pandemic—a communion through the Holy Spirit. The resilience and strength of the Ni-Vanuatu women inspired us to find ways to be true to the cause despite COVID-19. We need this 'strong foundation' in our daily lives. The testimonies of the three Ni-Vanuatu women during the celebration were so full of hope!

Website: <https://journeemondialedepriere.fr/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/JourneeMondialeDePriereFrance>

GERMANY

Due to COVID-19 we had to be intentional, flexible, and creative to raise awareness and promote WDP. We were afraid that many congregations would simply cancel the celebration. We were deeply concerned about our ability to continue supporting our partners around the world. Humbly we recalled what our Vanuatuan sisters had reminded us: "Build on a Strong Foundation"—count on God's power! So, we reached out beyond our traditional practice and familiar persons to promote WDP's message. There was an explosion



of alternative ideas, and we are harvesting the fruits of a very successful celebration. We organized a worship service on a TV channel, and it is estimated that more than 120,000 watched the service. There were services online and outside the church. We created station services throughout the city and we sent out a small package for celebrations at home. And with the responses we got, we can now support our partners who were really hit hard by the pandemic. On March 5th, we were reminded of Vanuatu every minute of the day. Messages like “In God we stand” or “What is your foundation?” reached every corner of Germany! We certainly missed the fellowship after the activities, but we surely can say “Stand in God, be courageous, don’t keep silent, and you will be blessed”!

Website: <https://weltgebetstag.de/en/>
 Facebook: @weltgebetstag
 Twitter: @weltgebetstagD
 Instagram: @weltgebetstag

GREECE

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are the called according to his purpose”



(Romans 8:28). We are so thankful for WDP because through it we get to meet so many people and we learn a lot of new things from them. For 30 years we have celebrated WDP services and communicated with people all over our country but never got to meet each other. It was very exciting to finally see and greet each other virtually during our online worship service. It was a unique experience, and we are happy our service was so successful with about 180 participants! We prayed for the health of all our brothers and sisters, and we gave thanks for the free access to education and easier job opportunities compared to Vanuatu. Hearing their stories made us more appreciative of what we have.

Facebook: WWDP Greece - μ μ

HUNGARY

We were unable to hold the celebration in person. Video recordings were made with the liturgists present at the church and we livestreamed the worship. In many places, WDP was celebrated during the summer when the restrictions due to the pandemic were lifted. The feedback indicates that the online op-

portunities may have increased the number of viewers of the program. Our committee produced a 70-minute video and some local congregations produced their own. A Hungarian missionary couple who are serving as Bible translators on one of the islands in Vanuatu helped us connect with women in Tanna. Sophia, the wife, interviewed two local women in their mother tongue. The young woman moved to the Tanna Islands due to marriage. She voiced her desire for decisions to be made together by both men and women equally. Thanks to the personal connection, the Hungarian donations will go to one of the villages of Tanna, where a meeting place was built to hold training sessions for women.

Website:

<https://www.meot.hu/index.php/noi-m>

IRELAND

It was important to us to be able to honor the lives of the women of Vanuatu despite the difficulties. Everyone did their best to hold a worship service either virtually or in person at a later date. Our national TV broadcaster, RTE, transmitted a televised service giving WDP a platform and increasing our reach every year. All our preparatory meetings have been virtual, and we have learned a lot about the various uses and necessities of technology during these times. Our committee has been in frequent contact with this new mode of communication resulting in the formation of closer bonds and a dynamic sense of purpose. We have also been meeting monthly with the WDP committees of Slovenia, Republic of Georgia and Serbia. It is our first prayer partnership, and it has cre-



ated a wonderful opportunity for us to build relationships and unity among our sisters. The work of the Holy Spirit is indeed seen where “brothers and sisters dwell in unity” (Psalm 133).

Facebook: Women’s World Day of Prayer Ireland

ITALY

It has been difficult to adapt to the new situation we are all in due to the pandemic - to meet our sisters virtually rather than in person. But we thank God for the new opportunities built for us and for the love provided to us which keep us together even through the most difficult times. We were able to hold 40 WDP worship services and had many people in attendance. This new way of worshipping resulted in an increase in new contacts and participants interested in WDP. We hope to be able to get together next year in person but are grateful for the new friends we made through our online services.

LUXEMBOURG

We are thankful that we did not lose any of our women because of COVID-19 and our beloved ones were safe. We held one celebration in person following all the

government’s recommendations. We were very happy that we could do it. For a moment, we forgot that we were living in a strange situation. We loved the celebration of Vanuatu which was full of hope, love and happiness. It was interesting to see how the women of Vanuatu are so thankful and hopeful, even when climate change is a challenge for the whole world. In our country, children and women have access to education and food. A lot is done to assure women can work and raise their children. We support the fight for women to have access to jobs and a good education. Respecting each other is how we begin to build on a strong foundation.

Website:

<http://www.acfl.lu/de/weltgebetstag>

Facebook: @WDPLuxembourg

NORWAY

During the beginning of the pandemic, we wondered how we would be able to produce anything for WDP. Our country was completely shut down with no public functions, all churches closed and a maximum group number of five. However, we were able to find an affordable way to film and edit a video service. We were very thankful for that this year! We were proud to be able to distribute the

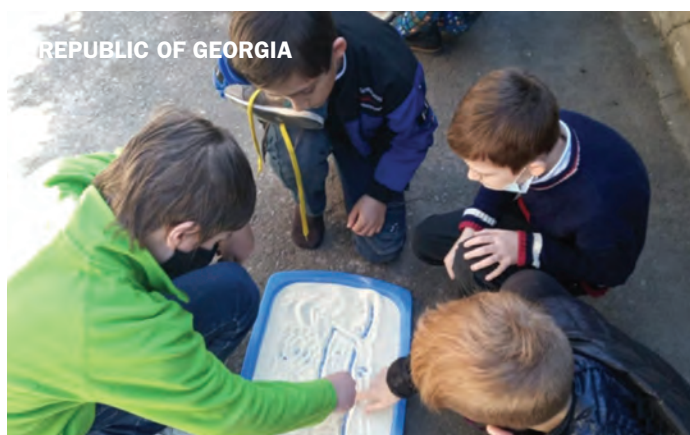
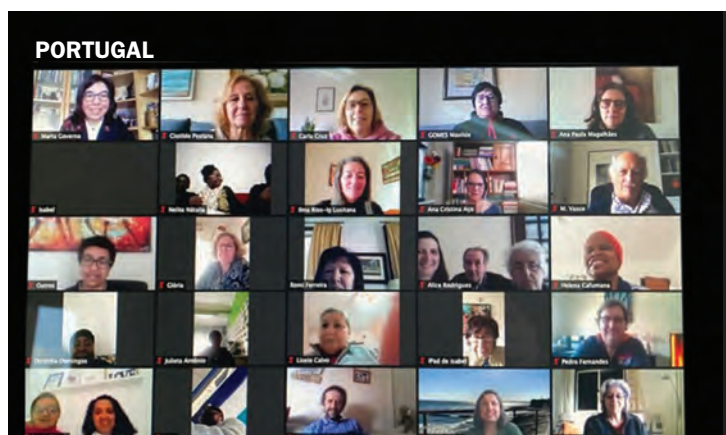


digital service and share it with those unfamiliar with WDP. Many of our friends were very enthusiastic to learn about Vanuatu and their way of life which is so different from our own. The theme about building on a solid foundation came at an appropriate time for us. Not far from Oslo, a landslide happened overnight. Many people lost their homes, were injured and some even died. The event caused us to really reflect on the meaning of the theme in our context. Our prayers were for those impacted by the incident as well as the people of Vanuatu.

Facebook: @kvinnernesinternasjonale-bonnedag

PORTUGAL

Our World Day of Prayer celebration was held online in collaboration with different churches from various areas in our country. Although there were some difficulties using new technologies, our celebration was successful and it was great to get so many people involved. The Bible text challenged us to reflect on our basic foundation. Our foundation, our essence, our identity is built on Christ. In these times of suffering, death, fear and anxiety, let us turn to the word of God. The word of God is always available to us



to help us overcome all difficulties. God is reminding us that being a Church is to live with the values of the Kingdom. Peace, patience, kindness, faith, forgiveness and mercy. Against these things there are no winds or storms we cannot overcome.

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

The preparations for the WDP service were quite extraordinary. At first, we felt weighed down by the impossibilities of in person meetings, but God gave us the strength and determination to resist these unusual conditions and look for new approaches. The internet and other technologies allowed us to have prayer meetings with our sisters in Slovenia and Ireland. For the first time, women from two of our cities held a joint worship service. We felt a great sense of solidarity and community in Jesus Christ with women from all over the world. The issues highlighted by the women of Vanuatu are some that we can closely understand because our country also recently achieved independence and is facing numerous political, economic and social problems. The Vanuatu program supported us through the difficult times this year and the theme challenged us to assess our position. Are we building on the right foundation? It is an opportunity



to reflect. To follow the word of God is to act wisely.

