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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER JOURNAL

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I Know the Plans I Have for You

Program written by WDP Women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland



World Day of Prayer Writing Committee, WDP England, Wales and Northern Ireland

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On the Cover: "I Know the Plans I Have for You" by Angie Fox for the program written by WDP England, Wales and Northern Ireland

God Has Plans for our Lives

BY JOYCE LARKO STEINER

The 2022 theme developed by England, Wales and Northern Ireland, “*I know the plans I have for you*” resonates so well with me at this stage in my life and my involvement with the World Day of Prayer movement. I feel the passage from Jeremiah 29:1–14, particularly the verses 11–14, speaking to me and giving me assurance and hope as a tool for the work that is assigned to me. As I reflect on these verses, I understand that once we show a sincere attempt to follow God’s ways and words, we receive inner peace. God responds to our fervent prayers and gives us hope for a better future.

As an Executive Committee member, I had the privilege of reading, reflecting and sharing my comments on the EWN materials as they were being developed. The materials were well thought out and well presented, giving a very good understanding of the theme. The statement from the artist, Angie Fox, touched me so much. She wrote:

“I am thrilled to be chosen to represent, in art, the prayers of the women of my country. I have so many memories of organizing and participating in WDP services at home and abroad and I love the feeling of togetherness, knowing that all over the world, the same prayers are being offered in many languages, and cultures, churches and meeting places.”



Joyce Larko Steiner, Chairperson,
World Day of Prayer International

Angie’s statement speaks to my heart, as it gives a sense of the global nature of our movement and shows the love of God towards us. Truly, WDP is a powerful tool that brings together an ecumenical network of women worldwide. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, God continues to have plans for us. We have been able to adapt to new ways of praying together as Christian women. It was so gratifying to watch WDP worship services from around the world online via social media. Praise be to God for giving us assurance that culminates in hope.

God also had plans for us as we held our first virtual International Meeting. Leaders from the World Day of Prayer move-

ment gathered from June 16–18, and history was made as I became the first African woman to be elected as the Chairperson for the World Day of Prayer International Committee.

I want to reflect a bit on the journey to this position which has not always been smooth, but has always been fulfilling. In 1994, I joined the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) as the Youth Programme Coordinator and I had the opportunity to work with the Youth Desks of both the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and World Council of Churches (WCC), thus introducing me into the ecumenical movement. I was so sure that I wanted to do this work, so I put in all my effort, even though there were so many hurdles. God held my hand at each stage to jump over the hurdles, leading to growth.

The World Day of Prayer Ghana Committee is hosted by the Women and Gender Programme of the CCG, so in 2001 when I became the Programme Coordinator of the unit, I was highly involved in the movement and became the Liaison Officer. I attended my first International Meeting in Swanick 2003, and I marveled at the commitment of women to prayer and prayerful actions all over the World. At the 2007 Toronto meeting, I was more convinced that I had a role to play in this movement. At the 2012 New



York meeting, I was nominated and elected to be a Regional Representative for Africa. At the Brazil 2017 meeting, we showcased the achievements of Africa, and my mandate was renewed to serve a second term through 2022.

I remember when I answered the call to present myself to serve the Movement as the Chairperson from 2022 – 2027. It was at an Executive Committee meeting in Ossining, New York, in 2018, and I felt a burden lifted off me. And today, the call has been answered.

“What can I offer the movement?” is one question that I have asked myself. I have prayed about it. I have so many things on my heart and mind, but I will focus on 2

major priorities. My first priority is to build a strong movement, with a focus on sustaining the World Day of Prayer into another hundred years. I will be very intentional with young women’s involvement at all levels, from the National to the Regional to the International. Young women have so much to offer, and I will support them. My second priority is to explore innovative ways of getting all national committees to contribute their widow’s mite to the movement. This will allow us to build a strong financial foundation for the movement as we strive to build on the work and ministry of our predecessors.

The next pages of this Journal will take you on a wonderful tour into the hearts

of many countries sharing their celebrations and presenting their hopes. We have learnt to build a strong bond in person, virtually and even hybrid versions of the celebration. This is such a wow moment for us.

May God continue to be with us while preparing for the Taiwan 2023 WDP celebration - “I have heard about your Faith.” Isn’t it wonderful to talk about our faith after receiving God’s assurance?

I wish to express my appreciation to all the women who have worked tirelessly for this movement, and I pray that God will always bless us in ways that we cannot even comprehend.

“We have learnt to build a strong bond in person, virtually and even hybrid versions of the celebration. This is such a wow moment for us.”

Worship Service Bible Text

JEREMIAH 29:1–14



“These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

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I Know the Plans I Have for You

BY WDP WOMEN OF ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND (EWNI)

The three voices of England, Wales and Northern Ireland came together to write and celebrate this year's World Day of Prayer service. Our collaboration through World Day of Prayer has allowed us to recognize our differences while also celebrating our common ground. We engaged in dialogue about the nature of God. We grappled with the painful legacy of our colonial past. And we worked to raise awareness of refugees.

Leading up to the service, we enjoyed engaging in conversation and online sessions with women in Barbados, Canada, Germany, Scotland, Slovenia, Switzerland, Trinidad, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe. We appreciated the opportunity to speak about our process through a *Global Conversation* organized by the World Day of Prayer International Committee.

About 3,000 services were held this year throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. One service was held at the Westminster Methodist Central Hall in London, which included the Bishop of London, Churches Together representatives and leaders of various other denominations. Several primary schools participated in the service, and the children's materials were used for Messy Church. The Kidderminster branch celebrated their 75th consecutive service,

with a lot of hard work done by the committee to make it a special occasion. One feature was the contribution made by the *Encounter* dance group. A service held in Waterlooville was honored to have the support of a local paper, *The News Portsmouth*.

Some of our communities said a highlight was hearing the Lord's Prayer read in Welsh. Many people mentioned being moved by the personal stories in the service. Some communities used leeks, roses and shamrock to represent the three regions. Participants talked afterwards about the appropriateness of the service and the inspiring music.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presented both challenges and blessings. Many people have been isolated during the past few years, but the increasing number of virtual services made it possible for people to worship online. We prayed that some physical services would be held, and they were.



WDP Women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland



We were pleased to be invited by the WDPIC to write an additional prayer for Ukraine to be included in the service. Our hope is for peace and justice for all people. Some groups chose to hand out sunflower seeds, the flower of Ukraine, as a way to



stand in solidarity with Ukrainians. Other groups held a moment of silence for Ukraine before the service began.

STRUGGLES AND SIGNS OF HOPE

We were given the theme “I Know the Plans I Have for You,” along with the scripture passage Jeremiah 29:1–14. As we reflected on the Jeremiah passage, we understood it to be a word of hope. Therefore, hope became the overarching theme of the worship service.

We thought about the situation of exiled people in the Jeremiah passage, who were longing to return to their homeland. God’s plans for these exiled people were not the plans they expected, or were looking for, but they were to bring them hope for a future they could not at that moment see. That led us to think of different forms of ‘exile’ in our own countries. Three voices—Lina, Natalie and Emily—name some of them: poverty, fear and isolation. Lina, Natalie and Emily tell their personal stories of how God’s plans for them have worked out in unexpected ways—plans that have brought freedom, justice and God’s peace.

We wanted the service to move from ‘darkness’ to ‘light’—from negative places to the positive hope we find in God and God’s plans for us. We used candles as a symbol of light shining through darkness—and seeds as a symbol of God’s hope. Seven candles were lit during the service—one for each of the seven regions of the World Day of Prayer family.

We used the phrase “God our Mother and our Father” in this service, not intending to be provocative, but only to draw attention to the wide imagery of God throughout the Bible. The Bible often offers contrasting images, even within the same few verses. For example: Isaiah 40: 10–11 offers two contrasting pictures of God—first as a mighty warrior, then as a tender shepherd. It is important to take the images together to get a more balanced language to speak about God. In that effort, we find male and female imageries of God in the Bible. God is beyond gender, but when we speak about God, we use language that demonstrates characteristics often perceived as particularly maternal or paternal. In Job 38:28–29, both aspects are described next to each other and so

should be taken together as a broader picture of God. World Day of Prayer is a women-led movement and perhaps by introducing some balance to a predominantly masculine view of God we can encourage women and men to be open to new and deeper experiences of the love God has for all creation.

We included a Prayer of Confession in the service, which acknowledged the role of the British Empire in the slave trade that spanned the world, as well as the effects of climate change resulting from our technological advances. Growing through seafaring, exploration, piracy, trade and colonization, we were among the first in the world to industrialize, exploiting our own geological resources of coal, slate and tin and, later, those of the countries we colonized. Looking back, we realize that, through our selfishness and lack of consideration for others, we caused suffering to our sisters and brothers in other countries. We felt it was important to acknowledge this during the worship service.

We decided to include the Lord’s Prayer in Welsh for this worship service. The relationship between the people of

England, Wales and Northern Ireland has not always been straightforward or peaceful. Wales experienced military oppression and conquest in the 13th century. More recently, the pressure exerted on Wales has been cultural and linguistic rather than military; up until the early 20th century school children in Wales were stigmatized by having to wear a 'Welsh Not' around their neck if they were caught speaking their native Welsh language. Concern grew about the language's decline and possible extinction, and after years of campaigning it was finally made an official language in 2011. According to the census data, it is now spoken by around 19% of the population of Wales. Today, the Welsh language remains a foundational aspect of Welsh identity, particularly in the North and West of the country.

UPLIFTED AND TRANSFORMED

It was a moving experience to be the focus of prayer by people from all around the world. We felt buoyed up by the prayers of our sisters and brothers from around the world. It was an uplifting and empowering experience. The World Day of Prayer movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland has been transformed by this experience. Currently, our National Committee includes 17 different Christian denominations. We can already see that the branches of the movement will be



more active, connected and engaged throughout the year as we prepare for future services together.

Many wonderful things have happened as a result of this service. We allocate over 40 grants to national and international charities, and donations from this year's service will be used to continue supporting women and children both in our country and throughout the world. We are excited that two of the three women whose stories we included in the liturgy have now published books to further raise awareness of their experiences. One of the books is *Out of Control*, by Natalie Collins (2019 SPCK Publishing). Emily Owen has written several books, including her autobiography, *Still Emily: Seeing Rainbows in the Silence* (2021, Malcolm Down Publishing Limited).

Looking forward, we plan to raise more awareness and develop *YPray?* in years to come. *YPray?* is an intimate gathering where we come together for a weekend with women who are interested in exploring prayer creatively. Women have the opportunity to relax, share fellowship, and listen to and share life experiences. We have inspiring speakers, and we learn new songs. We learn about the upcoming World Day of Prayer service, the theme, and the writer country. *YPray?* is a time of spiritual renewal for those who attend, and we look forward to expanding this program in years to come.

Website: www.wwdp.org.uk

Facebook: @WorldDayOfPrayerEWNI

Twitter: @WWDPforEWNI

We felt buoyed up by the prayers of our sisters and brothers from around the world. It was an uplifting and empowering experience. The World Day of Prayer movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland has been transformed by this experience.

For Surely I Know the Plans

WDP EWNJ 2022

Lucy Hole

$\text{♩} = 112$ Cmaj7 G9/11/C Cmaj7 G9/11/C

Voice

Piano

For

5 Cmaj7 G/D G F C

Vo.

sure - ly I know the plans I have for you. The Lord said:

9 F Gm7 G/A

Vo.

Sure - ly I know the plans I have for you. Plans for your

13 C/E Cmaj7/E Gsus4 Dm7 Am G#m

Vo.

wel - fare plans to not harm you, and to give you hope a - gain. For

17 C G G7 1. Cmaj7 2. C

Vo.

sure - ly I know the plans I have for you. you.

