Together in Prayer

Zimbabwe

Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk



Contents

Greeting from the Chairperson	1	Writing Workshop	24
National and International News	2	Y-Pray? Conference	26
Sharing Good Ideas	6	Background on Zimbabwe	28
Spreading the Word	8	Zimbabwean Recipes	40
Grants Update	9	Prayer Resource	41
Around the Branches	14	Materials for Children	49
International Review	18	Administrator's Report	50
Writing a WDP Service	22	Resources	52

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Vice Chairperson	Nicola Hoskin-Stone
Appointed Officer	Carole Bourne
Appointed Officer	Muriel Stonehewer

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Church of England	Carole Bourne
Congregational Federation	Beryl Cosens
Council for African and Afro Caribbean Churches	Ade Akinbisehin
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Joint Council of Churches for All Nations	Audrey Eccleston
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From the Chairperson

orld Day of Prayer is the largest ecumenical movement in the world which means that, by my calculations, the Day of Prayer should feature in the Guinness Book of Records. Why, then, do we not publicise our local services more enthusiastically?

So my message for this year is: -

Shout from your roof – or spire – tops; plaster the town with posters; use the WDP and local church websites; tweet and share on Facebook; broadcast on local radio: 'Come to the Day of Prayer; be part of the largest church congregation in the world!'

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe, a former British colony which has suffered a great deal in the past. Many of us will be acquainted with its recent history since independence but perhaps we do not know so much about the earlier days of British rule. You can find out more in the Zimbabwe section of this magazine – and I think you may be shocked!

The service itself is based on the account in John's gospel of Jesus' meeting with a sick man by the pool of Bethesda, but the focus is on Reconciliation, Peace and Love. It is these three key words that shine out throughout the service.

"Come to the Day of Prayer; be part of the largest church congregation in the world!"

Please feel free to use the prayers and meditations in this edition throughout the year - and after that too.

May I recommend our on-line shop? *Together in Prayer* makes a lovely inexpensive gift, especially if accompanied by one of our all-occasion cards and a bookmark.

As always, I take pleasure in acknowledging the hard work of the staff in our office in Tunbridge Wells and of the members of the National Committee, who give freely of their time and talents. As you will see, we have a number of vacancies on the Committee at the moment; we hope that these will be filled very soon as the work does not diminish, so the remaining members all have more to do. And thank you to all our branch secretaries and committees for all you do to keep World Day of Prayer alive. Please keep up the good work – and maybe even do a little more to help her grow stronger?

Elizabeth Burroughs

From the Editor

elcome to the 37th edition of *Together in Prayer*.

I hope you will enjoy the personal stories from and about the people of Zimbabwe. The theme of 'reconciliation, peace and love' underlies the efforts of many to bring to an end the political unrest and ensure Zimbabwe can again fulfil its amazing potential.

I have been very conscious, in putting together this edition, of how we are both looking forward and back. We look back on the services and preparation days held in 2019, and even further back to the services held round the world in 2018. We also look forward to 2020 and the service written by the women of Zimbabwe. And even further ahead (see the article *Writing a Service*) to 2022. This reinforces for me that the World Day of Prayer is not about a day or a single moment in time, but a constant and continuing movement across the years and around the whole world.

My thanks to all those who have contributed with words, images and ideas and to Paul and Stuart at Footprint Innovations Ltd, who have turned these into this beautiful publication, which I trust will be read and enjoyed by very many.

y many. Siobhan Canham



Ireland, Scotland and EWNI committee meet for a day of vision and prayer

uring the end of the 1800s and in the early 1900s groups of women came together to pray on a common theme of mission. In 1926 the American ladies produced a common order of service that was sent out worldwide. This was the beginning of the World Day of Prayer. The inspiration led to other countries joining in and in 1930 Scotland held its first service. England followed in 1932, Wales in 1933, Ireland in 1934 and Northern Ireland in 1943. England, Wales and Northern Ireland now form one National Committee, whilst Scotland and Ireland each have their own.