SCOTLAND

Our organizers worked extremely hard to promote our online live service and safely deliver worship booklets to those who could not join online services. The WDPIC worship video was a wonderful resource and people who watched it felt a real bond with the women of Vanuatu. Our National online meetings enabled children, young adults, different ethnic groups and committee members from across Scotland to participate in WDP. We are thankful for the strengthening and enlivenment of our WDP friendships that coming together virtually has given us. We are thankful that, despite the difficulties they experience, the Vanuatu committee prepared such a

lovely program and continued to provide us with additional resources to learn more about them. Lastly, we are thankful for the vision and purpose of WDP. And to ignore the opportunities provided by the pandemic on all structural levels would be foolish as we build on a strong foundation, on Jesus Christ's teaching and ministry, moving forward.

Website: www.wdpscotland.org.uk

Facebook: World Day of Prayer Scotland

SERBIA

This has been a very special and significant year for our committee. In 1951, our ancestral sisters in Novi Sad welcomed representatives from WDPIC and hosted their first service, making it our 70th anniversary of WDP services. We are so happy to be a part of this movement and thankful for our past sisters who built our foundation. Despite the pandemic, we were still able to hold our services the traditional way, although less ecumenically, and uplift the Vanuatu sisters' prayers along with our own. We realized that nearly all the issues raised are similar to our own. But beyond the difficulties, we could feel the spirit and joy of the Vanuatu women through their program. Also, for the first time this year



we held an ecumenical central celebration in Novi Sad online. This was a unique experience, and we are thankful for the technical advantages that allowed us to celebrate in new ways.

Website: www.ehons.org

SLOVAKIA

Due to the pandemic our country was under a strict lockdown order a day before our scheduled service. The host church in charge of the service was forced to cancel but thankfully other churches had prepared pre-recorded services. In total we had eight online worship services including one for children - each a bit different, all prepared with love and dedication. We were united in prayer for Vanuatu and felt

blessed. We are thankful for the opportunities presented by modern technology. Every year we organize a one-day preparatory seminar in Bratislava, the capital, and Košice but women in remote areas were never able to join. For the first time this year we organized an online event and finally got to meet some of these women who we only ever knew via email. We were overwhelmed with gratitude that even during a pandemic we were still able to be a part of the World Day of Prayer movement.

Facebook: [@sdmslovensko](https://www.facebook.com/sdmslovensko)

SLOVENIA

WDP is so unique to us because there is no other organization in our country that allows us to learn about a country

and support the local people in such a direct way. We are proud to be able to celebrate every year and help in any way with our contributions. We give thanks to God that new doors are opening as some close. We are grateful for the innovations that have permitted us to organize prayer events online, including our WDP service. We are thankful that we have forged closer connections with our prayer partners – Republic of Georgia and Ireland – during the pandemic. Although physically far apart we can be linked via technology. It is important for us to maintain this bond, which strengthens and encourages us. By learning about other countries, we increase solidarity and awareness of the effect - both positive and negative - of our own actions on others. We would like to be sensible builders, who make effective use of our talents to benefit humanity, to build a better world. It is necessary, of course, to start with oneself.

Website:

<https://smdslovenija.wixsite.com/smdslovenija>

Facebook: SMD (Svetovni molitveni dan - Slovenija)



SWEDEN

We are so thankful for the opportunity to celebrate WDP together, with our sisters from Vanuatu and from all over the world. At least 25 of our local committees were able to produce their own worship service videos but most groups were able to hold a service in church. The situation created by the pandemic gave way to new possibilities of celebrating WDP which we can take into the future. It may have been challenging at times, but it was a joy to learn about new technologies. We prayed for Vanuatu and for our own communities. Many of us reflected on all the challenges the women of Vanuatu face, some of which are common issues. It made us thankful to live in a peaceful and democratic country where education, food and health facilities are readily available. We also discussed how to live a more responsible life, especially in regard to climate change and how we can be an active part of the solution.

Website: www.svekumeniskakvinnor.se

Facebook: @svekumeniskakvinnor

SWITZERLAND

Preparations for WDP on a digital level were a major challenge but it also brought advantages like more diverse and creative celebrations. We were able to reach new groups as well and saw an increase in our contributions, which we will use to support various projects around the world. For example, we are supporting an ecumenical project in Romania dedicated to helping the poor and elderly. In Vanuatu, we are support-

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ing projects based on educational programs for women in networking and agriculture in hopes of economic autonomy. We are doing the same for women in Africa, South America and Asia with the goal of helping women and families by means of education and empowerment. The WDPIC video worship service with women from different countries, especially Vanuatu, was a real highlight. We prayed with those near to us and distant, for climate justice and justice for human beings.

Website: www.wgt.ch

Latin America



ARGENTINA

Estamos agradecidas porque a pesar de todas las dificultades pudimos reunirnos. Nos sentimos desafiadas, pues algunos de los cultos fueron realizados virtualmente, otros en las plazas donde la gente se acercó para conocer el DMO, o en una de las iglesias con una participación limitada a 20 personas. El programa nos mostró que cuando las mujeres se unen pueden salir de su contexto de vida y aspirar a algo mejor. La pandemia trajo mucha violencia de género y el culto nos ayudó a comprender como ser ayuda para nuestras hermanas que sufren. Además, la pobreza aumentó mucho por la cuarentena prolongada. La mayoría de los niños no van a la escuela, y como CEDMO queremos ayudar a quienes trabajan con la niñez,

mientras nuestras Iglesias ayudan con la distribución de alimentos y ropa. Si tenemos nuestra fe en una base bien sólida, podremos salir al encuentro de nuestro prójimo. Esto nos hace más solidarias para ver los problemas con objetividad y no cerrar los ojos ante ellos.

Website: <http://cedmo.blogspot.com/>
Facebook: DMO Argentina

BRASIL

Fue muy difícil, pues todo fue preparado pensando que la pandemia estaría más controlada, pero llegó a ser tan fuerte en marzo que en muchas ciudades todo fue cancelado o transmitido online. Con este medio fue alcanzado un número significativo de personas, lo que nos alegra en saber que fuimos propagadoras de la



Esto nos hace más solidarias para ver los problemas con objetividad y no cerrar los ojos ante ellos.

palabra del Señor, en un momento en que las familias se encontraban en una situación fragilizada. En las tempestades, el sabio constructor permaneció seguro, sin embargo, el imprudente perdió su casa. Los sabios actuaron de acuerdo con la palabra de Jesús, eligieron el suelo correcto. La esencia de la enseñanza de Jesús es escuchar la palabra de Dios y actuar de acuerdo con ella. Los resultados que vendrán dependen de las elecciones hechas y de las acciones que tuvimos. Elegir es nuestra responsabilidad. Ser cristiana es un vivir diario por acciones y ejemplos, como el lema del DMO - Oración con información y oración con acción.

Website: <http://www.dmoracao.comunidades.net/>



COSTA RICA

La pandemia ha presentado muchos desafíos en varios aspectos de nuestra vida diaria. Enfrentamos algunas dificultades y frustraciones para crear una actividad virtual como el uso de diferentes tecnologías, la falta de acceso a la tecnología y la cooperación de los profesionales técnicos. Los jóvenes y los niños también se virón afectados negativamente porque no pueden ir a la escuela debido a las restricciones de COVID-19. Esto se suma a la escuela que perdieron cuando hubo un apagón educativo hace tres años y los maestros estaban en huelga. Se ha convertido en una desventaja para algunos y es difícil para las madres ayudarlos a estudiar en casa sin capacitación ni tecnología. Oramos y clamamos por misericordia y justicia dentro de las políticas gubernamentales. Nuestro objetivo era tener al menos un servicio de adoración exitoso y esto se logró, por eso estamos agradecidas. Queríamos tomarnos el tiempo para orar por Vanuatu, aprender sobre los desafíos que enfrentan y reflexionar sobre la sabiduría que compartieron en contextos tan difíciles.

CUBA

Preparar las actividades fue muy desafiante. Todavía, nuestro corazón se encuentra agradecido porque en medio de un contexto global de enfermedad, crisis e incertidumbres, la gracia de Dios y su



Palabra, nos dan señales de vida y amor fraternal, para vivir confiadas en nuestro día a día, y mirar con esperanza el futuro. Ser sabio, en el contexto de nuestro país implica, sobre todo, ser creativos y resilientes. La creatividad ante un panorama de crisis económica, sedimentado por el bloqueo y ahora agravado por la pandemia, ha supuesto para cubanos y cubanas, la búsqueda de soluciones concretas, prácticas y cotidianas. La resiliencia ha permitido adaptarse a situaciones de carencia, desde una economía de la solidaridad, un crecerse ante las dificultades, y mayormente, confiar en que Dios nos sostendrá sobre una base firme. La sabiduría debe ir acompañada de la formación, pensando en las nuevas generaciones, que son el presente de la sociedad, y en este caso, también de la Iglesia, los cuales muchas veces carecen de herramientas necesarias para emprender sus sueños y, sobre todo, de valores sólidos.

Ser sabios, en esta hora de nuestra realidad, implicará también apoyar a personas

Todavía, nuestro corazón se encuentra agradecido porque en medio de un contexto global de enfermedad, crisis e incertidumbres, la gracia de Dios y su Palabra, nos dan señales de vida y amor fraternal, para vivir confiadas en nuestro día a día, y mirar con esperanza el futuro.

vulnerables, con pocos recursos espirituales y materiales, y especialmente a los adultos mayores, que son mayoría en nuestra población. La sabiduría para este tiempo implica enarbolar un discurso de no violencia, de diálogo intergeneracional, de acompañamiento pastoral y de inclusión.