Europe



ALBANIA



AUSTRIA

ALBANIA

While it was still difficult to prepare for the service, we had a much better experience than last year. We prayed for the number of those infected with COVID to decrease and for the health of our participants, their family and friends. It is such a blessing to be a part of the WDP movement and we are thankful for the opportunity to connect with each other, listen to each other and pray for each other.

Many of the WDP themes encourage us to act in our communities against injustices and this year was no different. Our committee decided to help and get involved as volunteers at a refugee center in Lezhë city. We need to plant seeds of hope for ourselves and for the younger generation. Seeds of hope for the vulnerable, for people who cannot find justice, for countries in conflict, for their people, for immigrants, and so on need to be planted. Our hope is our God!

AUSTRIA

The pandemic influenced a lot of our preparations but thankfully we were able



BELGIUM

to meet in person a few times and online as well. We also prepared a video that we shared online. We pray that the pandemic will stop affecting our lives. We pray that the people in Ukraine and other countries can live in dignity and peace.

The word of God means confidence for us when our human thinking reaches its limits and hope in hopeless times. For God's plan is always hope. In the case of the prophet Jeremiah, hope for the return from exile—but until that time comes, a good life amid foreign people, far from the Heimat. They should not mourn the old homeland bitterly, but build houses, bear children, and be concerned about the well-being of the city in which they now live. For God will change their fate for the better; God's plans are plans of peace.

We invite all women to work together with hope for the future, so that God's promise of freedom, forgiveness, justice and peace can be a sign of hope for all people.

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

BELGIUM

Fortunately, we were able to host an in-person service with masks as well as livestream it. The center was decorated with plants and the WDP banner. One of our committee members led the music on the organ and piano. Participants were able to learn about EWNl from the PowerPoint presentation that was projected on the wall and by engaging with the liturgy. Seven candles were lit one by one, the first one as a sign of HOPE. We could feel the closeness that was expressed during this celebration, not only with others who were praying with us worldwide, but also with the people of Ukraine. The candles also symbolized the seven regions that make up the WDP movement. After the service there was an opportunity to chat over English cake,



biscuits, sandwiches, coffee and tea. In response to the service, our committee decided to support an organization called Streetlife in Blackpool, north-west of England, that supports homeless youths.

CROATIA

The world we live in is indeed a world in dire need of hope. No matter what country we live in, the need for hope in every aspect of life is evident. As we listened to the three stories of the women of EWNl of poverty, fear and isolation in our prayer service, we could understand these women because these stories are also playing out in our country. Our prayer and #WDP hope is that this event will bring about, in all who participated, a deeper understanding of what is happening around us. That we will recognize those in need and share with them God's plans for them. God can bring healing to our broken world through Jesus Christ, and that should be proclaimed in a way and through action that rings true today.

Although all our participants, members and supporting sisters were eagerly awaiting the WDP celebration, it was uncertain until the very end how we would conduct the prayer service this year. To ensure everyone's safety it was held online. There were people present from

Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Slovenia!

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

DENMARK

In the midst of a pandemic, we prayed for it to be possible to hold an in-person service and thankfully we were able to manage it. Many of our women found it difficult to conceptualize God as mother and father as it is a vastly different idea from how many Christians in our country perceive God. But it sparked an interesting dialogue among the participants, and we discussed the many faces of God. We respect the women of EWNl and the program they shared with us. At the service in Aarhus this year there was a journalist and photographer present from a Christian newspaper, and they wrote an article about the worship service. This was a special moment for us. The overarching theme of the service being hope sparked our hope that more Danish women become a part of the WDP community.

Website: www.kvindebetedag.dk



ESTONIA

Preparing for WDP activities this year was very different and difficult. There is a war in Ukraine, a country close to us, and we are in the middle of an ongoing pandemic. We have very good and strong connections with the people of Ukraine, and so the prayers prepared by our EWNl sisters were so deep and moving. We were grateful for them and prayed for an end to this terrible situation. Offerings collected at the service this year were sent to funds to help Ukrainians.

Last year, services were held only online, so we were happy to be able to get together again, even if with masks. Services were held in different towns all over our country. It is our hope that more young people get involved with the WDP movement and that the relationship between people of different nationalities will improve.



FRANCE

The theme “I know the plans I for you”, was transformed into “A future to hope for” as a title for our French services. It was already a meaningful theme, as we persevere through a pandemic, but given the current situation with the conflict in Ukraine, the text had a very strong resonance. The seeds of hope are to be planted around us through our commitment to solidarity, our prayers, our words and our actions. Local WDP groups are involved in projects that aim to help vulnerable populations via food distribution, supporting children with their education, and supporting young mothers.

All the WDP themes throughout these last few years complement and enrich each other and consolidate us in our faith. For our committee, this year’s theme has a very special connection to the 2013 theme of the program we wrote, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Both speak powerfully to the current geopolitical situation in Europe. Our prayers expressed encouragement and support, including messages of hope and thanksgiving.

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

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/JourneeMondialeDePriere-France>

GEORGIA

The WDP service inspires us and unites us with sisters all over the world. Because of the pandemic, we were deprived of the opportunity to get together for rehearsals. We created a Facebook group where materials and information were posted daily, answers were given, and conversations were conducted. People from 7 countries joined the group, asked questions, shared their opinions and experiences. We prayed together and supported each other. In our joint work, we felt like one family.

The children’s program was held in Tbilisi and Rustavi, where prayers were offered for English, Irish and Welsh children. Everyone was inspired because this service broadened the horizons of the children and helped them to feel unity with their peers in distant countries. The worship service took place between two



difficult situations: two years of an ongoing pandemic, and Ukraine finding itself in a war. We prayed for the residents of Ukraine and all countries where military operations are taking place. We hope for peace and prosperity on Earth.

GERMANY

As long as we pray, we are not silent. The WDP members in our country were definitely not silent! In every corner of our country, the intense prayers of our sisters in EWNJ were present. Deeply saddened by the aggressive invasion of the Ukraine, we long for peace and cling to the hope Jeremiah told us to have. *HOFFNUNG*—hope. Hope for peace, hope for the plans our good God promises. Praying and singing together was a helpful reminder of this! For many of us it was a joyous first service after the long and



isolating winter months. But it was not important where nor how we met: on-line, at home watching the TV service, in our town churches or in public places – we felt the power of our worldwide prayers flow through this country. Thank you to our dear sisters of EWNl for writing the prayer service program.

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

GREECE

It felt great to once again be preparing for WDP activities because we had missed it during the periods of isolation and lockdown. We still had to take precautions, as the pandemic is ongoing, so unfortunately, we did not have any children participate in the service this year. It was wonderful to get together with all our sisters of different denominations and everyone was very enthusiastic about the program. We prayed together for peace at home and in schools, and for an end to violence. We specifically prayed for an end to bullying, which has become a big issue in our country recently. It is our hope that issues such as violence against others and hunger are resolved and the negative impact

decreases. We are committed to helping anyone in need who approaches us.

Facebook: WWDP Greece—
 Παγκόσμια Ημέρα Προσευχής

IRELAND

Despite the ongoing pandemic, more than 50% of our members gathered around the country to celebrate the service. Our national broadcaster, RTE, transmitted our service from the Kairos Communication Centre in Maynooth on March 6th. For a second year, we were permitted to have ten participants in the studio.

As a committee we have also been praying via Zoom with our sisters in Christ in Slovenia every month. We have been getting to know each other as we spend time praying together for the needs of the world. As WDP Christian women, we stand together, sharing faith in Jesus Christ, trusting the power of the Word of God to speak to our life experiences and to shape our common prayer and worship. We see ourselves and one another as Christians before God, coming from different theological and church traditions in which we respect one another.

May we move forward trusting that God is faithful in all things, and nothing is

impossible when we are open to the Spirit. Lord, as the grains from many fields become bread, so make out of us one community, a sign of hope in this world. Amen

Website: <https://www.wdpireland.org/>
 Facebook: Women's World Day of Prayer Ireland

ITALY

While preparing for the EWNl program, we took extra care to be safe as we met in person for meetings and eventually the WDP worship service. We enjoyed being able to come together and share in prayer. In the worship service, we listened to the experiences of women living in poverty, living in fear of domestic abuse, and living with loneliness due to age. These are all issues in our country as well.

Every November, the FDEI (Federation of Protestant Women) issues a leaflet with prayers, reflections and experiences, inviting all local churches to pray and act against violence. Many groups meditate, pray and try to help refugees and women who are victims of domestic violence. Recently, the focus has shifted towards women fleeing the war in Ukraine. Our hope is that this war ends, and all may live in a more peaceful region.



LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG

We were lucky to be able to organize all our celebrations in person. However, we couldn't organize our traditional agape after the worship where people usually exchange pleasantries. We hope that we will be able to organize it next year, as it is a special time of communication and sharing that we are missing.

We started and ended the worship service with the prayer that the EWNl committee prepared for Ukraine. It was very moving and, considering the overarching theme of the service, our #WDPHope is to live in a world without war, without violence against women, without poverty and with more accessible education for all. The three main issues highlighted in the service are the same for many Western European countries. Especially since the pandemic, unemployment, domestic abuse and feelings of loneliness are on the rise. We need to learn again how to have more respect for each other, how to support each other and how to sit at a table and talk to each other.

Website:

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

Facebook: @WDPLuxembourg



POLAND

NETHERLANDS

To prepare the activities for the program this year in the middle of an ongoing pandemic was challenging, and we prayed for God's guidance and support around our country. During our preparatory meetings, people were very enthusiastic about the program and excited for the celebration. The worship service written by our sisters in EWNl highlighted issues such as living in poverty, fear of domestic abuse, and the loneliness that the elderly experience. Our committee plans on helping women and children in these situations by offering financial support and supporting organizations that focus on these kinds of issues. The war in Ukraine also impacted everyone and our service. Our thoughts and prayers were with the people of Ukraine, as well as those of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

NORWAY

We prepared for the 2022 celebration with the hope that we will manage to meet again. That was our only prayer request. Thankfully, this was manageable, and everyone was incredibly happy to finally come together. We felt blessed to have a warm fellowship with other denominations. Our #WDPHope is to build more fellowships with Christian women

all over the world without borders. The issues mentioned by the women of EWNl are issues we experience as well, and we are thankful there are a lot of NGOs in place and that the government works on solutions for issues like these. Based on our reflection of the service, the people in our country are seeking something other than money and a busy life. We need to hear about God's plans for everybody because it instills hope in us.

Website:

<https://norgeskristnerad.no/kvinneres-internasjonale-bonnedag/>

Facebook: @kvinneresinternasjonale-bonnedag

POLAND

The services were held in person on the first Friday and the first Sunday of March. At the same time, they were broadcast online, which allowed many people to attend from their homes. For us it was amazing that a liturgy written a few years ago, dealing with England's colonial past, became very relevant in 2022 because of the war in Ukraine. We not only prayed for the women of the writer country, but also the people of Ukraine and neighboring countries who have taken in refugees. During the prayer hours in the Baptist



Church in Wroclaw, many Ukrainian women attended. They are lonely for the most part, because their husbands stayed in Ukraine. We don't know God's plans for the near future, but we want to help as much as we can. We are now sowing the seeds of hope in the hearts of women whose country is at war. We hope that one day all the women of the world will be able to pray in peace.

PORTUGAL

This WDP celebration had a special charisma about it. As we hadn't been able to celebrate for the last 2 years, our hearts were full after coming together again. Facing a pandemic and more wars, it is clear we need God more and more. We need to be inspired by God's love that frees us and makes us sow seeds of hope. Our hope is that together we can make a difference by showing to the world that we must, and have an obligation to work so that everyone has a better and fuller life. This is what Jesus wants and teaches us. Our prayers and acts of solidarity this year were aimed at Ukraine and Russia, especially those from Ukraine. We, like so many other countries, turned to help our sisters and brothers in Ukraine as much as possible during such times of sadness and distress. WDP is essential in

presenting people's stories, making their difficulties known, and providing an avenue to help those in need.