To develop rapport between these three WDP National Committees, on September 15th 2019 representatives met at the The Friends Meeting House in Euston Road, London. We were able to share good ideas, talk about some of the challenges of reaching out to a wider age group, and encourage each other. Scotland has been experimenting with a youth service. It has only been published for the past couple of years and is still in development. Ireland found that there are many Days of Prayer on church calendars and they are looking to find out how to make World Day of Prayer

stand out from the others. EWNI gave a presentation on the new website and our use of social media. There was a presentation about the outreach of the Y-Pray? Conference and mention was made of the challenge of writing the 2022 service.

Over coffee and lunch we got to know each other better and that helped with a session called 'How do we engage younger women?'

The vision was: to meet, get to know and share. That vision was fulfilled and we all felt truly sisters in Christ as we left to travel home.

Christine Miles





World Day of Prayer Online



Visit our mobile-friendly website for all the information you need for World Day of Prayer EWNI.

It's an invaluable resource where you can find your local Prep Day or WDP Service using the location tool; read prayers, news and reports; download free resources and purchase other items in our online shop.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

♠ @WorldDayOfPrayerEWNI

@WWDPforEWNI

www.wwdp.org.uk

Our Slovenian adventure, June 2018: Amazing sights, great work, good people

What an adventure! Four of us, from the National Committee, decided to fund ourselves and visit Slovenia. We were only there for a week, but we saw and learnt so much!

adja, our guide, took us to the usual tourist sights. We went underground and saw the caves. When the lights were switched off, there was absolute darkness and silence, apart from the steady drip of water falling from the stalactites into the underground lake. Slovenians are great bee-keepers, so it was with great excitement that, when we saw the beehives by the side of the road, we had to stop the van, jump out and take pictures. At Lake Bled we walked round the shore and heard the bell ring from the church on the island in the centre of the lake. (People ring the bell and make a wish.) We saw the amazing salt pans and we enjoyed the marvellous food.

Much more than the sights, we had the honour and privilege of meeting our WDP sisters in Slovenia and hearing about the work that the grant money would be supporting:

- · We heard about Trauma Healing.
- The Asperger's Centre was renovating a building, so that people could stay overnight.
- The Centre for Women and Children hoped to help more people. They were seeing an increase of older women having to leave their own homes, because they hadn't enough money to stay there, and there was no family to look after them.

The charity that really stood out for me was that run by Natasha for her Roma village. She has devised several programmes to try to break away from the patriarchal way of thought and living. Her project 'In Her Shoes' – in which males have to imagine themselves in the role of the females – has been very successful and Natasha would like to take her project

to other Roma communities.

Margaret Pickford



Slovenian salt pans



Above: Coffee and Kremna Rezina cake – a Lake Bled speciality

Left: Enjoying traditional Slovenian cuisine



World Day of Prayer Calendar 2020

JANUARY 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2021 Each month has a picture from Zimbabwe with a prayer/scripture verse and a slot for each day to keep track of your engagements.

Use the calendar to remind you to pray for Zimbabwe throughout the year. Calendars cost £4 including postage and can be ordered from WDP Scottish committee.

Please contact Mrs Mary Kidd at cmarykidd@btinternet.com or tel 01383 872332

Our sisters in Albania

Since the collapse of Communism in 1990, Albania still faces many challenges: economic, political and religious. WDP Albania are our prayer partners, and we also support them financially in their efforts to increase awareness and participation in the World Day of Prayer. They hold an annual residential weekend when women from across the country come to pray and work together.

orinna Harbig, former Chair of the WDP International Committee, attended the workshop in February 2019 and she writes 'I can see the change and the positive impact to the life of the Albanian women and their families that WDP has made since the start of workshops ten years ago: they grow together by sharing experiences; they support each other, listen to each other and enjoy being connected to each other and the whole worldwide sisterhood of informed prayer and prayerful action. And they don't meet just for the first Friday in March but have formed women's groups for Bible study all through the year'.