GUATEMALA

Tomamos como un desafío presentar la liturgia de manera novedosa y práctica, y contextualizada a la situación nuestra. Leímos el pasaje bíblico en clave feminista. Una reflexión fue repensar qué es la roca en la propuesta nueva que nos presentaron las mujeres de Vanuatu: la roca es vivir creyendo en las enseñanzas de Jesús y conocer el amor de Dios para nuestras vidas, y la arena son todas aquellas inconsistencias que nos llevan a ser vulnerables a la violencia. Creer que es normal recibir la violencia y aceptarla en los espacios familiares y sociales limitan el vivir con alegría y bienestar a muchas personas. Fue un desafío realizar la celebración por medios digitales porque no todas las personas tienen acceso a internet o no cuentan con la facilidad tecnológica de participar. Así que innovamos con los videos que realizamos para orar; sentimos fortaleza y unidad al saber que orábamos en conjunto. Contar con espacios virtuales y físicos para celebrar nos anima al observar lo que se logró.

Facebook: Dia Mundial de Oración - Guatemala

NICARAGUA

Nos sentimos motivadas por la aceptación que tuvo nuestra invitación a



esta celebración, a pesar de la pandemia y situaciones difíciles como los recientes efectos de los huracanes ETA e IOTA que afectaron a Nicaragua en noviembre del 2020. Pero nada de esto apagó el espíritu dispuesto para el DMO y logramos las 17 celebraciones. Las niñas y niños fueron integrados en algunas celebraciones con los adultos, teniendo un espacio especial para ellos en el desfile con danzas. Nos ha inspirado conocer sus re-

alidades y comparar con nuestro contexto. Tenemos acceso gratuito a la educación desde el preescolar, pero también pobreza y las madres no envían sus hijos a la escuela. Nosotras les ayudamos a través de talleres para influir en su manera de pensar y tomar la decisión de enviar a sus hijas e hijos a la escuela. Oramos las mujeres, las niñas y niños, para que puedan ser nutridos física e intelectualmente. Oramos por sus jóvenes,



Oramos para que Dios obre en los corazones para que esa base firme que es Cristo Jesús transforme los corazones y pensamientos para que gobiernen con más equidad y justicia.

para que tengan mayores oportunidades de formación académica y trabajo, y para que Dios ayude Vanuatu en situación tan difíciles que enfrentan, como los desastres naturales.

PANAMA

As in Vanuatu, malnutrition is an alarming health problem in Panama. Many children under the age of five suffer the physical consequences of poor diet, they suffer from stunting and frequent infections. They don't eat foods that can keep their bodies and brains growing strong. Poverty makes the most disadvantaged children face the greatest risk. To the children in these situations, the help that the women of the WDP would give is to pray for our God to take control of this situation and to support with financial resources the foundations that protect and help these children. Pray and take action.

We were in total quarantine, and it was difficult for us to meet but thank God we maintained communication to coordinate the program. The worship service was carried out and an attendance of 35 people was achieved in accordance with the restrictions of the health authorities allowed in temples. We simultaneously transmitted the worship virtually for those who could not participate. The service was a great blessing specifically because of its theme.

PARAGUAY

Damos gracias a Dios que el DMO nos invita a orar unas por otras y por un país en particular. No habiendo diferencias con nadie, sino un Dios que nos une. Hemos destinado un día por semana para orar por las necesidades específicas que cada hermana compartía. Sentimos el dolor de no poder celebrar en muchos lugares. Si bien teníamos la esperanza de que en algún momento iba a ser diferente, tuvi-

mos que conformarnos en encontrarnos virtualmente. Gracias a Dios, pudimos realizar encuentros preparativos previos al Culto y el estudio bíblico online. En el culto en forma virtual, se unieron hermanas de Argentina, Brasil, EEUU, Noruega, y varias partes de Paraguay. Fue hermoso ver todas hermanadas y unidas en oración por Vanuatu.

Nos indigna sentir la indiferencia y la desatención hacia el pueblo. Oramos para que Dios obre en los corazones para que esa base firme que es Cristo Jesús transforme los corazones y pensamientos para que gobiernen con más equidad y justicia. Somos personas sabias al vivir dependiendo de Dios, Nuestra Esperanza y Refugio de las tormentas de la vida. Como mujeres somos, en muchos hogares, el sostén, pilar espiritual de la familia como esa palmera que representaba la fortaleza.



REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Agradecemos a Dios por la vida de las mujeres y todos los creyentes. De una manera u otra durante la pandemia nos hemos mantenido activas y conectadas en la obra de Dios. Cada mujer se convirtió en una mujer de Vanuatu, y los niños y niñas bailaron y cantaron con los objetos y símbolos para las mesas del altar.

Disfrutamos de la música y de las voces de las mujeres de Vanuatu y del Estudio Bíblico. En este tiempo, las que hemos construido nuestra casa sobre la base sólida, que es Cristo, hemos podido mantenernos firmes en la obra, en la iglesia y en el trabajo hacia los más necesitados. Nosotras les ayudamos con capacitación laboral para convertirse en

microempresarias. Hay muchas dificultades en los barrios pobres y los bateles. Oramos por la situación de vida en Vanuatu, por los enfermos del COVID-19, por nuestro país, por las mujeres y niños violentados y que viven en situación de miseria.

Middle East



EGYPT

We were inspired by the women of Vanuatu – their culture, their experiences and how they face difficult situations with a strong sense of faith in God. Many of us were touched by their stories and wished we could visit their beautiful island. Just as the theme reminded us, God is the only strong foundation. God is caring and we should build on a foundation of their precious word in all aspects of our lives. We are thankful for the Lord's goodness, for education, for our friends and families, and that women and children can receive the support they need and recognition of their rights. During our worship service, in small groups, we prayed for the healing of the sick, for those who have lost their loved ones to be comforted, and for God to stop the pandemic.

LEBANON

Our WDP members were thankful for the ability to meet online together and pray with the help of modern

technology. We found the video prepared by the International Committee a real inspiration. The voices from Vanuatu told us stories about human suffering, but also of hope and a rock – solid trust in God. As we listened to them tackle real issues, sharing the social and economic problems that they endure, we felt a connection as we experience similar issues. Our country is suffering from a dire political and economic crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic and the aftermath of the enormous blast that happened in Beirut recently have both left devastation in their paths. The challenge is to remain stable and firm, in spite of these storms, because our foundation is the Lord. We refuse to be defeated by external factors and keep our relationship with Christ unshakeable. Given all that has happened this past year, our committee members decided to raise funds to rent respiratory machines to help people who have respiratory issues, either from COVID-19 or other pulmonary diseases. The Medico-Social center was in great need of support to ensure these



illustrates the weather and resiliency of the people

machines were available, so we are thankful for the giving spirit of our members.

Facebook: World Day of Prayer National Committee of Lebanon

PALESTINE

The pandemic is all over the world and we were not spared at all, however, WDP could not be put aside. The situation in our country is difficult but we managed to hold a WDP service in Jerusalem. We prayed that we would all learn from this new challenge that gave us the opportunity for self-examination, a return to the Creator and a better cooperation with all creation. We are thankful to be witnesses in the land of the Holy one. The challenges we face are similar in many ways to the women of Vanuatu and in some ways harder due to military occupation and not having achieved full rights for women in either Israel or Palestine. We continue to work with women, encouraging recognition in churches and civil society. The Vanuatu



program and video service was very much appreciated. The theme for us means that a strong foundation is one where there is justice with compassion, equality and respect for others based on faith, hope and love.

TUNISIA

In our country, just like in many others, there have been periodic lockdowns. After a very light infection rate initially, the situation began to deteriorate with churches and mosques being closed during the worst of it. It became clear early in the year that our local groups were not going to be able to host in-person gatherings to celebrate WDP. Although unfortunate, we did our best to share the Vanuatu program with our churches along with some information about the history of WDP. The Anglican and Protestant churches announced certain events

The challenge is to remain stable and firm, in spite of these storms, because our foundation is the Lord. We refuse to be defeated by external factors and keep our relationship with Christ unshakeable.

for WDP in their bulletins including online Sunday services. Things may have been different this year, but we were still connected as WDP sisters.

TURKEY

The worship service program prepared by the women of Vanuatu reminded us



that we are not alone. For example, malnutrition is also an issue in our country, especially for refugees. The many challenges and situations women find themselves in are common and the Vanuatu sisters showed us what it means to be wise and follow the word of God. We are thankful to hear the word of God and try to implement it in our daily life. A good relationship with God helps in difficult situations. It always gives us a new perspective when we do not know what to do next. Although preparing the service was a challenge this year, we were able to record an online service with the help of the Bible Society. While it was sad not to be able to gather in person, we were able to bring different Christian denominations together and spread God's word to many.

Leading Together

A Balm of Hope

BY ROSÂNGELA OLIVEIRA



Republic of Georgia

Sisters! What a great celebration we had with the Ni-Vanuatu sisters on the World Day of Prayer!