ROMANIA

The program was especially exciting this year because for the first time, it was written by three connected countries, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We learned about the extreme unemployment in Wales, violence against women, fears of renewed unrest in Northern Ireland and acts of terrorism after Brexit.

The Bible text, "I will be yours to change fate for the better ... For surely, I know the plans I have for you," is as important an encouragement to us today as it was to the people at the time it was written. The pandemic shifted our daily life from normalcy to uncertainty, insecurity and even fear. In addition, a week before the celebration, news of the war in Ukraine broke. Suddenly it felt like the program was written especially for us. We have been given the power to pray, to act, to help. We do not understand God's plan, but we know that God is with us and guides us to open our homes and hearts for refugees, to invest time to help, and to be creative in communicating with each other.



SCOTLAND

The church of Scotland is going through major changes with many churches closing, but we had opportunities to work together in small clusters and with different denominations to raise the banner of Christ. We were unable to host our annual retreat due to pandemic restrictions. However, we prayed for clarity and God's guidance as we continued preparing for the service to the best of our abilities.

Those who attended the services really enjoyed the time for reflection and commitment, as well as the opportunity to share fellowship. Upon reflection, it was agreed that although the service was written some time ago, it was very apt for the present time considering the situation in Ukraine. Our organizers were asked to include a prayer for Ukraine in their services. The theme was one of hope and this was reflected throughout the service. God does know the plans he has for us.

Website: www.wdpscotland.org.uk
Facebook: World Day of Prayer Scotland



SERBIA

In Serbia, the WDP service is a real holiday for Christian women, and we all look forward to preparing the activities. This year it was a special joy because we could hold services in-person. We were conscious of the ongoing pandemic, and we prayed for God's protection and mercy to keep us healthy and faithful.

The theme was very encouraging, and it had a big impact on all participants. We are God's people, and we live as the people of hope. Our committee functions within the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization in Novi Sad. Through this organization, our members are involved in many diaconal activities such as clubs for seniors and people with disabilities, and projects focused on eliminating gender-based violence. We are thankful to be a part of such a great and huge family of women. We have felt the strong support of women's prayer all over the world.

Website: www.ehons.org

SLOVAKIA

We were very happy and thankful to our Lord that just a few days before the WDP celebration, the strict pandemic restrictions were lifted, and we were able to



meet in person. The topic was incredibly timely. God spoke to us clearly through the prophet Jeremiah, in whose context, God promised hope and a future. And today, God promises hope to Ukraine, and to all of us at a time when we have no idea what the future holds. The stories of women, mothers, and children who suffer, whether in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ukraine or all over the world, call us to pray and commit to concrete action. We were deeply moved by the concern of our sisters from EWN and Scotland in connection with the war in Ukraine, by their prayers and their love expressed in letters and prayer squares. May God bless you all!

Facebook: @sdmslovensko

SLOVENIA

The coronavirus pandemic had a major impact on our preparations, but we still managed to have our services. We also were able to have our children's services, which we hope will become a permanent fixture in our WDP activities. On top of the pandemic, the news of the war in Ukraine brought feelings of fear, speculation, and unrest. Throughout this time, we prayed for the sick, medical staff, the unemployed, the prosecuted and the wounded. Strong faith in God's love strengthens our hope.



In the program, we added prayers for Ukraine and Russia. For a moment, it felt like England, Wales, and Northern Ireland were a little disadvantaged because not all prayers were focused on them. And yet, in God, we are all sisters and brothers—we are one. We also wanted to insert a country specific moment in the program, so we invited a woman from Wales living here to the service. She did a short presentation of her land and prayed in her native language. We must believe and hope that God has a plan for each of us and for the community. Especially in difficult times, it is necessary to maintain hope and think of times, places and stories that speak of kindness and solidarity.

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

Facebook: SMD (Svetovni molitveni dan - Slovenija)

SPAIN

Our 2020 worship service was the last in-person service for many of us before lockdown. In 2021, we celebrated the WDP online. While we were disappointed to not be able to gather locally, our new capacity for online gatherings allowed us to have a national gathering with our sister committees around Spain.



In 2022, we held our services in our local churches, but our national committee now includes members from around Spain. Many said they liked this year's celebration the best, but they always appreciate how the idiosyncrasies of the host country come forth in the program. They find that this enriches the spirits of those joining the celebration. In Madrid, a choir sang the song "Surely I Know the Plans I Have for You," which brought great comfort and hope, especially in light of the war in Ukraine, which was in all our hearts as we prayed. We also prayed for the youth of our nation: for hope against passivity, anxiety, suicide, and despair about the future.

SWEDEN

Many local WDP groups were happy that they were able to celebrate the service in person again this year. Many expressed appreciation for the program, especially for the additional prayer for the people in Ukraine. The women on our committee live far away from each other. They all belong to different parishes, and they do different volunteer work in their communities and churches. As a committee, we translate the program into Swedish, print them, and put them on our website. We distribute the offerings we receive to young women who have applied for

scholarships and have been chosen by different churches. It is our hope that WDP shall be made known among many more women in Sweden. We hope that we will reach more young women. We hope that the war in Ukraine will stop, that the situation in Israel and Palestine will be resolved, and that Palestinians will have their own country. We hope that violence will cease, and that people who are far from God will find a meaningful life.

Website: www.svekumeniskakvinnor.se
Facebook: @svekumeniskakvinnor

SWITZERLAND

Our local teams have many years of experience dealing with digital meetings, so they prepared for different scenarios since they didn't know what the situation would be like at the beginning of March. The three countries England, Wales and Northern Ireland are known and perceived very differently by us, so it

was difficult to do equal justice to all in the presentation. However, we did enjoy embracing each country at our services and particularly enjoyed the Lord's Prayer in Welsh. The text calls for people of different backgrounds to work together for the common good: more humanity instead of profit optimization.

We support projects where women are sustainably and specifically promoted and strengthened. Projects that enable educational and networking opportunities, promote financial independence and co-determination, rethink inherited gender roles and respect the inalienable rights of women. Our goal is for all to live in dignity. Our hope is for WDP to continue, for the protection of women and children, and for peace among all.

Website: www.wgt.ch

Africa



BOTSWANA

During periods of lockdown and social distancing, WDP took on a whole new look as we started a new term. It's a great time to look ahead at how we might meet, what we might do, and how we keep in contact now and beyond. It was challenging preparing for this year's service because of the pandemic restrictions. However, we carried on even through these difficult times. We held activities online as well as in person meetings with limited attendance.

The women of WDP EWNl shared their experiences of living in poverty, situations of domestic abuse, and loneliness due to age. These issues resonated with us, especially the impacts these situations can have on an individual, like low self-esteem and difficulties opening up to loved ones. We aim to assist these people by praying for them, listening to them so that they feel loved and hopeful. We also donated groceries and toiletries to the more vulnerable, sanitary



pads to schools, masks to Sunday school children and toiletries to prisons.

CAMEROON

We have had the grace here to always celebrate the WDP face-to-face since the outbreak of the pandemic, without any consequences. However, we have always carried in our prayers our sisters—and brothers—who have not had this privilege because of social distancing measures. The WDP 2022 program had a great impact within all committees. Many young Christian women who were not previously part of any women's group attended the celebration. Each participant who received their seed packet at the opening of the celebration gave themselves a challenge to sow a seed of hope in the family, in the neighborhood, in the workplace, etc., by providing help to those in need. We live in a world darkened by fear and anguish due to insecurity, violence, injustice, unemployment, poverty, and more. We don't have peace and our faith is being tested.

Our #WDP hope is that we let go of our worries and trust in our Lord to carry out the plan for happiness in our lives. Our God is faithful and just, and our future is assured.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The WDP worship service participants have hope in God, despite all the difficulties they know, because God has plans for us of happiness and not of misfortune. Nothing can separate us from God. We have hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, that things will improve from an economic, political, health, education, and security point of view. While reflecting on the program, we realized we experience the same problems as the women in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Currently, the eastern part of our country is the victim of multifaceted violence. From the increasing violence against women and children by armed groups to the volcanic eruption of 2021 that left many displaced, this is where we need to



plant seeds of hope the most. Our committee has contributed funds and food to those in the eastern parts of the DRC who are in need.

GABON

The celebration of the England, Wales and Northern Ireland WDP program was a sign of liberation and freedom with the lifting of the various restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. God has given us back the hope of living. Thanks to this program, we reflected on the Jeremiah text, which led us to focus our activities on compassion for prisoners who experience a kind of exile. Our physical visitation and donations for these prisoners was our prayer in action. Through the Bible text, we have understood that we must always keep hope in life because God's promises always come true at the time when God has planned. This celebration also inspired us to organize prayer chains for those affected by the war in Ukraine and Russia. Our hope is to see our communities regain peace and justice in their lives, moving away from the different inequalities in society. We hope that all can experience the best living conditions.



GHANA

Preparing for the 2022 WDP activities was very challenging, as we had to host virtual meetings with bad internet connections. We pray for a complete end to the pandemic. Despite these difficulties, we had hope, which is an essential part of the Christian journey. We have faith in our Saviour knowing that whatever God promises us, God will do. The knowledge of the Lord's plans for us gives us so much hope, and we trust that these plans will happen in time.

A couple of issues that the women of WDP EWNI mentioned are domestic abuse and poverty. These issues are very close to us as well. Our committee has already joined the Thursdays in Black Campaign and we participate in other activities focusing on sexual and gender-based violence awareness. Along with the Gender and Women's Programme of the Christian Council of Ghana, we were also able to support 600



young women through skills training with a little seed capital to enable them to start a small business. We need the seeds of hope to be planted in the revival of our economy, promotion of food security and attention to issues of women and children.

IVORY COAST

We felt a lot of joy in meeting to prepare the activities for the WDP 2022 celebration because we experienced the faithfulness of God. The WDP 2022 worship service had a positive impact on our local committee. We mobilized and prayed for our sisters and brothers in situations of war, like Ukraine and Russia, and in situations where women are persecuted because of their Christian faith. Seeds of hope need to be planted in



many areas of a women's lives. However, it is necessary to prioritize the development and well-being of women at the social level to promote the empowerment of women, who are an essential link in the family unit. The hope of our WDP committee is to be a channel of blessings for women who are exposed to untold suffering. Our committee's focus areas are the fight against poverty through the empowerment of women, and the care of orphans. Our commitment to these issues pushes us to forge partnerships with non-governmental organizations working in the same fields.

KENYA

We want to share our thanks to the WDP National committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland for the very encouraging program written under the theme "I Know the Plans I Have for You." God bless all those in the world that lead women in the ways that God wants them to go. Services were held across the country in different churches. However, due to the pandemic, many decided to stay home. Those who were in attendance, including present church leaders, moderators, and bishops, were happy to have been present. In the past, we also celebrated the children's service, but this



year the schools were greatly impacted by the pandemic and were not in session. We pray that these situations will improve for future services. After our committee's local service, those who attended had time to plant both fruit and indigenous trees.

MALAWI

The World Day of Prayer was a powerful day in our country. After the isolation of the pandemic, we were able to celebrate the WDP program together in our local stadium. About 600 women were present as well as government officials, our First Lady, Lady Monica Chakwera, and the Vice President's wife, Mary Chilima. It was a very blessed day! The theme, based on Jeremiah 29:1–14, gave us all the hope and encouragement we needed at this crucial point in time. After the service,

our committee did charity work in prisons, hospitals and orphanages across four regions. We praise the Lord for the blessed work that was done which was appreciated by all places that were visited. God bless us all!