The women feel the responsibility to forward the good news to others: Come, everything is ready and there is still room!

The Albanian leaders of the weekend have written to us:

'We are thankful to you and your committee for all this years. We miss you. Always is so good and pleasure to have you over here. We thank our God for the love and friendship, we are so privileged to have you sisters in our lives. Greetings to everybody in your WDP committee. We are looking further to see you. With love from our side to you.'





Participants at the Albanian workshop came from a wide age range





Preparation Days

Below is the list of towns where Preparation Days are planned* Visit www.wwdp.org.uk for more details on times and venues. Preparation Days are a wonderful way of building our movement, up to and between World Days of Prayer themselves. Christine, Muriel and Carole are always looking for people willing to take on new Days and are happy to support and advise them. Running these days from a distance isn't possible so we rely hugely on the work of those who do this in our areas. We really appreciate the work that is done. We want to thank all those who have done this in the past and who have encouraged others to get involved.

If you have a day planned, make sure you let the Regional Officer know well in advance. A member of the National Committee will attend every Preparation Day.





Feedback Forms

We are always trying to improve so last year we began trialling feedback forms, which are proving useful. If you have any comments please get in touch.

Can't find a Preparation Day in your area? Interested in organising one? Get in touch with your regional co-ordinator for assistance in how to go about it.







World Day of

Prayer

Slovenia 2019

Come -Everything is Ready!



What a great idea!

In 2018/19 National Committee members attended 62 Preparation Days across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Here we share some of the inventive ways branches have found to promote and enhance Preparation Days.

Preparation days are not just for rehearsing songs and elements of the service. Rather they are a chance to come together in fellowship, to exchange news and views, to learn something more about the writing country and to explore, through the Bible Study, the deeper meaning of the service.

Promotion

'Postcards' (for promoting, not posting) are very popular. You can find them in cinemas, markets, restaurants – it seems even in the electronic age, people like to have something tangible.

Harpenden uses this good idea and for a number of years have been printing and handing out postcards at coffee mornings and cake sales. For

2019, the meditation artwork from the Slovenian service (with copyright details) was reproduced, and on the reverse were details of the service, with an explanation of the artwork found in the Order of Service. Using an online publisher, 500 postcards cost around £35.

Across the other side of the world, Australia also uses postcards. For the 2018 service, with its focus on environment, they produced a grim black and white card, challenging us to think about what WE were doing to the planet. Younger people in particular responded well to the direct message.

Another portable idea is bookmarks. Ladies in Luton took the red carnation, symbol of love in the Slovenian service, and made bookmarks. Cutting and pasting into a Word document (four carnation to one A4 page) they printed them at home onto paper, then laminated them. The bookmarks are easy and cheap to make, and can carry a message or details of services on the reverse.

Inspired by the Prayer Resource in *Together in Prayer*, Harrow took on board the idea of the invitation to the feast and printed small invitations for those attending their Preparation Day.

Food and Hospitality

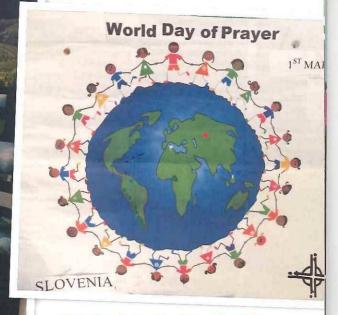
We always try to provide some recipes in *TiP* as food is so linked to a country and its culture. Many branches provided a veritable feast of delightful Slovenian goodies – the honey biscuits (sampled at many Preparation Days) were delicious. Some centres have great facilities and can serve a simple (or even a lavish!) lunch. Elsewhere members are invited to bring their own food. Hospitality, sharing food and eating together, is an important part of our cultures so even in a shorter Preparation Day, coming together matters.