Each one of us, from our corner of the world, proclaimed out loud that we “Build on a Strong Foundation.” Like a balm of hope in a world tired of loneliness and losses, the celebrations were filled with enthusiasm and creativity, resilience, and dedication.

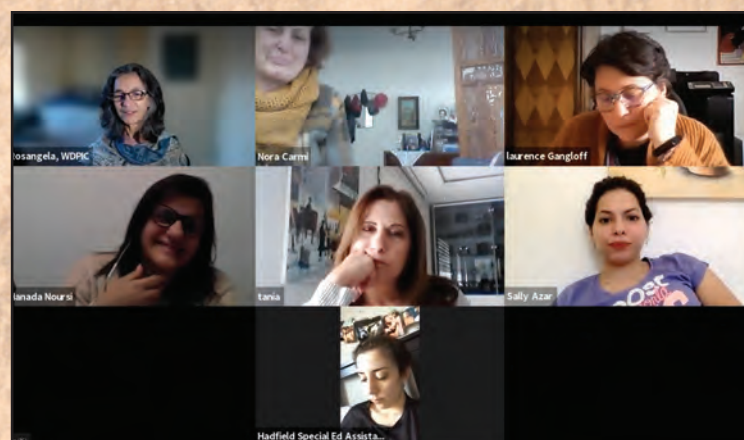
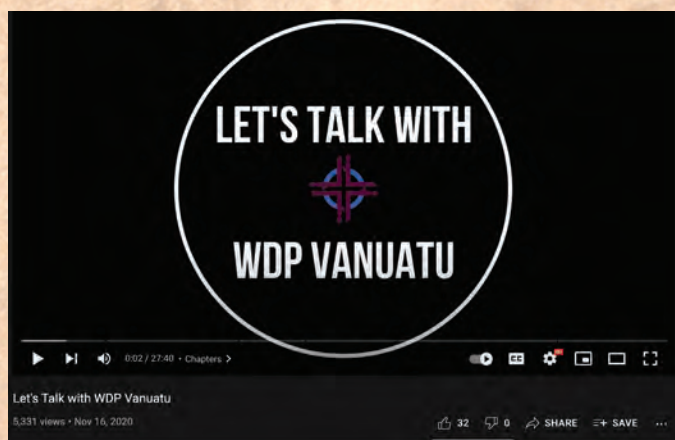
The Bible story that guided World Day of Prayer in 2021 was based on the sermon that Jesus told to the crowds on the hill (Matthew 7:24-27). We were invited to listen to Jesus’ words in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the meanings we find is that healing comes when we become aware of our actions,

“The essence of the story of Jesus is to HEAR accurately the word of God, and ACT accordingly and precisely. We shall act inspired by God’s love and know that our faith without action is dead (James 2:14-16).”

and we care for the common good. As it is said in the Bible study written by WDP Vanuatu, “The essence of the story of Jesus is to HEAR accurately the word of God, and ACT accordingly and precisely.

We shall act inspired by God’s love and know that our faith without action is dead (James 2:14-16).”

There was so much joy in connecting with familiar friends or new friends from another city or country during the celebrations. New partnerships were created with young people and local churches who provided the technological assistance needed for the online WDP worship services. People unfamiliar with WDP attended the services or watched the video service. Learning how to use the new technologies of communication to organize meetings, plan activities, and hold celebrations is now widespread in the movement. We thank God for giving us the tools to come together as #WD-UnitedInPrayer!



WDP Palestine

In many places the restrictions for in-person gatherings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 kept the churches and schools closed for worship services. The children were the most impacted, as many countries were not able to hold alternative activities for children.

LET'S TALK WITH VANUATU

The World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC) supported the preparations for the program with a series of virtual events. "Let's Talk with Vanuatu" created the opportunity of an online conversation with representatives of WDP Vanuatu. They talked about their situation especially the issues of child malnutrition, violence against women, and the impact of COVID-19 on the islands. The video made of this conversation was used in many local groups.

"Singing WDP Vanuatu Songs" was led by Edith Toth and her music team from WDP Romania. The virtual event created a space for WDP leaders to come together in global sisterhood to fill the spirit with joy, faith and love in preparations for the annual day of prayer. Laurence Gangloff, WDPIC Chairperson, concluded the event affirming our

participation in the #ThursdaysInBlack campaign saying NO to rape and gender-based violence.

On the first Friday of March, the WDPIC video of the worship service led by the WDP Vanuatu Committee and the WDPIC Executive Committee, with greetings from several National Committees, was part of the celebrations around the world.

"I beg with you... bear with one another in love"

"The World Day of Prayer movement, which started in 1927, reached the land of the Holy One in the 60s of the twentieth century. It was no surprise or

coincidence that participation started in Jerusalem, the city of the resurrection, where Jesus, on his way to be crucified, had advised the lamenting women: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children (Luke 23:28-31)," wrote Nora Carmi, from WDP Palestine.

WDP services are held in different churches and cities outside Jerusalem such as Ramallah, the Bethlehem and Nablus regions as well as in the Galilee. Regionally, links were built with WDP in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt; and internationally, the women of Jerusalem became members of the International Committee of the World Day of Prayer. Aida Had-dad, from the Lutheran Church, served

BEING UNITED IN PRAYER IS WHAT LINKS US TOGETHER!

- Let's talk with Vanuatu
- WDP Worship Service
- Global Conversation with WDPIC
- Art & Prayer in times of the pandemic

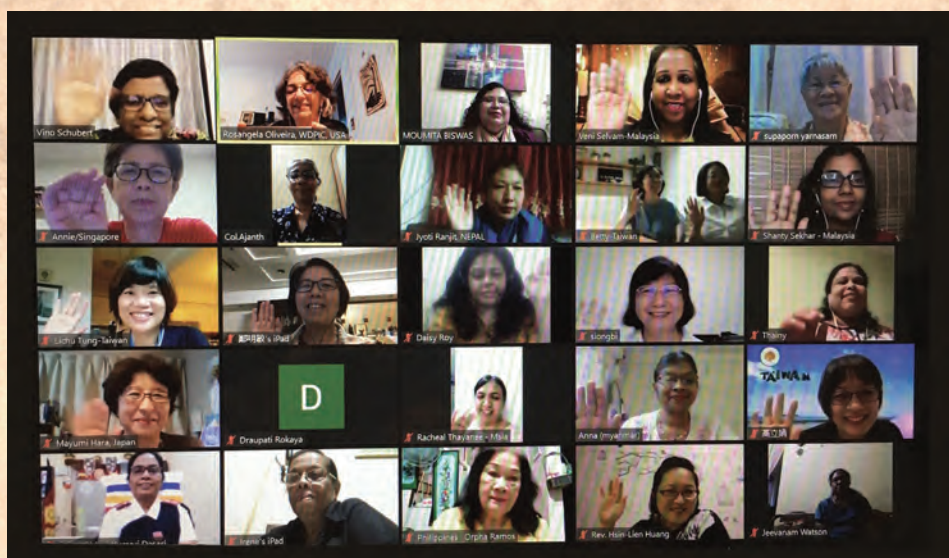


for two terms, followed by Leila Carmi, Roman Catholic Church, for two terms; and Nora Carmi, Armenian Apostolic Church, is currently in her second term.

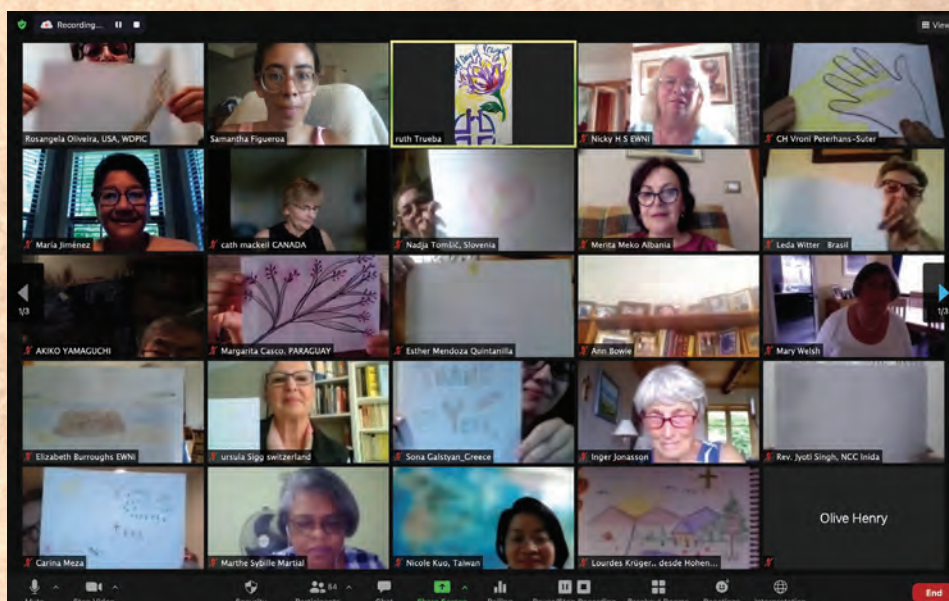
The committee has had the opportunity to write the worship service for our common prayers twice. In 1994 under the theme “Go, See and Act”, and is currently developing the materials for 2024 with “I beg with you... bear with one another in love” (Ephesian 4:1-3). However, the whole writing process has been done under COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, which means that all meetings to reflect together about the context and theme of the program and the group writing were done totally online with WDP Palestine.

