

## **STEPS FOR THE WDP ANNUAL CELEBRATION**

Summary Based on the WDP Resource Book Written By Eileen King and Helga Hiller

### **An Ecumenical Annual Journey**

In order for a National Committee to bring a worship service from another part of the world to their local communities, the members embark on an annual journey. The annual preparation of this worship service requires love, care and work. Taken seriously the benefit for the members during the preparatory steps and on the first Friday in March will be extraordinary. Every step of the way is an exercise in ecumenical understanding and, each year, women are building up a relationship with another country. Over the years, women at every level are gaining an ever growing and deepening understanding of the global and ecumenical community as a dynamic unity made visible on the first Friday of March.

#### **1. Receive, translate and adapt the WDP worship service each year.**

- ✓ Each year the WDP theme and the worship service developed by women of another country is a gift. Receiving it is a spiritual process. It needs time, open hearts and minds, careful listening and speaking, willingness to stretch beyond what is familiar. Therefore find out with great care what the women of the writer WDP Committee might mean before you adapt and interpret the liturgy for your context. Make it possible for local women to encounter the writing women. Assist them to receive the worship service with open hearts and minds as a spiritual experience and to move to their own creative response.

#### **2. Prepare resource materials as is possible within your context.**

- ✓ The Leader's Guide is welcomed by local leaders. It offers additional material that is not possible to include in the worship program, such as background information on the country, references to interesting websites, introduction into the worship service, suggestions for preparatory meetings and events, ideas for publicity, a fuller description of symbols or actions that are proposed, a reflection on the bible text(s), meditation on the cover picture. Sometimes it contains music with accompaniment, identifies literature for more study, occasionally it includes recipes. It is also practical in providing a list of WDP materials and how to order them, and the report forms with the address for where to send the reports and the offering. A leader's guide is also responsive to the needs of women in your country, including new ideas gained from experiences and suggestions made the previous year or from other countries.

#### **3. Distribute the WDP materials to local committees.**

- ✓ The WDP worship service and resource materials should be cost-effective so that the price for local groups is as cheap as possible. The primary goal is that all materials are used as widely as possible. Organize the distribution of your materials effectively by using existing networks and forming linkages with women in regions, states, provinces, districts, rural and urban areas within your country so that there is the widest local engagement in all parts of the country

#### **4. Ecumenical WDP Workshops and Training Days.**

- ✓ WDP understands learning as a mutual process of learning together and from one another. Together we strive for wisdom that shapes our understandings and guides our actions in our daily lives. A workshop can take place annually to give facilitators and local women a reliable possibility to be inspired and informed for their annual WDP preparation. It helps women understand the connection between prayer and action in this year's service and discover possible steps for action.

#### **5. National Committees as Communicators.**

- ✓ It is the task of the WDP National Committee to inform about the annual WDP preparation, celebration and the amount and the use of the offering. Keep in mind that basic information about the purpose, worldwide organization and the national and local engagement in WDP needs to be communicated over and over again.

#### **6. National Committees learn from women's experiences and report to WDPIC.**

- ✓ Collect information and experiences from local and regional, province, or state groups about the WDP preparatory process, including workshops and training days and about the celebration. Include the results of evaluation into your planning. Report to local WDP groups about findings and evaluation of WDP preparation and celebrations. This is the best thank you and expression of appreciation you can give them! Use reports and evaluation for putting together your report for WDPIC. While the content of the report is the task of the whole Committee, it is the task of the Liaison Person to put it in writing and send it to WDPIC by June 30 each year.

#### **7. National Committees determine the use and distribution of the offering, contribute toward the financial support of the International Committee and put in place financial procedures.**

- ✓ From the beginning it became a guiding principle to collect the offering, even when it was very small, in each country so a real difference could be made in the lives of women and children through the projects selected. Gathering and sharing the offerings are key to lived solidarity and make possible both national and international coordination. As this process is repeated each year, there is growth and renewed energy. Each WDP National Committee puts into place financial procedures. Clear financial procedures are a protection for the women involved. They build trust because information is available and can be verified. Financial procedures follow the principles of accountability and transparency.

#### **8. National Committees keep in contact with other ecumenical organizations**

- ✓ By being in contact with various church and ecumenical bodies, WDP establishes its place in the wider ecumenical movement, which is supported by WDP history and achievements.

**Full copy of the Resource Books is available in English, Spanish and French. Please, contact:**

**World Day of Prayer International Committee – [admin@worlddayofprayer.net](mailto:admin@worlddayofprayer.net)**

**Website: <http://www.worlddayofprayer.net/>**