The message about the invitation to the feast provoked some great discussion on what it is to be an outsider. Quite a number of people described how they had felt uncomfortable going on their own to an event. We are all guilty of being too busy sometimes to notice the person alone. One way to ensure no one comes to a Preparation Day and is left "friendless" is to colour code the tables or seating areas. As each person registers you can assign them a colour. It is a good way of getting people to sit together and it works well for discussion groups.

Explore the country

It is fantastic if a branch has someone who comes from the writing country who can help us understand their culture. For the rest of us, we have to try and get a 'feel' of the country through the materials and presentation. Some local committees use travel guides to get a deeper understanding. Leeds approached the Slovenian embassy to get more literature and showed additional slides of the country and people. Several branches used a globe, or a

Sharing Good Ideas



Opposite: Carnations in Leeds; circle dancing, angels and bookmarks in Luton; Australia's postcard

This page: Daventry display; Watford adapted poster; crafts and flowers

representation of one, and markers or flags to help us visualise where the writing country is in relation to the UK.

Be crafty, get active

Displays always help to create interest. If you are lucky enough to have artefacts from the country as Daventry did, that is always interesting, but many branches have made great displays by using the new postcardsized pictures (postcards again!) and simple printouts of key words eg 'Come' 'Invitation' 'Feast' 'Welcome'. For the many with craft skills, making up the children's materials and pinning them to a board, as Watford did, gives a great 3D effect. Several branches made very impressive collections of paper carnations - there is nothing like flowers (even paper ones) to say welcome. One branch added real greenery, and people were asking where they found such wonderful carnations!

As well as the essential elements of understanding the service and the bible study, some branches have included craft sessions on making items for the service. Getting people to make something is always a great way of encouraging participation. Luton includes a session on circle dancing,

interpreting the songs from the service. They may perform these during services, where there is room, or adapt them for performance in an aisle between fixed pews.

When to hold a Preparation Day

The further in advance you can advertise this the better, and the regional co-ordinators are always there to answer problems for anyone uncertain how to set up a day. But when is the best time and what length of day? A whole day with activities? A half day to fit in with school pickups? We tend to stick with what we know best, but what suited one generation may need adaptation in today's world. Saturday mornings are being explored by Birmingham as they are concerned that it is very difficult to engage younger women in a world where so many parents are both in full-time work. Saturday mornings allow for parents and children to attend. Preparation Days might look a bit different, and need a little rethinking - but with a creative and dedicated WDP membership, anything is possible.

Siobhan Canham



Time for Swiss Cheese?

An ageing population is a problem for many organisations in the UK. With many parents working full time and grandparents pressed into childcare, getting younger women involved in WDP can be an uphill struggle.

aybe it is time to think 'Swiss Cheese' – a way of 'punching holes' in a big problem by identifying smaller challenges easier to tackle. For many branches, simply asking someone younger to join the committee has not proved effective. Before you can get people on board, you have to make them want to come, and then be able to come. We explore some of the approaches different branches are trying.

Spreading the word

Getting people along to a service needs more than a poster. People need to know about the World Day of Prayer, the biggest global womenled ecumenical movement, and feel empowered to be part of something worldwide. Local groups are often looking for speakers – so offer your services, using the resources the National Committee provides.

Jan Stone, Wallington writes: 'We started to think about how we could share the service, slides/ powerpoint with the church congregations, as not many attended the services. We had always given a talk to a ladies' fellowship group sharing the background information and slides the week before the service. I used the children's material for our Sunday school and got the parents to help with the craft. When it was our church's turn to host, as we are an international church, I had great support and built on this the following year on the Sunday mornings. I then gave a talk using a mixture of the children's material and the shortened service to our ladies' group that had Christians and non-Christians.

Now in February each year we give talks/ sessions to local guides, brownies, toddler groups and three ladies groups, offering this to other groups from local branches around us. As two of our younger reps had contacts at mother and toddler and guides they developed this to take a session, and

had great fun with the recipes; they also give talks to their ladies' group.'