The last in person workshop with a writing committee was held in 2019 with WDP Taiwan. Since 2020, WDPIC has continued the coordination of the international movement replacing the in-person activities for virtual events. On one hand, it has provided new opportunities like the Global Conversations and Regional meetings, but on the other hand it has challenged us to adapt the collective and collaborative process of writing and holding the services.

The pandemic is not the only challenge WDP Palestine faces, as Nora indicated. “Locally, there is still an unjust military occupation that violates all rights and demeans humanity... and above all, the nuclear threat of powerful countries is hovering over God’s beautiful creation. With all the efforts of peacemakers to respect and abide by international laws, one basic principle, which is the foundation of peace, is missing - LOVE...” As the daughters of Jerusalem write the WDP 2024 prayers, they know that justice



Asia regional meeting



Global Conversation

with compassion is needed today for His land, in the Middle East and the rest of the world. “Love one another and do the will of God (Ephesian 4:1-3).”

REGIONAL MEETINGS

We are a worldwide movement that values building connections. The worship service written by women from a different country expresses this value. The service carries the voices of women, the context of their communities, and their

prayers that call us to action. The connection is built from the local to the international circles and the other way around.

WDP is connected in seven regions and the elected regional representatives help to nurture communication, share information, and create a space for building relationships. Even though, this process has very limited opportunities to be done face to face, it has great potential

to flourish through the increasing use of the technology of communications. During 2021, regional representatives organized online meetings to check on the pandemic situation in each country and pray together, to motivate WDP responses, and to inform about the preparations for the International Meeting in 2022. The regions of Africa, Asia and Caribbean and North America have successfully met over the year. One thing always becomes clear, WDP is responding to the pandemic by helping the local communities and is united in prayers.

GLOBAL CONVERSATION

One year after the first Global Conversation with leaders of the WDP National Committees, WDPIC was back again with this initiative to strengthen the worldwide fellowship and connections. Almost 60 WDP leaders representing the seven regions of the world attended the online conversation on May 28th to share about the annual observation prepared by WDP Vanuatu. In more than 10 small groups, we talked about how it felt to celebrate during the pandemic and the reasons for our prayers.

On June 25th, the Global Conversation gave WDPIC Chairpersons of the last decade a platform to speak about their experiences within the movement. Over 60 WDP women joined the conversation to hear what Annette Poitier, WDP Bahamas (Chairperson 2007-2012), Corinna Harbig, WDP Slovenia (Chairperson 2012-2017), and Laurence Gangeloff, WDP France (Chairperson 2017-2022) had to share. Maral Haidostian (WDP Lebanon) introduced the conversation quoting Beccie Newcomer Wilson, San Francisco, California, 1987: "The World Day of Prayer is a gift passed



In loving memory of Henrica Marona

In honor of Henrica Ngamarama Wilson-Marona

"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race and I have kept my Faith"
(2 Timothy 4:7)

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of our sister on Sunday, February 7th, 2021, in the Cook Islands. Mama Hen, as she was affectionally called by her family and community, was elected Regional Representative for the Pacific at the WDP International Committee in 2017. At that same meeting the committee she represented—WDP Cook Islands—was selected as the writer committee for the WDP service in 2025.

As Executive Committee, we met in person in New York, June 2019, and her presence brought grace and love to our meeting. During the pandemic, WDPIC met virtually a few times, and recorded the worship service for the 2021 program. Mama Hen, always wearing a flower garland on her head, participated in the video. The worship service video is a sweet memory of her presence among us. We praise God for Henrica Marona's life and the witness of her faith in the WDP movement.

down to us, from heart to heart, by our mothers and sisters in Christ. Each dared to live beyond the limits of creed and race, daily circumstance and tradition, to make room for the whole world in her prayers and in her actions".

Over 50 WDP leaders from all over the world came together on July 16th, to listen to Ruth Mariet Trueba Castro, President of WDP Cuba. Ruth led the Global Conversation on how the relationship between art and prayer can be a source of healing during the pandemic. Ruth explained that "there are two main ways in which we can approach prayer

through art: meditating on works of art as a starting point for prayer or creating art as an expression of prayer." During the meeting, Ruth drew an image to show how some of the prayers under the #WDPUnitedInPrayer campaign sustained her during the pandemic. While she drew, selected participants read aloud the prayers.

#WDPUnitedInPrayer



Friday Prayers to bring hope and unity during the COVID-19 Pandemic

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by women in their communities. It creates an opportunity for building relationships, a spirituality of listening to each other and to God, a prayer informed by the context of women's lives, and a prayerful action expressed by sharing resources with communities in need.

Motivated by a common prayer on the first Friday of March, women lead workshops to learn about the focus country and to study attentively the Bible and the worship service. Together they plan the program for children in schools or churches. The interpretation of the annual theme in the local context and the envisioning of responses are creatively crafted and intensively promoted across the globe. The projects and organizations to support are selected carefully. Most of what we do is based on in-person events where building relationships is the first step in a long journey.

These prayers are a sample of one of the WDP responses to the pandemic. Every Friday, a prayer has been posted on WDPIC social media platforms to share a word of hope and to lift our voice as #WDPUnitedInPrayer. The prayers are organized in the Journal under 12 petitions: each one is a prayer from a month out of the year. The illustrations were specially created by Ruth Trueba Castro from WDP Cuba. We thank Ruth for her gracious contribution!

We offer this resource with the hope that these prayers can nur-

ture your own personal devotions and WDP meetings. We also welcome your prayers, please email them to us.

The prayers are a witness of how we rise, take up our mat and walk based on our strong foundation. Loving God, hear our prayers:

Compassionate and liberator, we turn to you
Nuestros ruegos son simientes repartidas en abrazo
Your word speaks promises
We are in deep pain
Give us strength
You walk with the wounded
We thank you for your unfailing love
We honor all the saints
Open our hearts and minds
Empower us with love
Renew us each day
We will shine.

1. Compassionate and liberator, we turn to you

I had planned to celebrate the World Day of Prayer again with my colleagues at work on March 18th. But the French government's measures to protect the population from the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) transmission decided otherwise. So, this morning I put away everything I had prepared except for three candles marked

“Love-Peace-Reconciliation”, as suggested by our Zimbabwean sisters. I decided to light them in my home, as an act of hope.

Though confined for a week in my beautiful house with my family in good health, I do thank God. I thank God for all that is beautiful and good. Watching the movement of the flames of these candles, I pray for those who are fighting COVID-19 in hospitals—the sick and the healthcare workers. I pray for those who are facing their illness at home and feeling more confined than ever.

I pray for all those who create gestures of solidarity. I pray for all of us:

- God of love, I pray to you for this suffering world. I see men, women and children in great pain. I see the tears of despair and I call for your help.
- God of peace, more than ever I need your peace—the peace that only you can give. I pray that you invite yourself into those places where peace is no longer present, where hatred, violence and injustice have taken over.
- God of reconciliation, I invoke you to help me live differently when this health crisis is over. Help me live reconciled with this planet that suffers so much from my neglect. Help me build relationships of peace, love and reconciliation with my neighbors. Help me denounce more clearly those places where justice is not known.
- Oh God, breathe into me and into us your breath of life. Give us a little of your love, peace and reconciliation, so that we may all become your living witnesses! Amen.

Laurence Gangloff, WDPIC Chairperson (3/30/2020)

2. Nuestros ruegos son simientes repartidas en abrazo

En cada una de nuestras tierras, la oración es semilla, retoño y flor. En el desierto de estas soledades, nuestros ruegos son simientes que Dios reparte en abrazo.

Al orar, sembramos fe, compañía y ternura. En la aridez de las calles, nuestra plegaria es retoño al borde del camino que Jesús convierte en esperanza.

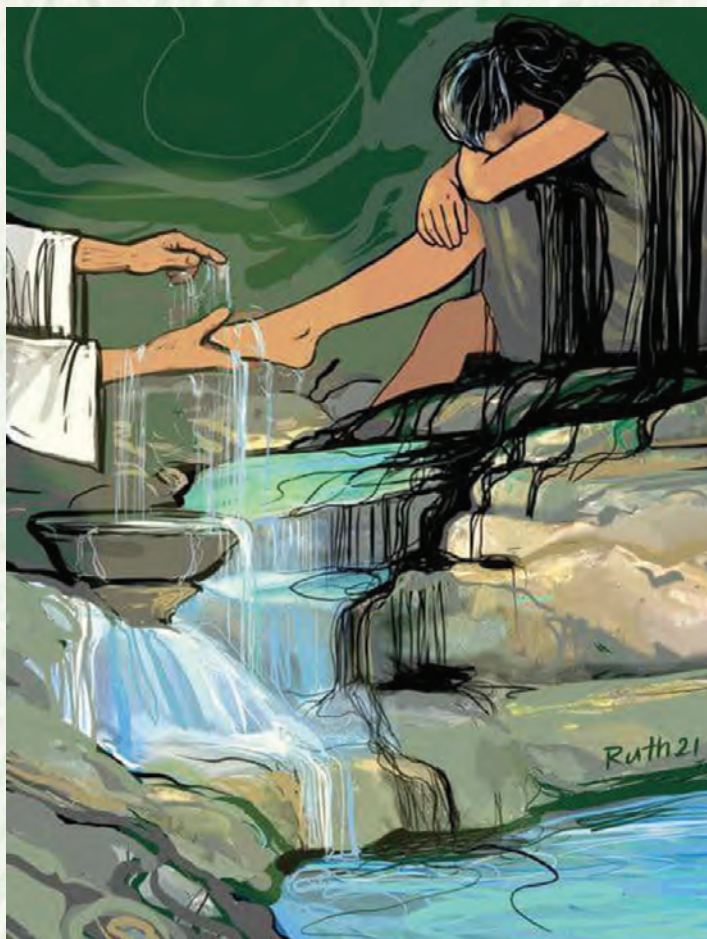
Al orar, retoñemos con nuevas fuerzas, solidaridad y canto. En el invierno del miedo, el Espíritu Santo hace florecer nuestras vidas y anuncia con su luz la primavera. Florezcamos en fe, esperanza y amor.