MAURITIUS

Our WDP activities took place on the phone or online. This approach helped us overcome some constraints such as the lack of availability of members due to lack of transportation. In addition, some trained to become familiar with modern technologies. The worship service is always a moment of encouragement that connects members. We included an intercessory prayer for Ukraine, prepared seeds to be distributed during the celebration, and had children participate by dancing and singing praise. When listening to the stories of the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we realized that we have experienced similar situations. We do our best to visit the elderly at retirement homes, help families who are at the bottom of the wage scale, and help children with their education. It is our hope that more young people will get interested in this Christian movement.



REPUBLIC OF CONGO

We are very proud to have organized several celebrations this year. We showed our faith and, although it was a big challenge for us to experience God's love during difficult times, we succeeded while respecting the health restrictions. This reassured us that all women in their own language could listen to and understand what the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland made available to us as a message. We were very motivated to pray for these women. We recognized ourselves in the stories shared about living with domestic violence. This has inspired us to develop a project which allows us to fight against all forms of violence against women and children. Through this message we want to revive hope for all abandoned women. The theme of the program impacted us because it reminded us that God is faithful and will fulfill the promises given to us.

SEYCHELLES

We have been celebrating WDP for 30 years now and find the prayer intentions and Bible studies inspiring each year. The movement was first introduced to us by a Seychellois priest's wife who was training in the United Kingdom during a

WDP event. After maintaining contact with the committee in England she brought WDP to our country. We have continued to develop our committee and we continue celebrating with joy. This program reminded us of that special connection with the England, Wales and Northern Ireland committee.

With God's guidance and blessing we were able to prepare some activities for the celebration despite the difficulties due to the pandemic. While reflecting on the program and theme, we know that the seeds of hope that need planting in our country are for all to understand the needs of the various vulnerable groups, and to support them as best we can through love and prayers. Our government is committed to the needs of our people and there are different organizations set up to take care of issues stemming from drug abuse, old age, and domestic abuse. We thank God for that!

SOUTH AFRICA

Our committee always focuses on our mottos of "pray at all times" and "Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action" in order to be committed to making a difference

where we are, with what we have. Every small gesture helps bring people closer to God. The theme this year was received with much enthusiasm and gratefulness. It meant a lot to all women participating on the prayer day. We emphasized together that our hope, salvation and reason for living lies in our faith in Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and God's plans of hope for all of us.

Our country is going through a difficult period, with state capture, pandemic corruption, an increase in crime, an increase in unemployment, and a terrifying reputation regarding violence against women and children. We are doing our best to encourage our people to keep hope alive. Our donations are focused on organizations involved in the wellbeing of women and children. A lot of programs are in place on a congregational level.

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

TANZANIA

The WDP celebration inspires not only women, but also men and children in our country. Many women participate in prayers, singing and sharing their



ZAMBIA

testimonies. It is a form of healing for many, especially widows or those who have lost their hope and join the movement seeking support and encouragement in their lives. We hope to someday share our stories, too, in the program!

It was difficult preparing for the celebration this year, but we thank God that it was possible for people to meet, with many precautions, and that the turnout was great. The stories shared by the women of the EWNZI committee were so challenging because they were all reminiscent of situations our women face. We must keep the spirit of prayer and empower both women and men to bring awareness to gender justice. It is our hope to see all women in our country receive justice. And it is our hope to see girls grow, receive equal education and live in a society where there is no gender-based violence.

ZAMBIA

To be invited to praise the Holy Spirit was a touching moment as we prayed for Ukraine, Russia, and those still suffering the effects of the pandemic. We were also moved by the chance to pray for those in our country who are suffering



ZIMBABWE

It is our hope to see all women in our country receive justice. And it is our hope to see girls grow, receive equal education and live in a society where there is no gender-based violence.

from depression and feelings of hopelessness, because there has been an increase in suicides and roadside accidents. Our cry on the first Friday of March was one to our God. We were all one in Christ.

After our sisters from the committee of EWNZI shared reflections on the book of Jeremiah, we found hope. We were able to give a word of encouragement to those in need, and we thank God that, at least some lives were saved. We thank our sisters who were led by the Spirit to develop the wonderful theme. It was an encouragement to us all that we should not give up, no matter the situation we are in. We must persevere as Christians because God has a plan for us to prosper.

ZIMBABWE

We did not have the opportunity to celebrate our worship service in 2020, so when we got the opportunity to celebrate with our sisters of WDP EWNZI, we glorified God for allowing us to gather for the worship services. We felt challenged to achieve what we all wanted, which was to meet and worship together in various places. We had more men, youth and children coming to worship with us. We had mothers bring their children with special needs to participate in the worship services. We prayed for the pandemic to stop, for the healing of those who are sick, and comfort for those who have lost their loved ones. As we listened to the voices from EWNZI about women's experiences, we found that these experiences are ours as well. Our committee tries to help women in these situations by offering counseling and providing safe homes for them. Every person needs to know that God has good plans for each one of us. Our seed of hope is to live in harmony with each other.

Asia



INDIA

Our committee viewed this year's program from various perspectives, especially since the materials were prepared in part by England, a country that ruled India for centuries. Learning that women in England also have experiences like those of Indian women gave us a sense of reconciliation around an unspoken bias towards the country. As we learned about how these women live with hope, we were able to also find hope. It was a time of healing and praying for others, a meaningful time of worshipping all together. The liturgy was encouraging and beneficial to look towards the future with hope.

We are also in the middle of reviving the WDP movement in our country. We hope and look forward to the new committee being formed. We have joined movements such as Thursdays in Black. We have also started a campaign here where we encourage faith leaders

to start talking about issues of gender-based violence. We encourage training to help and counsel those in need.

JAPAN

Due to the pandemic, the Women's Committee of the National Christian Council in Japan recommended that local churches hold the 2022 World Day of Prayer meeting on their own schedule, not necessarily on the usual first Friday of March. As a result, from March to May 2022, over 500 churches and groups held WDP events, either in person or virtually. The participants received many blessings and enjoyed the fellowship as usual.

When preparing for the program this year, we were saddened by the news of an outbreak of war in Ukraine. The sisters of England, Wales and Northern Ireland sent out an urgent request for prayers. We answered their call, praying from our hearts for Ukrainian people, as well as those in neighboring countries.

We are thankful for WDP because Christians from all over the world are given the opportunity to visit a new country every year and participate together in prayer and sharing blessings. This year, we enjoyed having the chance to learn about EWN. May God bless you all richly for your enormous work!

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

Facebook: @nccinJapan

NEPAL

Praise the Lord for His mercy upon us! March is a blessed month for the World Day of Prayer Nepal team as we get to celebrate the program. We celebrated in small groups jointly with the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) Nepal.

The program started with singing hymns about God's love and healing. We remembered the sisters, children and



families around the world suffering during this pandemic. At this crucial time, sisters in England, Wales and Northern Ireland sent us prayers of solidarity for all around the world. The context of the program really highlighted suffering, uncertainty, and opposing views on how to respond to this moment in the world. We come together to hear the stories of women who feel excluded. We listened to the fear of a child refugee and learned to see the context of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-faith society in this part of Europe. For Jeremiah, God's plan was clear, and we share this assurance by singing it.

We would like to thank Almighty God and our EWNi sisters for sharing their stories with us. It was a wonderful and blessed time for all of us.

PAKISTAN

We prayed for the hope and grace to be able to sustain and hold our WDP activities during these difficult times. We were glad we were able to persevere because the worship service encouraged our women to grow in their faith. Coming together in prayer allowed us to develop confidence. We can share our stories and encourage each other in a



union of sisterhood. We can feel like we are part of a global community. We reflected on how we can be instruments of hope, love and care within our own community and church. The seeds of hope that need planting in our country are care, love, dignity and respect for vulnerable people, especially women who are embroiled in poverty and loneliness or who face situations of hard labor as factory workers.

PHILIPPINES

Preparing for WDP this year was exciting, tiring, and at times, challenging. We prayed for a successful celebration, for all denominations to come together and give thanks for this event. Services were held, and all nine leaders and members of the Ecumenical Church Women United of the Philippines participated. We praise God for letting us celebrate

the program written by the women of WDP EWNi.

The word hope is for every generation. In some sense, all of us are displaced people, no matter where we live, no matter our circumstances. We are all pilgrims on a journey, longing for our true home. Jeremiah's message is a word of hope and promise that God will never abandon us, that wherever we go God is with us. Jeremiah tells us that God is not done with us, so whatever situation we find ourselves in we must bloom where we are planted!

SINGAPORE

After not being able to hold a WDP service for two years, we sought God's guidance and wisdom in preparing our activities this year. We managed to have a face-to-face onsite gathering, as well as a live-streamed event online. When our women come together to worship, they find joy and happiness in meeting each other. Old ties are re-kindled and memories of the past return to mind. And, new connections are forged. We hope that women continue praying with one another, no matter where we are in the world because God is present everywhere.



We hope to extend, expand and excel in our committee's ministry because we want our movement to continue. Our committee is going through a difficult time and the theme presented in the program is our hope that Jesus Christ will bring about a transformation. The precious words of God in the Bible verse give us strength, grace, mercy and assurance that the tough time will come to an end. The next generation of women need to arise and continue this movement, this ministry, this mission.

SOUTH KOREA

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer in Korea. We celebrated and commended the denominations and regional heads for their hard work. We thank God for this accomplishment and pray that it will continue in the future. Depending on the region, local churches held services either in church or online. Large numbers of people were able to participate through the services online. The theme gave us a great sense of hope. Seeds of hope are essential. We sympathize and share similar experiences with the stories shared



by the women of EWNl. Korean Church Women United is considering developing a program to help women in difficult circumstances. Our #WDP hope is the prohibition of gender discrimination, equal opportunities for women, growth of women, and the banning of domestic and sexual violence.

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

SRI LANKA

In our country, many pandemic restrictions were lifted, however, we have had to deal with long hours of power cuts and lack of transportation. This made preparing for the worship service very challenging. One thing our committee is thankful for is that the power was not cut off during the service, which enabled

us to use all the necessary equipment. Seeds of hope need to be planted in every part of our country as many of our women are experiencing unbelievable hardships. Women are facing unemployment, and an increase in domestic violence. Many are stranded in their homes with no income and with partners who have also lost their job. Considering the difficulties we are currently facing, the message that God has plans for us is indeed very encouraging and gives us hope. This service gave participants much time to reflect.

TAIWAN

The impact of the WDP EWNl program reminded us of the needs of several local charity organizations. Our committee agreed to contribute to the project "Flapping Angel's Wings," which supports young children in remote areas. In our country, due to the gap between urban and rural areas, women and children in the remote areas face more challenges like less access to jobs and education. We invite women to participate in the Thursdays in Black campaign to commemorate victims of gender-based



violence. No matter what happens, we must trust God, because God loves us. God's thoughts for us are thoughts of peace, and that is our hope. So let us call on the Lord and seek God in faith, trusting that the Lord will respond to us with love. God's plan transcends human understanding. In God's promises, we learn to face difficulties with courage. In addition, we understand that the church must step out of its comfort zone and reach out to the community that needs support. With God's grace, all is possible.

Website: <http://women.pct.org.tw/> and

<http://www.ywca.org.tw/>
Facebook: @WDPTaiwan

THAILAND

Although the severity of the pandemic seems to have decreased, many have lost so much. Hope in God is what encourages everyone who is going through a difficult time. Many still face situations of poverty, domestic violence and abuse. Our New Life Center, in Chiangmai, along with other similar organizations is a shelter for young girls facing these issues. We also support refugees traveling from Myanmar to our borders.