Befriending

It can be intimidating to take on something with no prior knowledge. Getting older committee members to befriend younger women in their church can be a really good way of establishing two-way communication and feeding younger views back to the committee. If you sense interest, invite someone to a branch meeting with no obligation. Having a second church representative can ease the burden and help the transition when the older person resigns. Wallington have tried this to good effect.

Be flexible

Where branches have been working together for years they are sometimes reluctant to try new things, but if we are committed to WDP we have to adapt. Think about the timing and length of Preparation Days. If an allday session is not working consider a half-day. Birmingham tried this and Sylvia Fox wrote: 'It was an experiment doing a morning only session, and I think it worked. It certainly gathered a goodly turn-out.' Birmingham is now considering offering a Saturday Preparation Day, to make it accessible to those working or with child/elder care responsibilities. Clearly a day where children may be present is very different - but with a little thought several activities can run concurrently, as Luton often does in its Preparation Days.

Think about your service time. It is really noticeable that there are still a vast number of services at 2.30 pm – which is difficult for anyone on school pickup. Moving it just one hour earlier could make a big difference. In Birmingham, Sylvia Fox says: 'I am quietly passionate about making sure WDP is available and attractive for younger women. We have changed our own service time to fit school-runs at the request of a Grandmother, and also our evening service to be after bed-

times. As our host church is us this year, I am hoping to trial a morning session too – just the Bible Study, plus prayer (for Slovenia/women particularly) and share a Slovenian themed lunch as a "toe–dipping"/introduction plan. If I set up the afternoon service before we start the morning session, we can achieve both I think'.

Turn it upside down

Rather than inviting younger women to fit an existing model, maybe we should be thinking differently. Dottie North, on the Writing Committee for the 2022 service and working with many younger women, was struck by this thought: 'World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. So many younger folk are actively involved in supporting social justice causes. Perhaps a way of encouraging younger women to join our movement might be if we stressed the 'action' part of our movement.... while realising and accepting that many of our older members may not feel able to campaign actively, but could be encouraged to support and pray for those who can.'

Not just one day

It is not just about a service on the first Friday in March – put it in your church newsletter that we have begun praying for a county (in 2020 it is Zimbabwe). Get your church, school, girl guides etc involved in fundraising or praying for a charity in the writing country, or one connected with the theme, which can draw in more people. Advertise well in advance and ask for contributions - it is amazing the things people may have at home that they can lend for displays. If people have 'invested' in it, they are more likely to engage with the Day of Prayer. The Prayer Resource in Together in Prayer is a wonderful all-year-round resource for local church groups; the bible study can be thought-provoking at youth group level; the children's resources and craft/cookery sessions can also be used as great way of coming together at any time.

So with God's grace let's focus on what we can do, and start reducing that "cheese" to holes.

Grants Update

Every year, the generosity of those attending World Day of Prayer Services across the UK helps us to fulfil our mission of 'informed prayer and prayerful action', enabling the National Committee to award grants to Christian charities worldwide. The choice is always difficult and in 2018 the terrible weather meant many services were cancelled, so we did not receive as much in donations as in previous years. Rather than fewer large grants, we instead gave smaller amounts to a wide number of projects, prioritising those with direct impact on the lives of women and children.

Stories of some of those you have helped to support are given here. Other stories can be found on our website.

If you know of any Christian charity which you think might qualify for a grant, then please contact the Administrator for further information and an application form.

fff A complete list of 2018 grants can be found on page 51 and in the Order of Service booklet.



he grant received by Emmanuel International UK supports the Acholi Girls Fairer Future project in Northern Uganda. Because of the lack of hygiene products many girls cease to attend school once they start menstruatiing, but this project helps over 1000 girls to continue their schooling. Each girl is provided with four washable pads and pairs of knickers which, with good care, should last them a year. They also receive bible teaching to help them understand that they have equal value to boys in God's eyes.