Ruth Trueba Castro, DMO Cuba (4/3/2020)



Dieu, source de notre force
Nous te remercions.
Tu transformes la graine en fruit.
Tu nous restaures et nous soutiens.
Tu es avec nous sur nos chemins faciles ou tortueux.
Tu nous permets d'avancer les uns avec les autres.
Nous t'en prions,
Donnes-nous confiance en ta force qui prend soin de ce qui est petit et qui fait des merveilles à partir d'un début timide.
Soit parmi nous, guide-nous et inspire-nous.
Comme les grains d'innombrables champs deviennent pain,
Fais de nous toutes une seule communauté
Pour être signe d'espérance en ce monde. Amen.

WDP team of Saint Die Des Vosges, WDP France (4/24/2020)



3. Your word speaks promises

Every aspect of this world needs healing at one time or another. The Bible tells us to pray for healing and we will be blessed with health and strength to overcome whatever pain we face. May we seek healing from God whenever sick or depressed, and know that God will comfort our mind, body, and spirit.

O Lord, thank you, for the gift of life in these difficult times. Thank you, because even though things are not going the way they should, you are still our strength and we know in our hearts that you will help us overcome.

Lord, your Word speaks promises of healing and restoration. We thank you for the miracles you still perform today. We claim those promises over World Day of Prayer. We pray especially for the Island of Vanuatu, having been hit by a cyclone. We believe in the healing power of faith and prayer, and we ask you to begin your mighty work in the life of friends in neighboring states.

Please reach down and surround us with your peace and strength. Give us the faith to believe that all things are possible through you, our Lord and our God. Amen.

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." 3 John 1:2

Manon Naidoo, WDP South Africa (5/15/2020)

4. We are in deep pain

Oh God creator of the universe,
We extend to you our concerns over every creature.
You guide the events of history to the goal of salvation.
As brothers and sisters, we acknowledge your fatherly love.
In a world thrown by strife and discord, you make us ready for reconciliation.

Show us the wonders of your mercy,
That you may work in the intimacy of our hearts,
That enemies may begin to dialogue,
That adversaries may shake hands, and people may encounter one another.

That they all commit themselves to the sincere search for true peace.

Rejoice and extinguish all arguments, that charity overcomes hatred.

Please Father God,
Bless our World Day of Prayer organization and bless the world with your peace.

*Henrica Marona, (deceased) WDPIC Pacific
Regional Representative, WDP Cook Islands (6/26/2020)*

5. Give us strength

Gracious God, our heavenly Father,

We pray in these special hard days where you have called us to be your followers. Give us the strength to love each other and not to hate each other, even our enemies.

Please God, hear our prayers.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to forgive our enemies but not to forget our political rights. Help us, the Palestinians, to see you in the hearts of Israelis and help the Israelis to see you in our hearts.

Please God, hear our prayers.

Lord, our Father, we pray in a special way for our families, for our children, especially those who live scattered in different Arab countries, for those who live in the occupied part of Northern Palestine, especially those in the Nazareth area.

Please God, hear our prayers.

God our Lord, we pray that you will strengthen our religious leaders and your church especially in Jerusalem. Let your church be

always a guidance to its worshippers. Keep your presence among us. In a special way, we ask you God to strengthen the WDP in our country, in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Nazareth.

Please God, hear our prayers.

We pray in a special way for the elderly, for the future of our children. Give us the strength to educate them in the real Christian education

Please God, hear our prayers.

God, in a special way, we pray that you will put an end to the Coronavirus, COVID-19. Please God, so that it will stop spreading around the world especially in our country Palestine, in Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus, Jerusalem and in our neighborhood where we live, Beit Hanina.

Please God, our Father with your spiritual holiness. In a special way, God give us the strength; renew us in hope, love and sacrifice. We ask all this in your Holy Name. Amen. Please God, hear our prayers.

Aida Haddad, WDP Palestine (7/30/2020)

6. You walk with the wounded

It has been a very trying time for us here in Zimbabwe. With the COVID-19 pandemic causing havoc amongst the people, what else is there for us to do besides rely solely upon Jesus Christ.

Dear God, many people are dying and the pain of losing a loved one is being felt everywhere. We are very sad. We want to mourn together but we can't. We want to share our pain at funerals, but we cannot attend them. We don't want to spread the Coronavirus, so we follow the guidelines, and stay home.

Oh, God, the only thing we have is the word of Jesus Christ, a word that brings hope to our hearts.

Holy Spirit, the Comforter, we trust that you are with us in this time of sorrow and confusion.

Merciful God, the year 2020 is going by but it feels as though time is standing still. Schools, businesses and places of worship are closed. In hospitals, some cannot receive the attention they desperately need. Oh, God, it is so disheartening! Please, receive our hearts full of suffering so we can hear you.



We hear that Jesus Christ is commanding us to rise, take up our mat and walk towards building a stronger foundation!

God, you surprise us, you make our thoughts into your plans. We surrender ourselves to your better and good plans. We pray that the love of Jesus Christ brings us comfort and inner peace. Amen.

*Sylvia Marowa, WDP Zimbabwe
(8/14/2020)*

7. We thank you for your unfailing love

Lord, we thank you for your unfailing love for us. We thank you for your blessings and goodness. We thank you for your faithfulness in guiding us and seeing us through times of uncertainty, for lifting us up and setting us up high.

Almighty God, we know that everything is in your sovereign control.

Be present now to people who need your loving touch the most.

Be present mainly to those who have been infected by COVID-19. May they feel the power of healing, raising them from their bed of suffering.

Dear God, by your grace, preserve in health all those who have not been infected. Bless, strengthen and preserve all those who, out of love and sacrifice, care for the sick either in their homes or in hospitals.

Dear Lord, we lift to you our concern for people who are more likely than others to suffer in this cruel world. Let's pray for the victims of cruelty especially those in Lebanon and all over the world. Let peace prevail on earth and terror fade away. Let hatred go. Let bitterness fade. Let all doubts and rudeness take some shade.

Lord Our God, you who are rich in mercy, and with careful wisdom, direct our lives, rescue our repentance for our sins. To you we ascribe glory, to the father, to the son and to the holy spirit, now and forever. Amen

Tania Awwad, WDP Palestine (9/18/2020)

8. We honor all the saints

On this day of remembrance for All the Saints of every time and place, we honour those who lived faithfully and shared their faith with us, especially the millions of people who died from COVID-19, and the victims of all sorts of violence.

God of all nations, tribes, peoples and languages you unite us by the universal language of love, calling us to love you with our whole being and to love all people as we love ourselves.

You made us for your glory and praise, and thus we join in worship of you, reverently bowing in your presence as the angels ascribe blessings and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might to you, forever.

Acknowledging our place in the communion of saints, and upholding the legacy of the triumphant saints, we the militant saints thank you for the bond of fellowship that we share with those who have gone before us.

God of grace and God of mercy, you accepted the shed blood of the Lamb, your only begotten Son Jesus, as the atoning sacrifice to redeem us when we were lost in sin.

In faith we feed upon your body and blood whether at the altars of our chapels, or in our homes during this season of pandemic when many chapels are closed.

Encamp around us and deliver us from all assaults of the enemy as we take refuge in you, for we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Janice Delaney, WDP Tobago (10/31/2020)



9. Open our hearts and minds

Let us look to the Lord in prayer.

Heavenly Father, we come to You at this time saying thanks.

We say thanks for Your mercies, for our spared lives, when we have mourned the passing of so many because of this pandemic, because of other illnesses, so many weather disturbances, so many fires - and so we remember them tonight.

Lord be with those who mourn, give them peace; be with those who are sick and those in quarantine and give them hope.

We ask that You open our minds and our hearts to listen and receive Your Word to us. Holy Spirit, guide our thinking and our speaking and pour out Your blessings onto us.

We ask a special blessing on the ladies of Vanuatu and on the land of Vanuatu and help us all to move forward and build on a strong foundation. For all these blessings we thank You and give You the honor, the glory and the praise. In Jesus' name. Amen

Annette Poitier, WDP Bahamas (11/20/2020)

10. Empower us with love

God of hope, in the season of Advent open our eyes to discover joy even when our celebrations are curbed due to the pain and chaos of the pandemic.