"I know the Plans I Have for You" is our hope. We cannot rely on our own strength. The theme was a reminder of how we must trust in the Lord, our true provider. Jeremiah told the people of God that after 70 years of forced annihilation, God would redeem and restore them once more. Even if they abandoned God, God would not abandon them or forget the promise made to them. This reminds us that no matter how much sorrow we experience, God still has a plan for us for a bright and hopeful future. May God take care of all those who are in need!

No matter what happens, we must trust God, because God loves us. God's thoughts for us are thoughts of peace, and that is our hope. So let us call on the Lord and seek God in faith, trusting that the Lord will respond to us with love.

Caribbean and North America



BAHAMAS

We faced another year of challenges preparing for the celebration. However, these challenges became opportunities for us to form WDP committees on the family islands and come together collectively via the internet to have a truly national WDP service. The program was very educational, and we learned a lot about England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The stories they shared helped us understand how we all share common problems. The prayer of repentance for the 'empire' was especially sobering. We also like to support the writer country by wearing their typical dress.

Seeds of hope need to be planted in our communities which have been shattered and destroyed by hurricanes. We also need hope in our homes where domestic violence toward women and children has intensified during the lockdowns. And we need hope in our schools which

are desperately trying to reach all children virtually. The impact the worship service had on us was to know that no matter how little one may have, if we see God as the bigger picture, we are rich in Christ.

Facebook: @YWCABahamas

BARBADOS

The overarching theme of the worship service was that we all need hope. And that we must share that hope with others. "I know the plans I have for you" resonated with us all. We have heard this message all our lives, but often we have not really believed it, and we continued doing things with our own strength. Hearing the stories of the women of EWNl, we see ourselves in their lives. The way God came through for them, we are assured that He will come through for us also. We were strengthened by the hope we received through this years' service.



Our committee is joining with organizations in the country that have already been established in assisting women and children who are being or have been abused. We will work together with these women and children to teach them about the hope available to them. The seeds of hope have been planted, and we must meet now to cultivate them in our various organizations.

CANADA

What a hope-filled message given in this years' service by our sisters of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland! We were assured that God has plans for us, plans for our welfare, not for harm, plans to give us a future with hope. That message resonated with us as we slowly come out of isolation and the upheaval of the pandemic.

Our goal is to build a prayer movement and to encourage people to hold services

It is our hope that women and girls around the world can live a decent life, free from any forms of sexual and physical abuse. We provide confidential counselling for abused victims, and we are mindful that many women suffer in silence because of feelings of shame, ridicule and judgment.

at a time that works for them, rather than only the first Friday of March. We have also changed the format of our Pray Now series from 15 minute bi-weekly Facebook Live sessions to a series of 4 panel discussions on grants, interviews and ideas for daily prayers for the world.

We produced an online worship service video. It featured liturgical dance, choral music, a devotional message, and pictures from the host countries. We included a range of presenters in terms of age and location throughout our vast country. This video service was used by many, and the service was broadcast on over 30 community TV channels. A video was also made for the children's program to be used in Sunday schools and youth camps.

In five years, WDP will celebrate 100 years and Canada is thrilled to be part of this great global prayer adventure.

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

JAMAICA

When we take into context the reading in Jeremiah 29, we understand that despite the hardships we face, God promises to protect us and help us to prosper. God has a plan of hope for our future. In our local context, several situations have tested our resolve. We have still not

recovered from the onset of the pandemic. Our hope is that normalcy will return soon. We know God requires from us patience and obedience. Jeremiah 29:11 is not a promise specifically to each of us. It is a powerful statement about our good God. While God will not necessarily deliver us from troubles, God will give us the hope and strength to thrive as we live through our troubles.

We read the stories and experiences of the three women of EWN and empathized with their situations, as we have encountered women in our communities who have similar experiences. Despite the challenges, there are always solutions. In our context, we design workshops and seminars that work towards finding solutions for those in need.

MONTserrat

As several people from different denominations worked together, it confirmed that together we can achieve anything once we have the same focus and are willing to share different roles in our undertakings. From our preparatory meetings to the end of the worship service, it was all a pleasant experience. The theme reminded us of some important principles that we should adopt such as obedience, faith, hope and charity. These will in fact build our character which God wants us to walk with each day. We gave thanks for how the Lord has provided for us.

We also prayed for mercy, forgiveness, protection and an end to the pandemic. We prayed that our economies may bounce back, and work can be provided for those who have lost their jobs. And we prayed for children who are graduating from school and leaving the island either for higher education or work. It is our hope that women and girls around the world can live a decent life, free from any forms of sexual and physical abuse. We provide confidential counselling for abused victims, and we are mindful that many women suffer in silence because of feelings of shame, ridicule and judgment.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

This year's program was received with much delight, appreciation and was very timely. We as a country were able to identify with the poverty, physical and social abuse and other social issues that are affecting the world. The theme also brought about a healthy and productive discussion as the committee met to plan. The Bible text was very relevant, inviting us to humbly ask and seek the plans God has for our lives. We are hoping to plant seeds of hope and faith in our country as we continue to pray for those affected by the pandemic, by the volcanic eruption that left people displaced, and the restoration of our life and livelihoods. The overall service was Spirit-filled and touching, especially the lighting of the candles after the reading.



We extend our thanks and appreciation to the women of EWNl for the hard work that went into it.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The service was held online because of the pandemic restrictions in our country at the time. A watch party was held, and many people were able to participate. They reported that the service was

impactful as they related to the stories of the EWNl women. As a keepsake, the women were sent seeds to replant. The symbolism of giving out seeds to the congregation during the service enhanced the message. One day these small seeds can thrive and grow into blossoming, fruitful plants and trees providing for the person who needs them. The seeds of hope need to be

planted especially in our young people and children so they may have the foundation of good morals and values early in life. Our #WDPhope is that the message of planting seeds of hope is spread to as many persons as possible regardless of their Christian denomination.

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Latin America



ARGENTINA

Our committee decided to host both an in-person and virtual service. Not only did women from all over our country participate, but also people from Uruguay, Paraguay, Colombia, Bolivia, and the United States. It was a very emotional and a special service because we were able to meet in person after two years. We have been feeling a great need for face-to-face communication. Our country is going through very difficult times. Year after year, gender violence has grown, poverty has increased, and many women and children are suffering. We are working ecumenically to alleviate some of the suffering. The worship service and especially the text of Jeremiah was like a balm of healing. We know that God has plans for us and that confidence gives us strength. For us it is very important to sow seeds of hope in poor neighborhoods, to give them an opportunity for a better life.

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

BRAZIL

Our committee was really looking forward to this celebration! We prayed that we could do a face-to-face worship service, and thankfully that vision was fulfilled. The WDP program was celebrated in many different churches of different denominations thus overcoming prejudices against ecumenism. We also held a children's service. The children enjoyed getting to learn about another country and playing games together. Through the WDP program, the situation of women and children from different countries is made known and offers others an opportunity to give those in vulnerable places an improved quality of life via supporting life-changing projects or organizations. The theme was very relevant and served as a reminder that we need to sow seeds of hope through concrete actions in people's lives. It is our

#WDPhope that the difficult situations that people face will change, even if it takes time. In the meantime, we will continue to do our part to offer relief.

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

COSTA RICA

It was important to our committee to be able to have a worship service in person. It was also our goal to have a WDP celebration in at least three different places and for there to be at least one exclusive worship service for children. We were all very motivated and we were able to achieve our goals while being careful and wearing masks at each meeting. The children had their own service where they enjoyed learning about the writer country and doing arts and crafts. The Bible text and theme was impactful for all participants. In moments of despair, we can reflect on the words of God and find the hope we need to carry on. The



COSTA RICA



CUBA

stories that the women from Northern Ireland, Wales, and England shared were moving and emotional. Our prayers were with them.

CUBA

Amid the current context, this celebration had a high relevance marked especially by the theme of trust in God and the certainty of God's company. The EWNl program brought with it the invitation to look deeply at our own reality, and to reflect on the accompaniment of God even during the most difficult situations that we have faced this year. The program also encouraged us to think about the ways in which we can be an instrument of God in our realities, as a praying and acting WDP community. Our hope has many nuances, because that is how diverse our population is and the situations it faces. Hope is new every day, and is renewed in the outstretched hand, the hug, the gesture of solidarity, and faith in action. We feel moved to restore hope for those people who consider it lost. We are called to meet them along the way as bearers of light.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

"I know the plans I have for you" (Jeremiah 29:1-14) is a very impressive theme for the program this year due to the historical moment that the world is experiencing. We are in a pandemic, and the theme is encouraging us to have hope. This was especially needed while preparing for the activities, as so many of our spirits were low. While reflecting on the service, we felt connected to our sisters in EWNl, because even though we are in different countries our situations are so similar. In all contexts, there are women and children who need support in counseling, emotional and spiritual help. Our prayer is that we may continue to bring hope to a world filled with doubt. We are so grateful to God that we were able to share the celebration with everyone!

GUATEMALA

Hope is a very relevant theme for us. We are hopeful that global solidarity networks will continue and grow. We hope that the WDP movement will continue to give hope by linking thousands of women together. It is very important to continue

these efforts and promote exchanges between women from different countries, ages, etc. The women who participated in the celebration and listened to the reflection were sensitized, filled with the desire to carry out actions to help women and girls in vulnerable positions.

Reflecting on the service, we were able to listen and confirm how situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change crisis, unemployment, food shortages, wars, such as the one between Ukraine and Russia, are fueling the need to migrate to other countries. We see that people are looking for alternatives, looking for a new life. The passage of Jeremiah reminds us of God's promises of peace, justice and freedom



in these contexts. Hope is for all people!

Facebook: Dia Mundial de Oración - Guatemala

HONDURAS

We questioned for a moment whether we would be able to have a worship service in person, but we ended up having a good service with other denominations. It warmed our hearts because the WDP celebration is the one time we can all come together and share in prayer. The program was moving and left our congregation deeply inspired. Based on the Bible text reflection, the seeds of hope that need planting in our country are within the government so that they will govern with justice, love and peace. We plant our seeds of hope in our young people, that they will turn to their Creator and commit to the work of God. Our committee started an outreach program where we communicate with schools to find children in need. We provide them with supplies and any help we can give.

MEXICO

The WDP celebration always rekindles enthusiasm in our committee to prepare for the service. We share the materials with all the local churches. The program



was also published in a yearbook of devotional topics and distributed to all denominational groups in the country. With great care, we prepared a “Seeds of Hope” sign and packets of seeds for participants to take home and remember the theme. We do our best to unite women in prayer, promoting participation in the WDP movement. The experiences shared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland highlighted some of the same problems our women also experience. In our activities, we teach and guide women who face such issues how to seek solutions in the light of the word of God. Seeds of hope truly need to be planted everywhere.

NICARAGUA

“I know the plans I have for you,” based on Jeremiah 29:1–14, brought a lot of peace,

joy and comfort to the participants. Every woman who read that phrase when entering the venue of the celebration made those words their own. Every woman believed them, and clung to their faith while considering the context of a pandemic that took many of our loved ones, as well as the poverty that our people are submerged in. Despite the hardships we experience, we have a lot of energy, courage and desire to serve. We desire for women to have a space exclusive to them, which allows them to reflect on the Word of God and be encouraged by their companions. Our committee contributes to our women by supporting them with an education that transforms their lives. We offer them pastoral and psychological accompaniment when possible, and legal accompaniment for victims of abuse. The seeds of hope must be sown in abused girls, pregnant adolescents who miss out on their



education, and elderly women who believe that they are a hindrance, but are actually full of love, warmth and knowledge.