May we be reminded of the celebration of Mary and Joseph who found joy in welcoming God Incarnate as a baby in the manger, unmindful of the place and their pain.

Help us to proclaim peace around us and to reach out with comfort to those who have lost loved ones during these times of COVID-19.

Enable us to reach to those who are at the margins to sing songs of justice and peace with them.

Empower us with your love to leave our comfort zones bearing gifts of love, care, and solidarity for the disenfranchised.

May the coming of Christ be our trust, giving us reason to live for a better tomorrow. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Jyoti Singh, WDP India (12/4/2020)

11. Renew us each day

"O GOD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it." (Psalm 139:1,6)
In awe, we surrender to you, most forgiving God.
It is hard to grasp why you follow us that close,
when our daily lives are so troubled.
We are in a polarized time where violence muffles conversation,
greed for power twists the collective voice,
and injustice hurts our soul deeply.
Wonderful God, we cherish your company,
We find strength in your presence,
Your justice is our rock, and this is our solid foundation.
Help us to hear and act on Jesus' word,
So peace can stand strong. Amen

Rosângela S. Oliveira, WDPIC Executive Director (1/15/2021)



12. We will shine

Almighty God, today you saw it fit to wake me one more time....
I am grateful!
I have a chance to touch another soul...
I am grateful and excited to share about You!
How You woke me this morning because You love me...
How You love me because You created me for Your glory...
How Your creating me for Your glory allows me to shine.
I am grateful!
I am going to shine!
I am going to shine for you Almighty God!
I am going to let all see your glory in me!
Even if they don't listen when I share about you.....
They will see You in me and want to know how I shine....
I am grateful!
Thank you, Almighty God!
Amen

*Ruth Phillips, WDPIC Caribbean/North America
Regional Representative, WDP Barbados (7/20/2021)*



June 16-18, 2022 · Online Meeting
World Day of Prayer International Committee

WDP International Meeting will be online, June 16–18, 2022!

You are invited!

On behalf of WDPIC, we invite you to the International Committee Meeting to be held virtually from June 16 to 18, 2022. More detailed information will be sent to the National Committees and selected delegates and posted on the WDPIC website. We encourage you to share the information and motivate the conversation that will inspire the movement to grow.

Participants at the International Meeting are delegates elected by their National Committees. Each committee should be represented by one voting delegate, while two other alternates can also be selected. The delegates are to represent and be sponsored by their committees, in return they commit to inform back about their experiences.

In March of 2020, we were caught by surprise when the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 pandemic while we were praying with our Zimbabwe sisters, and in 2021 we adapted to our new situation and prepared alternatives to in-person services to pray with our Vanuatu sisters. We are learning that we do not need to cancel WDP activities but be creative in the way we come together.

Therefore, considering the current COVID-19 pandemic across the world, with higher transmissible variants and unequal access to vaccination, the uncertainties of 2022, the new complexities and requirements for international travels, the wellbeing of WDP leadership, the economic impact of the crisis, and financial responsibility with the future of WDPIC and

WDP National/Regional Committees, the WDPIC Executive Committee, in consultation with the Scottish WDP Committee, decided to hold the International Meeting using an online format in 2022.

This means that the International Meeting will be held with delegates and guests around the world, regardless of their location. We will use video, audio, and text to connect and collaborate via an internet connection. We will build on the technology we already use like emails, mobile chat (WhatsApp, etc.) and web conferencing (Zoom, etc.) to accomplish the purpose of the International Meeting (WDPIC Constitution). We will share, decide, vote, network, listen, talk, report, learn, sing, pray, plan and more without being physically together. It will be a unique experience full of blessings.

We count on the participation and support of your National/Regional Committee to sustain in prayer the international sisterhood of WDP.

We are greatly thankful to the hosting committee, Scottish WDP, for all that they have done to welcome us in person in Edinburgh, and their understanding of the implications of the global situation on the original hosting plan. We continue the partnership as we gather the international committee virtually.

Thus, we hold onto our strong foundation trusting that God's plan is to call us to live and act in hope. In that spirit, we affirm "New heart. New mind. Called to Hope."

Still strong. Still connected

BY ROSÂNGELA S. OLIVEIRA



Taiwan



Equatorial Guinea

One of the things I find so powerful when reading the annual reports of each committee is to learn about the level of leadership of women in the communities. Nothing can take away the willingness to come together to learn, to fellowship, to pray and to act. Not even a pandemic that has impacted each community around the world for more than a year. This global context is reflected in each story we can read in the Journal.

Certainly, there were many difficulties organizing WDP programs. Even when celebrations were postponed or cancelled, they did their best to share the Vanuatu program with churches. As

Tunisia reported: “things may have been different this year, but we were still connected as WDP sisters.”

The offerings collected virtually may have been reduced, which impacts the support given to communities in need. However, the vulnerability of the people affected by COVID-19 became a reason for offering in Lebanon, who decided to support the Medico-Social center and their need for respiratory machines.

The lack of access to the technologies of communication, internet connectivity, smart devices or training are very real in many places as pointed out by Costa

Rica. However, also real is the motivation for “Build on a strong foundation.” And this is what we see emerging from each country’s report.

Learning to be connected even when physically apart is the historical experience of women united in prayers. The predecessors of the World Day of Prayer brought news about women from different contexts and inspired by Jesus’ call to love, made it their cause for prayer. The missionaries traveled internationally by ship and the worship services were distributed by snail mail. The cycle took time to be completed, and gradually it changed as WDP leaders incorporated



Pakistan

into the movement the new forms of technological communication they have learned to use. Once again, we are changing the way we come together to fulfill our goal of “Informed Prayer. Prayerful Action.”

Many WDP leaders reported on the opportunities that the online services represented. Women in Greece were finally able to see the faces of those who have been participating in WDP events around the country for more than 30 years. In Canada, 15-minute Facebook live sessions called WDP Pray NOW led



Paraguay

viewers and participants to pray and learn eagerly about Vanuatu. Like WDPIC and South Korea, a few other committees made a worship service video and shared it with the network. The videos were used to bring people together in celebration either in small groups at churches, at home, or just online. In countries where virtual meetings or videos were not possible, like in Cuba, the service was held using the audio feature of mobile chats. In Zambia the service went live on Facebook, while in Germany it was broadcast on TV.

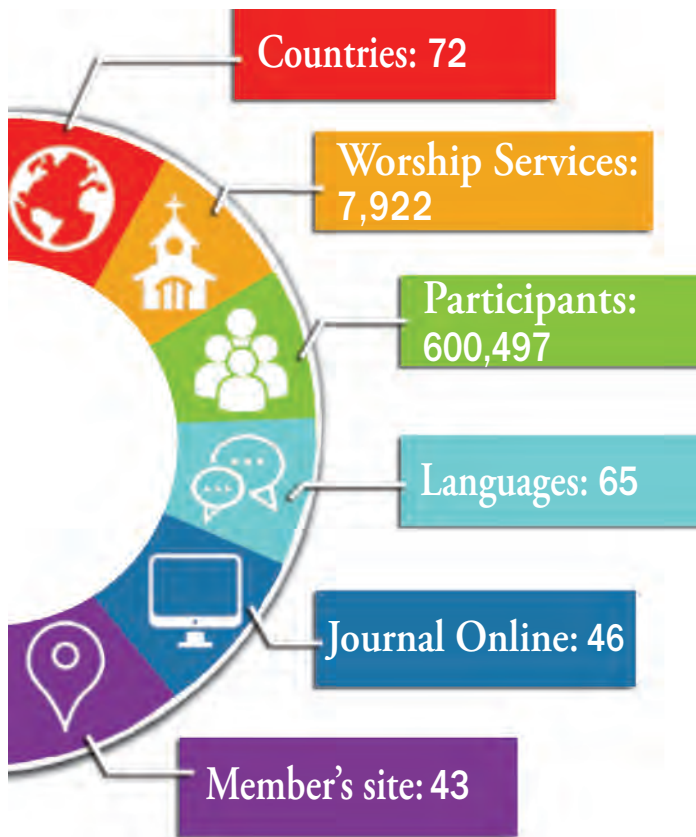
In cities where the lockdown was lifted, services were held in churches with small groups following the restricted health guidelines under the pandemic. In Argentina and Albania, services were organized outdoors in gardens and parks where people curious about the activity joined the program. In the Pacific, where some of the islands claimed to be COVID-19 free, services were held as usual. In Tuvalu, they took time to observe a moment of silence in honor of Henrica Marona, the WDPIC Pacific Regional Representative, from the Cook Island WDP Committee who passed away earlier in the year.

The theme, as explained by the sisters in Vanuatu, focused on our spirituality: “this world is full of worldly desires that sometimes we consider our actions to be right, but they cannot stand the storms we face in our daily lives. The theme reminded us to build an intimate relationship with Jesus because there will be storms that will test our faith and whether we can withstand or crash.”

There is no better message to affirm our connection now than “Build on a Strong Foundation.”

“The theme reminded us to build an intimate relationship with Jesus because there will be storms that will test our faith and whether we can withstand or crash.”

WDP at a Glance



World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. The common day of observance is the first Friday of March, but local WDP activities are held all year long.

The 2021 Journal is based on the 72 reports out of the 146 countries that received the WDP worship service materials. The COVID-19 outbreak, followed by the precautionary measures to slow the spread of the Coronavirus, have kept churches closed and only allowed for gatherings with a limited number of people. Every country reported the series of alternatives created to deal with the impact of the pandemic in their well-planned WDP activities. Among the initiatives we find worship service videos, virtual worship services live on social media and via web conferencing, and worship services in small gathering in churches, homes, parks and gardens. However, committees found it difficult to estimate the number of participants and the worship services held.

WDPIC has increased the electronic access of the National Committees to our materials. The Journal is downloadable from the website and a PDF is emailed to National Committees and ecumenical partners; and the worship service materials prepared by the writer committees is accessible from the password protected Member's site of the WDPIC website by the liaison of each National Committee. The Journal Online and Members site in the graphic indicate the number of Committees that accessed those materials electronically.

HOW WILL WDP OFFERING MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN VANUATU AND AROUND THE WORLD?

WDP Guiding Principles acknowledge that all people have something to give and to receive. The local groups receive the worship service and respond with giving. "Through the WDP offering women share their resources with women and children around the world (WDP Guiding Principle). The exchange of stories and gifts illustrates the WDP motto of "Informed prayer. Prayerful action."

WDP Vanuatu has indicated a few projects from church women's organizations to support as a sign of our solidarity. The projects aim to impact the lives of women and communities by empowering women to participate in economic activities, to develop the skills and knowledge for trauma counseling, and to be leaders. Attention is given to train women to preserve food crops as the cyclone season and disaster recovery impact the villages greatly. Also, to educate women to combat lifestyle related disease and gender violence.

The National/Regional Committees reported that this year's offering will be given to their local community and abroad for the following purposes:

-  Support women, youth and children through education, mentoring, shelter, seedbank and food distribution programs, clean water, and empower the victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Assist people living with HIV and AIDS;
-  Provide assistance for widows, refugees, migrants and victims of war. Help the reconstruction of schools destroyed by cyclones and homes damaged by earthquakes. Support education about climate change;
-  Care for the families hit by COVID-19. Donate masks, gloves and hand sanitizers to schools and respiratory equipment for COVID-19 patients;
-  Promote Christian education for children and youth, grant scholarship for women's theological formation and sponsor ecumenical initiatives;
-  Organize WDP locally and nationally, support the regional and international WDP coordination, and contribute to WDPIC leadership by donating to the Fund for Tomorrow.

WDP 1927-2026 THEME TIMELINE



The WDPIC Timeline poster showcases 99 years of World Day of Prayer history. From 1927 to 2026, the poster displays the themes and writer countries which have motivated our prayers and actions.

Hanging this poster on your wall to promote WDP is a great way to start traveling around the world. The poster is an educational tool to talk about the issues that we have raised awareness and advocated for over generations. It also demonstrates where in the world women are leading this ecumenical movement.

Besides that, we incorporated expressions of WDP within the seven regions we are organized: Africa, Asia, Caribbean and North America, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and Pacific. You can invite the children and youth to match the photos with the theme and the region.

There are two ways that you can order the poster. You can order a printed copy from the WDPIC office (email—admin@worlddayof-prayer.net) or you can order the art design and print the poster in your country.

The prices are:

1 to 10 printed posters = \$ 6.50 each poster plus shipping;

11 to 99 printed posters = \$ 5.50 each poster plus shipping;

Over 100 printed posters = \$ 4.50 each poster plus shipping;

Digital Art Design = \$100

EDITORIAL TEAM

The WDP Journal is an annual publication of the World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC). It is based on the Annual Reports written by the WDP National/Regional Committees. It offers an overview of the global movement from its local context and includes expressions of prayer and action based on the annual theme. WDPIC promotes the sharing of information, therefore the Journal can be freely downloaded from the WDPIC website, and it can be reproduced provided acknowledgment is given to the source of information. All photos were originally sent from WDP Committees with the understanding that they might be published.

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Samantha Figueroa (Staff)

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WDP Committees and WDPIC

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Henrica Nio Marona, Cook Islands (deceased)



June 16-18, 2022 · Online Meeting
World Day of Prayer International Committee

Let us Meet Online in 2022!

Be ready to:

- Listen to the Word of God and to one another in sharing prayers and actions of hope
- Build community among WDP leaders in your region and around the world
- Participate in elections for the Executive Committee, select future themes and writer countries
- Launch the 100 years of uninterrupted prayers celebration – 1927 – 2027

To prepare for the WDP online International Committee Meeting:

- Save the date and select your delegates
- Prepare a device and internet connection to attend the online Meeting
- Involve young women to represent your committee
- Be in communication with the WDPIC office and your regional representative.

Un corazón nuevo, un entendimiento nuevo: ¡llamadas a la esperanza!

¡Encontrémonos virtualmente del 16 al 18 de junio de 2022!

Venga preparada para:

- Escuchar la Palabra de Dios y unas a otras compartiendo oraciones y acciones de esperanza
- Construir una comunidad entre líderes del DMO en su región y con el mundo todo
- Participar de las elecciones para el Comité Ejecutivo, los futuros temas y países redactores
- Promover la celebración de los 100 años ininterrumpidos de oraciones, 1927–2027

Para prepararse para la Reunión Virtual del Comité Internacional del Día Mundial de Oración:

- Agendar la fecha y elegir a las delegadas
- Contar con un dispositivo electrónico y conexión de internet para poder asistir a la reunión virtual
- Incluir a mujeres jóvenes como representantes del comité
- Mantener contacto con la oficina de CIDMO y con su representante regional.

Un cœur nouveau, un esprit renouvelé : l'espérance nous appelle !

Rencontre mondiale virtuelle du 16 au 18 juin 2022 !

Préparez-vous à:

- Écouter la Parole de Dieu et s'écouter les unes les autres en partageant des prières et des actions d'espérance
- Rencontrer et vivre des temps forts avec les responsables de la JMP de votre région et du monde entier
- Participer aux élections du Comité exécutif, aux choix des futurs thèmes et pays rédacteurs
- Inaugurer le lancement de la célébration des 100 ans de prières ininterrompues : 1927–2027

Pour préparer la rencontre virtuelle internationale de la Journée Mondiale de Prière:

- Enregistrez la date dans vos agendas et choisissez vos déléguées
- Prévoyez un ordinateur et une bonne connexion internet pour participer
- Impliquez des jeunes femmes pour représenter votre comité
- Entrez en relation avec le bureau de la JMP Internationale et votre déléguée régionale.

ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

"I Know the Plans I Have for You"
March 4th, 2022

In the midst of all the uncertainties we are living due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WDP 2022 theme emerges like a balm of confidence. It is an invitation to place our trust in God in times of suffering.

The program is based on the letter that the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the exiles in Babylonia (Jeremiah 29:1-14). The exiles were in a context of suffering, uncertainty, and opposing views on how to respond to the moment. Today, we come together to hear the stories of women who feel excluded, listen to the fear of a child refugee and learn to see the context of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-faith society in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI).

For Jeremiah, God's plan was clear, and we share this assurance by singing it. What is your WDP hope? Let the children and the youth guide your response. Then, come to celebrate hope by lighting a candle on behalf of the seven regions of the world, knowing that our prayerful action can bring to life the promises of God who, like a Mother and Father, cares for us all.

We are given a seed of hope to ponder where it needs to be planted in our lives and in our communities. Take this opportunity, to raise awareness on the needs of your community and offer the gifts of prayers and commitment. A seed, nourished by prayers of intercession and actions of love, bind us together around the world.

May God, who plans no harm, sustain the world in love and hope.



For more information about World Day of Prayer please write to:

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Instagram: [@worlddayofprayerinternational](https://www.instagram.com/worlddayofprayerinternational)

YouTube: World Day of Prayer International Committee

To download the Journal, visit our website:

www.worlddayofprayer.net

TAIWAN

"I Have Heard About Your Faith"
March 3, 2023

One of the WDP Guiding Principles states that 'Prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another. In WDP we listen to the Word of God and to voices of women sharing their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.'

The theme of the worship service "I Have Heard About Your Faith," based on the letter to the Ephesians, is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers. Following the example of the letter (1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualizes the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.

The worship service shares the letters of encouragement sent to women who faced suffering and injustice. Their stories of faith contemplate issues that are shared by women and girls around the world and that continue to challenge us to prayerful action.

They remind us of the urgency to protect the environment and have a nuclear-free homeland; to be aware of the gender stereotypes women face when defying the traditional role in the workplace or in the family, and to care for the healing of the victims of verbal and sexual abuses. It also brings to light the hidden struggle of the essential workers during the pandemic who had to balance between work and family in a vulnerable economic situation. The sisters thank God for the natural resources of the island and pray for wisdom in face of the political isolation of Taiwan in the international community. They ask for our prayers.

What are the stories of faith in your community? How do you encourage them with your prayers and actions? Include those stories in the WDP activities. Praise God and be inspired by those testimonies of love and justice.

May God give us the wisdom and courage to tell the stories of faith that transform lives.