PANAMA

The EWNl program brought a lot of hope to the committee. It challenged us to trust in God's fidelity to meet the needs of others. The program inspired us to sow seeds of hope at work, in homes, and the community, which will bring us good fruits. The theme made us reflect on God's faithfulness, that God will fulfill the promises of hope and well-being. We had a very blessed service that was uplifting. There was a greater ecumenical presence of the different local churches. It was also possible this year to involve more children, youth and men in the program. May our committee rise as a movement of women messengers of hope, looking to a future with younger women, strengthening work with children and the community. May we re-establish the committee, revive it and motivate other people to be part of it. May we focus on developing community projects in such a way that we can sow seeds of hope in our communities.



PARAGUAY

The celebrations were very joyful considering that after one year, in some cases two years, we met again in person. We shared the experience of worship, the songs, the life stories and the hopes of the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. These stories are like our realities from a Latin perspective and experience. We really want the WDP movement to continue and be a blessing to many, affirming that we have a God who has no borders and whose love is global. Understanding and empathizing with people from different latitudes, customs and visions means that in some way we can "visit that country" through information, photographs, typical foods, and testimonies.

We believe that Christians never stop sowing seeds of hope, both in times of

abundance and in times of scarcity. There is a great need to sow hope in our country, to bring to light the corruption that impoverishes the country, and to help people affected by poverty, lack of health and education.

URUGUAY

Our people always await the celebration. Being able to hold the celebration in person was very emotional, and we thank God for the ability to do so. We also give thanks for this celebration and its theme which was especially exciting. It moved us to have a lot of faith to support and care for the many women who are vulnerable and suffer from gender-based violence. Hearing the voices of the women from the United Kingdom, it was as if they were talking about the situations and experiences of our own communities. In our context, there are many women affected by violence, abuse, and addiction. This celebration impacted us because we saw our reality. The commitment of support, care and prayer remains. The situation in Ukraine also came up at our service, which affected us a lot. We kept them in our prayers.



VENEZUELA

For every woman and young person who participated in this celebration it was an absolute joy, especially be to be able to meet in person while following the proper health guidelines. The local celebrations are important spaces for building fellowship among all. In our context, the issues the women of EWNH highlighted are also issues in our country. Our committee has donated food, medicines, clothing and other necessities for

the vulnerable communities. However, visiting these communities becomes difficult due to the pandemic.

Our hope is that we remain united in faith. Perseverance gives us hope for a better future. We lift up our prayer—*Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all those suffering from the coronavirus. May infected people receive proper treatment and the comfort of Your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be*

protected from the onslaught of the virus. Give comfort to those who mourn the loss of their loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure. May their work overcome disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to overcome fear. In the name of your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Our hope is that we remain united in faith. Perseverance gives us hope for a better future. We lift up our prayer—Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all those suffering from the coronavirus.

Middle East



EGYPT

Several celebrations were held in several cities in small groups. We prayed to God to heal the sick and comfort those who have lost their loved ones. Our committee itself lost a beloved member this year, our leader for many years, Mary Masood. We thank God for her life, for her dedication to the movement, for her impact in our lives, and for God's wisdom and spirituality which we learned through her.

Our people appreciated the program and found it very practical. Our women were inspired by the stories shared by the women of EWNl of their difficult situations and the help they found in the church. We need to remember to build a

strong foundation in God and in God's precious Word in all aspects of our lives. We need to trust the plans God has for our future. Even if we cannot see it with our own eyes, God is good.

LEBANON

The theme "I Know the Plans I Have for You," was a very appropriate theme for the situation during these days, whether globally or nationally. We feel confused and disoriented. The voices from EWNl told us about their human suffering, but also about their hope and foundation of solid trust in God. We, in our country, are also hopeful that by being anchored in Christ, God will never leave us no matter what the difficult circumstances are. To feel despair is natural, yet a person who relies on God should not lose hope. We

must trust and reject despair. We will keep on believing that no matter what, God is on our side. As a symbol of our trust in God and hope for a better future, we distributed bags of peat with seeds of parsley and purslane to the attendees. We invited them to plant seeds of hope and peace in our land. Many women and young women felt blessed by the services.

Facebook: World Day of Prayer National Committee of Lebanon

PALESTINE

It was not an easy task to plan and prepare for the service this year, but we are grateful that we were able to host one service in-person. The persistent perseverance of holding our services despite difficulties is something we are proud to



have accomplished. In general, what the women of EWNl shared about their experiences can be felt and understood by our women. We are living under military occupation and suffering from various kinds of abuse in a society that is torn apart. We know the plans that God has for us, and they are for an abundant life. Our hope is in our faith as followers of the Savior born in this land. This land of miracles and challenges can be an example of conviviality, coexistence and respect of sisters and brothers, where a just peace reigns. This is the plan that God has for us and no matter how hopeless the situation is, together we will achieve that.

TUNISIA

Unfortunately, it was clear that we would not be able to hold in-person services this year to celebrate the World Day of Prayer program. There is also no established WDP committee in our

country, so it is difficult to prepare any online activities. The program was shared with the local churches in the community via a well-established diocesan network. Many church members were grateful for the materials and enjoyed the service privately.

We sympathized with the experiences of the women from England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. We are grateful that in our communities the churches have strategies in place for helping the elderly and immigrant residents who may be in need. However, the seeds of hope still need planting and we look forward to and pray for better days.

TURKEY

For the program this year there was a Turkish service held in Istanbul with English translation available. With the help of the local Bible Society, we were also able to host the service online. We

shared our resources with the Syrian Orthodox community. In a lot of our churches, women do not usually lead a service. So, the WDP service always provides motivation for women to take a more active part within the church life. When we translated the service, we realized that there are women all over the world who are working in the same way. Women want to give hope to the people around them as they try to live a life of hope. It is our hope that everybody can live in peace and love. It is our hope that there is freedom of faith and human equality in all countries, especially where there are conflicts, restlessness and oppression.

Pacific



AMERICAN SAMOA

Our greatest accomplishment this year was getting reacquainted and reestablished with the WDPIC and WDP program. It was difficult to prepare for this year's celebration as we were on full lockdown, but we managed to host our services virtually. We prayed for the entire world and the effects of the pandemic. We prayed for the people of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The program's main impact was by reminding us that, during difficult times like we are experiencing now, we have hope that we can always overcome the challenges when we are of one mind and one heart in thoughts and prayers. In our community, women are a source of strength within the church and family. When women work together there are always positive outcomes. Unfortunately, issues of domestic violence and abuse still exist. Our hope is to see women become strong prayer warriors and become a source of life to help

others be self-sufficient in every aspect of their lives.

AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

The second wave of the COVID pandemic saw an increase of restrictions and lockdowns. So many groups had to find innovative ways to hold the WDP worship service. Booklets were given to those who held small gatherings. Others got together to watch online services. It is always a privilege to be joining women and men around the world to pray for those in danger. Because of our time zone, we are grateful to be some of the first in the world to begin the day of celebration. Many enjoyed the service and found it very prayerful, especially given the current situation of our world. We also included prayers for Ukraine in our service. The symbolic seeds of hope raised awareness of the need for growing our spiritual hope and working to support the more vulnerable. Our efforts in helping those in challenging situations are by



contributing to organizations dedicated to helping others. We pray that the seeds of Hope for our lives, our communities and our country, become words and actions of loving kindness.

Website:

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

AUSTRALIA

Despite all the difficulties due to inclement weather and the pandemic, local committees reported of the success of the service. Above all, people enjoyed the fellowship with other Christians in their towns or suburbs, who they only get to worship with at the WDP service. It was also mentioned that locals who speak Welsh were invited to attend the services and read the prayer. One service was delighted to have someone present who spoke the Lord's prayer in Manx. The issues in the EWN program are worldwide. While these situations appear hopeless, we hold to the belief



that God promises in Jeremiah 29:1–14 to give hope to everyone in need. The awareness raised by these annual WDP programs highlights and reminds the attendees that we need to be active in our own little corner of the world as much as we can. We must all be prepared to be a spokesperson for those who are less privileged. And we must speak against those who in some way take advantage of others.

Website: www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

COOK ISLANDS

The annual WDP event is a big occasion for all churches to come together and celebrate. While large events were restricted due to the pandemic, we were able to host smaller services while wearing masks and social distancing. Our service was hosted in Rarotonga by our sisters in the Catholic Church and it was enjoyed by all. For each annual event there are plans put in place for youth groups to take part and, while some do participate, it is our #WDPhope to have more of our young women join the committee and maintain the movement.



Sometimes we wonder why our lives are not as we want them to be. We get angry and frustrated when we don't get our own way. We leave our country to go to another, sometimes by choice and sometimes by situations beyond our control. But if we just take a step back and reflect on this theme, we can see that God is at work, and that He has a plan for us. We give thanks to the WDP EWN committee for a wonderful program written under a beautiful theme.

KIRIBATI

Normally, WDP services are held on every single island but, due to the pandemic, services this year were held

online. We enjoyed coming together from different villages and praying in our big Maneaba, but we must accept the changes and work together to overcome such issues. We prayed for the vulnerable, and for God's protection during the ongoing pandemic. It is our #WDPhope for peace and health among all people, especially those affected by COVID-19.

The Bible text became a periscope to see the vulnerable places as the un-watered ground that needs to be watered in preparation for seeds of hope. Poverty, living in fear of domestic abuse, and loneliness due to age are all worldwide



issues that we also experience. Even though we encounter such difficulties, we will always pray and await God's plans for us. We are grateful for the WDP program this year as it resonates with our situation here in Kiribati.

SAMOA

We really enjoyed preparing for the WDP activities this year. Our men of agriculture delivered coconut shoots to distribute among the participants. For years ahead, the shoots will bear more fruits. During the prelude of the worship

service, a group of pastors' wives wore the colors of the EJNI flags and sang gospel songs. Their voices brought emotional and sweet feelings to the atmosphere. Our hearts were filled with the touch of the Holy Spirit. We prayed for the women all over Samoa and the world to have the courage to share their experiences. We remembered the women and children who live in fear of wars in Ukraine. Our ecumenical local celebration was also recorded by the media for broadcasting on Sunday afternoon.

The program reminded us to enlighten our hearts and know the hope we are called to. It is a challenge to affirm that we are carriers and givers of hope to future generations. Let us be strong in love and faith. Our hope is to hold onto our strong foundation, trusting in God's plan for us to live and act in hope, even in the midst of ongoing storms in our lives.

Leading Together

Growing a Global Ecumenical Sisterhood

BY KATIE REIMER

“Let us speak the truth in love, and grow to the full maturity of Christ, the head. Through Christ, the whole body grows. With the proper functioning of each member, firmly joined together by each supporting ligament, the body builds itself up in love.”—Ephesians 4:15–16

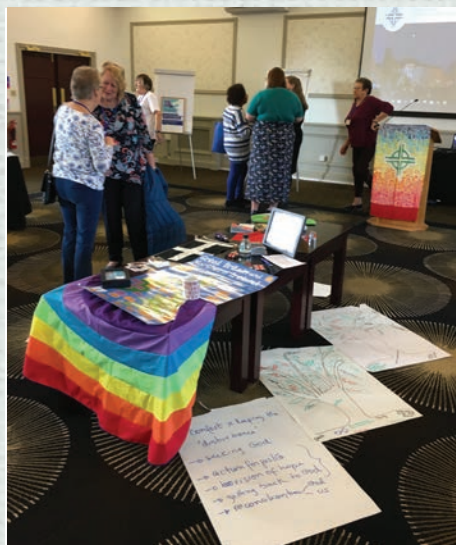
“Developing global ecumenical sisterhood & building trust: Once you begin to respect, trust, and understand one another you can build long lasting bonds. A worldwide sisterhood that gathers in worship every year.”—World Day of Prayer, Guiding Principle #6

Our World Day of Prayer movement has been growing in powerful ways this year. Over a million women gathered in local groups for a common day of prayer, to celebrate a service written by the WDP women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI). Many of you are already preparing the materials for 2023 written by WDP Taiwan. The next three years of writer countries have been hard at work at various stages of the writing process. We held our very first virtual International Meeting, with 262 leaders joining from approximately 90 countries. A new Executive Committee was elected for a 5-year term, and the themes and writer countries were discerned through 2031.

Truly, our whole movement thrives when each member gives of herself with love. One of our Guiding Principles states that we strive to develop a global ecumenical sisterhood. As each of us takes the time to understand each other, respect and trust grow stronger among us.

ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND (EWNI) 2022

After four years of planning and writing, listening and speaking, gathering and growing, the WDP women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland brought a poignant service to the world. The theme was “I Know the Plans I Have for You,” centered on Jeremiah 29:11. Jeremiah was writing a letter to the exiles in Babylon to give his people hope in the midst of a devastating situation. To symbolize hope, the women from EWNI invited the world to use candles and seeds. The service included three stories of women experiencing forms of exile, namely poverty, fear and isolation. Each



EWNI Workshop

of the stories showed how God brings freedom, justice and peace in unexpected ways.

TAIWAN 2023

The women from WDP Taiwan completed the 2023 program in 2021, and many national committees around the world have been preparing the materials this year. The theme for the service is “I Have Heard About Your Faith,” based on Ephesians 1:15–19. This expansive letter praises the community for their faith in Jesus, and their loving actions towards others. And the author commits to praying for the community, that they would grasp how wide, long, deep and high the love of Christ is. The worship service contextualizes the passage through letters of encouragement to women in Taiwan. These letters reflect on the urgency of protecting the environment, raising



Taiwan Workshop

awareness of gender stereotypes in the workplace and family, and providing care for the victims of verbal and sexual abuse.

As the world draws closer to Taiwan leading up to the 2023 service, we are called to be inspired by their testimonies of faith and love. We are invited to learn about the stories of faith in our own communities. And we are encouraged to support those individuals with our prayers and actions.

PALESTINE 2024

This year, the WDP women of Palestine finalized their worship service program for 2024. They worked closely with the Executive Director to revise several drafts and engage the comments given by Executive Committee members. In September, the WDPIC office distributed their core materials.

The theme for 2024 is “I Beg You...Bear With One Another in Love,” based on Ephesians 4:1–3. The worship service calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. The letter to the Ephesians encourages

us to always be humble, gentle and patient, so that we might maintain the bond of unity given by the Spirit. There are three stories included in the service that illuminate the lives of different generations of Palestinian women. WDP Palestine hopes to inspire other women around the world to bear with one another in love during troubled times.

COOK ISLANDS 2025

The WDP National Committee of Cook Islands organized a workshop in August this year to launch the writing process for the 2025 program. “I Made You Wonderful,” is the theme, centered on Psalm 139:14 (1–18). Our Executive Director, along with Pacific representative, Vicki Marney, flew to the Cook Islands to help facilitate the workshop. Approximately 30 women from 6 different denominations gathered in Rarotonga, one of 15 islands in this south Pacific country. To ensure representation from the other islands, women flew in for the workshop from Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia, Mauke and Mitiaro.

During the workshop, the women from Cook Islands explored questions about



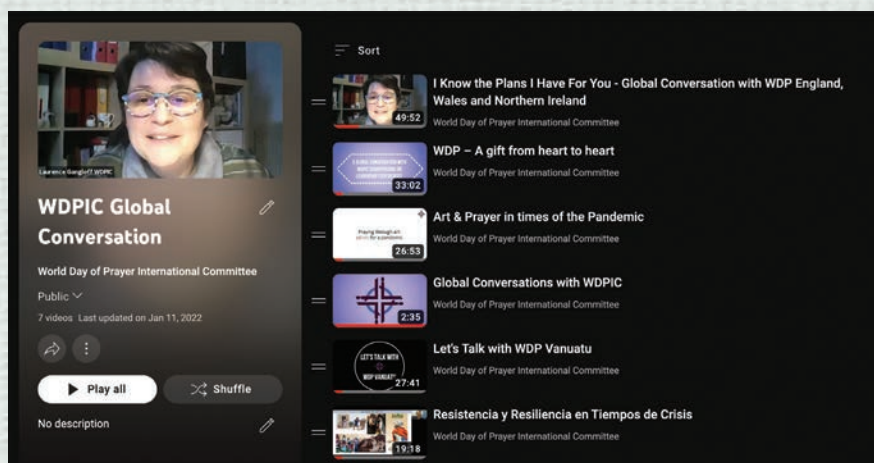
Cook Islands Workshop

why this theme is important for the times we are living through. They thought about which people are often treated by society with dignity and respect, as though they were wonderfully made in God’s image. They considered which people are often treated without dignity and respect. They reflected on why this theme is particularly important for women and girls.

The week was filled with singing, sharing, eating meals together and strengthening relationships. Each woman who came blessed the group with her wisdom, gifts and life experiences. The world awaits with excitement to receive the gift of this upcoming program from the women of the Cook Islands.

NIGERIA 2026

The process for each year’s program begins four years ahead of time, and the WDP Nigeria National Committee has started to learn about the timeline for their upcoming program. These women were given the theme “I Will Give You Rest: Come,” based on Matthew 11:28–30, and the focus is on slow movement and resting in God. The women from



WDPIC Global Conversations

Nigeria are starting to plan for next year's writer workshop, identifying the different denominations, ages, regions and life experiences that are needed to represent their country through the process.

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

The first half of this year was busy with plans for the first virtual WDPIC International Meeting. Leading up to the meeting, we held the *Global Conversations: Meet the candidates for the Executive Committee of WDPIC* on May 6. This was an opportunity for the delegates of each WDP National Committee to meet the candidates from each region of the world who had discerned a call to be considered for the Executive Committee. It was inspiring to learn more about each woman's story, and the ways that God has been at work in her life. The conversation was held in English, with simultaneous Spanish and French translation available.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2022

The WDPIC Executive Committee, in collaboration with the WDP Scotland National Committee, decided to hold this

year's International Meeting online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. From June 16–18, 2022, we gathered for our first ever virtual International Meeting, with the theme "New Heart, New Mind, Called to Hope," based on Ephesians 1:18. Our Christian faith challenges us to work with God to cultivate hope and transform our hearts and minds to make all things new. Around 262 women came together from 89 countries for worship, fellowship and discernment. *See more information on p. 44.*

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES—KARLSRUHE 2022

The World Day of Prayer has been in relationship with the World Council of Churches (WCC) since its inception. The theme for our 1938 WDP service, "*The Church, A World Fellowship*," was chosen to support the foundation of a World Council of Churches planned for that year. Although the WCC was not launched until 1948, because of the outbreak of World War II, our WDP worship services focused on peace and reconciliation during that period.



WCC quilt for Thursdays in Black

The WCC Assembly is the highest governing body of the WCC, and normally meets every eight years. This year's 11th Assembly of the WCC took place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from Aug 31–Sept 8, 2022, and the theme was "*Christ's Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity.*"

Our Executive Director, Katie Reimer, represented the World Day of Prayer as a Delegated Representative, and many other WDP women were active participants and leaders at this year's gathering, including WDPIC Chairperson Joyce Larko Steiner (Ghana), Sally Azar (Palestine) and Cornelia Trommer-Klimpke (Germany). Other WDP women traveled to Karlsruhe specifically to meet women from our movement, including former WDPIC Chairperson Laurence Gangloff (France), Brigitte Zinnburg (Austria) and our two newly elected WDP European regional representatives, Edith Toth (Romania) and Senka Sestak



WCC Quilt Detail of WDP logo



Africa regional conference group photo



Induction ceremony for new WDPIC Chairperson Joyce Larko Steiner, Ghana

Paterlin (Croatia). A group of European WDP women organized a World Day of Prayer event on September 7, giving WCC delegates the opportunity to learn more about our movement.

WDPIC also had the honor of creating a square piece that became a part of a larger, new Thursdays in Black quilt that WCC unveiled during the Pre-Assembly, *"A Just Community for Women and Men"*.

AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING & INDUCTION CEREMONY

Following the election of the first African Chairperson for the World Day of Prayer movement at this year's International Meeting, an Africa Regional Meeting and Induction Ceremony was scheduled

for Oct 13–16, 2022, in Accra, Ghana. WDP women traveled to Accra from Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, the United States and Zambia.

During the Africa Regional Meeting, we received a Bible study from Rev. Dr. Dorothy Akoto on Ephesians 1:15–19. We responded to some of the questions prompted by the WDP Taiwan women for the 2023 program and wrote postcards of encouragement to persons whose faith we admire. We worked in small groups to better understand the Guiding Principles and Constitution. And, we engaged in dialogue on the importance of mentoring younger women into the movement.

The Induction Ceremony held on Saturday, Oct 15, was organized in collaboration with the Christian Council of Ghana. It was held at the St. Barnabas Anglican Church in Osu. We honored Joyce Larko Steiner as the first African Chairperson for the World Day of Prayer International Committee. The ceremony started with a Solemn Evensong, followed by the Induction Service for Joyce, along with the two newly elected African representatives, Rosalie Adze (Gabon) and Queen Bridget Chrisha (Zambia). Our Executive Director, Katie Reimer, gave an address, and our outgoing Chairperson, Laurence Gangloff (France) passed along a stole, pin and necklace to Joyce.

WDPIC International Meeting 2022

New Heart, New Mind, Called to Hope

BY KATIE REIMER



Prayer Squares



Opening Ceremony with WDP Scotland

The World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC) was formed in 1968, and since then, we have held an International Meeting every 4-5 years. International Meetings are a time to share, decide, vote, network, listen, talk, report, learn, sing, pray, and plan. Each meeting is a unique experience full of blessings. Together we envision the future of this global and local ecumenical movement for justice and peace.

As we considered the COVID-19 pandemic, the uncertainties of 2022, new complexities and requirements for international travel, the wellbeing of WDP leadership, and the economic impact of the crisis, the WDPIC Executive Committee decided to use an online format in 2022 in lieu of an in-person gathering. On June 16-18, 2022, we held our 14th International Meeting—the first ever as a virtual gathering.



We are especially grateful to WDP Scotland for all they did to prepare for our original plan of gathering in Edinburgh. And we appreciated their understanding when the pandemic moved us to a virtual gathering. It was moving that the women from Scotland knitted around 15,000 prayer squares and mailed them to all the National Committees in advance of the IM. These prayer squares gave us something to tangibly touch when we were in a virtual meeting.

Our theme for the 2022 International Meeting was “New Heart, New Mind,

Called to Hope,” based on Ephesians 1:18. We prepared our hearts and minds to open and embrace the hope that God calls us to have. The logo for this meeting was designed in collaboration with Presbyterian Women (PC-USA). A leaf of hope encircles our WDP logo, and springs out in a dancing movement towards a new heart and mind.

PRAYING THROUGH WORSHIP

Worship was at the heart of our 2022 International Meeting, grounding and centering us in a spirit of prayer. WDP Scotland wrote the Opening Worship liturgy, giving us a warm welcome to the International Meeting. While naming the disappointment about the cancelled in-person gathering, WDP Scotland reminded us of the theme we had just celebrated a few months earlier. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the



Laurence's Sermon

Eternal God, your promised presence is our joy and our salvation.

Holy Mystery, powerful and gentle, sustaining and stirring our daily living, we turn to you again on this special occasion.

We gather as members of an international family of faith, preparing to be in conference together, looking forward to all we will share and discover, partners in prayer and action, working with you to make your Kingdom come.

*You bind us together, You make us one,
You lead us into life—Alleluia!*

—Opening Worship,
written by WDP Scotland

“New Mind, New Heart, Called to Hope” is what I wish for you, dear sisters in Christ, for yourselves and for your local WDP groups, as well as for our movement, so that it may live on—for many more years!

—Laurence Gangloff,
outgoing Chair, WDPIC



Passing of WDP Leadership

Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” This was a wonderfully sensitive way to both acknowledge the disappointment, but also to center us again in the promise of God, who gives us hope and a future.

Our outgoing chairperson, Laurence Gangloff, offered a moving sermon during Opening Worship, where she reflected on the theme, “New Heart, New Mind, Called to Hope.” Laurence reminded us of the reassuring words that Jesus offers us “Take courage, do not be afraid!” As we “take courage,” we grow a “new heart” and a “new mind.” Laurence stated that although this is difficult to put into practice, to “take courage” is a conscious decision we make so that fear and anxiety do not overcome our hope and confidence in life.

Our Closing Worship was written by the women from WDP Canada, specifically the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC). The service opened with a powerful liturgical dance by Jalianne Li, along with the hymn, “Be thou my vision.” It was moving to see the scripture read in sign language along with the verbal reading. Another highlight of the worship service was a new song com-

posed especially for this International Meeting by Edith Toth (WDP Romania). Edith’s song set the words of our theme to music, “New Heart, New Mind, Called to Hope.” Our incoming Executive Director, Katie Reimer, offered a sermon, reflecting on the ways our faith calls us to hope. We had a moment in worship to honor the life of Henrica Marona, or “Mama Hen” (WDP Cook Islands) as she was affectionately called by her community. Henrica was serving as a Regional Representative for the Pacific when she passed away on February 7, 2021. We ended with a ritual to hand off leadership between the outgoing and incoming Executive Committee.

PRAYING THROUGH LISTENING AND SPEAKING

Sharing our thoughts, feelings, ideas and passions with each other is a form of prayer. Each of us is made in the image of God, and as we learn more about each other, we learn more about God. As we connect more deeply with each other, we connect more deeply with God.

Our International Meeting was a time of sharing—a time of listening and a time of speaking. We heard from each of our Executive Committee members as they reflected on the last 5 years of their serv-

The story of our faith is a story of hope.

Hope is the belief that life is stronger than death.

Hope is the conviction that love wins.

Hope is the certainty that the lies of scarcity and hatred will always crumble before the goodness, generosity and abundance of God.

—Katie Reimer,

incoming Executive Director, WDPIC



Bible Study by Ulrike & Viola

ice to the movement. We received messages of encouragement from other sisters throughout the ecumenical movement. We grew in faith and understanding through a Bible dialogue offered by Ulrike Bechmann and Viola Raheb. Our young women delegates shared their perspectives during a “Young Women Talking” moment.

On the second day of our meeting, regional gatherings were led by the Regional Representatives. These regional meetings were an opportunity for prayer and building community. Each National Committee shared updates, joys and concerns, and regional issues and ideas

were discussed. This was a rich day of sharing, listening and speaking.

We also received reports and recommendations throughout the International Meeting from five different Working Groups (WG). Each delegate was given the opportunity to join one of these Working Groups in the weeks before the International Meeting.

PRAYING THROUGH ACTION

Our motto in the WDP movement is “Informed prayer, prayerful action.” When our prayers are informed by realities of life, we are often moved by the Spirit to

act in ways that help bring the kin-dom of God more fully to the world.

Many decisions were made during the International Meeting. These decisions will guide our actions as a movement during the next 5 years. We collectively approved a budget for the years to come. We affirmed the themes and writer countries for the years 2027-2031. Each region voted to elect Regional Representatives, and the entire body voted to elect our new Chairperson. The election of Joyce Larko Steiner (WDP Ghana) was a historic moment, as she became the first African Chairperson for our movement.

Working Groups (WG)

Administration WG—to determine objectives and responsibility for financing, to receive financial reports and propose a budget.

Themes/Countries WG—to select themes and authors for World Day of Prayer services.

Nominations WG—to organize and preside over the election of the Chairperson and Regional Representatives for the WDP International Executive Committee.

Centennial celebration WG—(1927 – 2027) – to develop the celebration’s concept of the 100 years of global ecumenical prayers and actions led by women.

Prayerful action WG—to propose WDP engagement and responses to climate justice, connecting women with water, migration, food security, and elimination of violence (Thursdays in Black Campaign)

We give thanks to God for guiding our discernment during this International Meeting. We trust that the decisions made will shape our “prayerful action” during the years to come. We look forward to seeing how the Spirit works in our midst as we put our faith into action.



WDP Scotland's Closing Blessing

OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON Laurence Gangloff (France)
TREASURER Susan Jackson-Dowd (United States)

AFRICA

Henriette Mbatchou (Cameroon)
 Joyce Larko Steiner (Ghana)

ASIA

Vino Schubert (Sri Lanka)
 Moumita Biswas (India)

CARIBBEAN/NORTH AMERICA

Ruth V. E. Phillips (Barbados)

EUROPE

Emmanuelle Bauer (Luxembourg)
 Senka Šestak Peterlin (Croatia)

LATIN AMERICA

Rebeca Cascante (Costa Rica)
 Esther Susana Menke Renner (Brazil)

MIDDLE EAST

Maral Haidostian (Lebanon)
 Nora Carmi (Palestine)

PACIFIC

Vicki Marney (Australia)

INCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON Joyce Larko Steiner (Ghana)

TREASURER Deanne Newland (United States)

AFRICA

Rosalie Akoue ep Adze (Gabon)
 Queen Bridget Chisha (Zambia)

ASIA

Devika Ukwatte (Sri Lanka)
 Jyoti Singh Pillai (India)

CARIBBEAN/NORTH AMERICA

Ruth V. E. Phillips (Barbados)
 Stephanie McClellan (Canada)

EUROPE

Edith Toth (Romania)
 Senka Šestak Peterlin (Croatia)

LATIN AMERICA

Maria Laura Tolu (Argentina)
 Reeba Imola Webster Bennett (Honduras)

MIDDLE EAST

Maral Haidostian (Lebanon)
 Emel Susin (Turkey)

PACIFIC

Vicki Marney (Australia)
 Amanda Sanele Iosefo (Samoa)

Themes and Writers for 2027–31

2027 – WDPIC: “United in Prayer for Justice and Peace!”

2028 - Costa Rica: “Leading the Way in Grace”

2029 – Italy: “Compassion Brings Healing”

2030 – Nepal: “As the Earth Rests, People Can Eat”

2031 – Jamaica: “A Sign of Faith”

Towards a Future with Hope

BY KATIE REIMER

The World Day of Prayer is a movement committed to praying together, across boundaries of country, language, culture, age and denomination. Praying together moves us towards a future with hope. Praying together changes us as we orient ourselves to the lives of our sisters across the world. Praying together moves us beyond our lives, expanding our experience of how God works in the world. As we pray together, we join the expansive heart of God. When we pray with the heart of God, the Spirit is released. And what the Spirit does when we pray together is often surprising and always life-giving. Indeed, God has plans for us to grow and thrive, and when we pray together, we move towards that hope filled future.

It is always the little things that people do which sets this world transforming prayer movement into motion. A woman deciding to read part of the liturgy for a WDP service. A woman saying yes to serving on her National Committee. A woman finding a venue for a regional gathering or a writer workshop. A woman deciding to change part of her lifestyle based on the testimony heard in a prayer service. All of these seemingly small things are the movements that change the world. Each woman who gives of herself makes this global praying together a reality. All of these small gestures are forms of prayer. And all of



Katie Reimer, Executive Director,
World Day of Prayer International

these moments of saying yes to God come together and move us all towards a future filled with beauty, meaning and possibility.

I am amazed by all I have seen in my first six months as the Executive Director of this profound movement. And yet, deep within, I have a suspicion that our movement doesn't yet know how powerful it is. As a person with the privilege to see the big picture, I must share how moving it is to witness so many of the small gestures that make up our great prayer movement. The women I met in Cook Islands singing the Lord's Prayer together in the Māori language. The women who traveled for days or hours to attend part of the World Council of Churches gathering in Karlsruhe, Germany, all in hopes of

meeting one or a few WDP women face to face. The women who committed to the sometimes unglamorous work of administration to make our movement financially and spiritually sustainable. The Palestinian women who labored painstakingly over every word this summer to finalize the 2024 program. The sisterhood from Africa that gathered in Ghana to see Joyce's induction as our first African chairperson. The young women who breathed fresh life into our International Meeting, even as they called us to a time of grieving for our sister Ruth from Cuba, who left this world far too soon. The small gestures I see almost every day are too numerous to count, but they are the heartbeat that moves us towards a future with hope.

I am certain that the World Day of Prayer is one of the ways that God is moving our whole world into a future with hope. Prayer is the primary way that we move into the plans that God has for us. And praying together in eternal friendship reflects the Triune God, multiplying our individual prayers until they spill out and bless the whole world with a future filled with hope.

WDP at a Glance



The 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 2022 Journal is based on 82 reports out of the 146 countries that received the WDP worship service materials. The COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing and has had various effects around the world. 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 or via web conferencing, and worship services in small gatherings in churches, homes, parks and gardens.

The Journal is downloadable from the website and a PDF copy is emailed to National Committees and ecumenical partners. The worship service materials prepared by the writer committees are accessible from the password protected Member's section of the WDPIC website. These are available to the liaison of each National Committee.

HOW WILL WDP OFFERING MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND AROUND THE WORLD?

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

WDP England, Wales and Northern Ireland 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 individuals to work together within their local communities, providing mental health and wellbeing services, empowering young girls to be themselves, to develop and use their gifts and skills, and assisting and providing support to youths battling addiction.

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



Supporting 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.



Providing assistance for widows, refugees, migrants and victims of war, especially those in Ukraine this year.



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 1927–2031

THEME TIMELINE



We have a new poster! It showcases 104 years of World Day of Prayer history. From 1927 to 2031, 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, this year we incorporated expressions of WDP in 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 this year. You can order a printed copy from the WDPIC office (email—admin@worlddayofprayer.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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WDP Committees and WDPIC

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Asia:

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Devika Ukwatte, Sri Lanka

Caribbean and North America:

Ruth V.E. Phillips, Barbados

Stephanie McClellan, Canada

Europe:

Senka Sestak Peterlin, Croatia

Edith Toth, Romania (Executive Advisory Group Member)

Latin America:

Reeba Imola Webster, Honduras (Vice-President)

Maria Laura Tolu, Argentina

Middle East:

Maral Barzkian-Haidostian, Lebanon

Emel Susin, Turkey

Pacific:

Vicki Marney, Australia

Amanda Sanele, Samoa

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.



PALESTINE

"I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love"

March 1, 2024

The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement inspired by the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." We follow the example of Jesus Christ, who prayed from a place of knowledge and care for the world, and who acted from a place of prayer and connection to God.

An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 program. Their theme is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1–7. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

The Worship Service shares stories of three Palestinian Christian women, who witness to the power of bearing together in love. Their stories illuminate the experiences of Palestinian women from three different generations. The symbol of an olive tree is used throughout the worship service. This represents the three generations through the trunk, branches, and leaves of the olive tree.

The Palestinian Christian women who wrote this worship service have invited the world to pray for peace, justice and freedom of religion and freedom of movement. Their prayers specifically call us to pray with women, refugees, persons experiencing homelessness, and all who are sick, dying and grieving. They also call us to confess to our collective role in causing the climate crisis, and to commit to repairing what we have destroyed. Finally, they call us, the global church, to be united in treating all with justice and love.

This program was developed entirely in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking on the responsibility of being a writer country is always a rigorous journey, but it was particularly difficult given the changed realities of a world suffering under a global pandemic. We are grateful to our Palestinian Christian sisters for navigating this process with grace and patience.



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