Linda Fitzmaurice says: 'Thank you so much for partnering with us in this very important project that aims to help the girls to stay in school and receive the education they so badly need for a better future, for themselves, their children and their community, and also to point the girls towards the God who can be trusted for the whole of life.'





Find out more at www.eiuk.org.uk



NUMBER

Mums Matter at Number Eleven

Sandra Hearson, Treasurer at Burslem Mission Circuit Number 11 says: 'Without your grant we would not have been able to set up this weekly group for single mums and their children. The sessions started at the beginning of September. The approach is informal and friendly as the mums are usually from vulnerable backgrounds and have no real family to speak of. Number 11 seeks to be their family, offering support from professionals and facilitating a safe space with other mums in similar circumstances.

A professional trained in Attachment Parenting visits the group once a month, increasing to twice a month from the beginning of March. We have adopted this strategy

to ensure that the mums are able to build trust with the facilitator and thus ensure positive outcomes.

As at Christmas 2018 there were five regular mums and others who drop into the sessions. It is hoped that these mums will also become regular participants. Two of the mums are also attending the church. Our prayers are that they will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and see their children as a gift from God.'

Find out more at www.number11.org.uk



Women in prison – Romania



hen mothers are in prison, the children are greatly affected. Mission Without Borders (MWB) supports women in Targsor Penitentiary, sharing the Gospel and giving practical aid to them and their families. Mircea Cristian, President of the Stanca Veacurilor Foundation writes: 'With the financial support of WPD we were able to acquire teaching materials for our programs, food, personal care products and gas for transportation. I received this message from Eugenia, one of the imprisoned women who received support through MWB:

"I know that to our Lord Jesus I need to thank for what we have received today, but I would

like to thank you too! So, today, when I received the hygiene products, I understood that the Lord knew that I (we) needed them, He knew in advance. When I see that I will remain without a thing, I start to get angry, I don't think that the Lord knows this and that He will care for me. Because of this, because I didn't believe (I did not trust), I got here, I was always away from the Lord's flock!



I thank the Lord, I know the help came from Him. I was and I'm still glad as a child who receives a toy or a cake! After I received them, I stayed for 10–15 minutes thanking the Lord, and then I felt the need to write to you immediately."

Find out more at www.mwbuk.org





Access to clean water - everyone's right



ssociacao no Djuda nos Ermons want to thank World Day of Prayer for their kind grant towards bringing water to the Rukuto community in Guinea Bissau, West Africa. The amount donated built one well in one part of the community.

Pastor Joaquim Correia writes: 'I went to Rukuto today (13 February 2019) but arrived after the majority of women had been at the well. They start at 5 am! Because so many people have to use this one well the water is not sufficient and when I arrived the well was almost dry. They need to wait another hour for there to be enough to use again. I think we will need to build another well in order to supply for all the homes, fields and cattle but we will wait until May, the month of least water, and try to dig down deeper to see if this will help resolve the problem. Thank you for helping us start this project in a community that has never had any help of any kind until we reached them.'

For more information email info@bgbc.co.uk

Raising pigs, raising standards



n Cameroon, All We Can is working with its local partner Nkong Hilltop Association for Development (NADEV). NADEV continues to break the poverty chain and transform the lives of low-income women from the South West Region through sustainable sources of livelihood. One project is providing training in pig-rearing.

Madam Ngendo is a 69-year-old widow of Motombolombo village in Cameroon. Madam Ngendo has often been sick and unable to raise enough money to provide for her family, especially for her daughter who is a widow with six children.

Due to her poor health, she was unable plant crops or fix her dilapidated roof. Madam Ngendo has often used stones to prevent the wind from tearing the roof down and the rain from flooding her house.

Madam Ngendo said, 'I knew about NADEV from the training in Gender and Widow's Rights that I attended. Other projects were introduced such as the piggery project which I became interested in and was finally a beneficiary. From the selection, I was trained in pig farm management and techniques, I constructed a backyard pigsty, received 2 piglets, feed and



veterinary treatment for six months and monthly coaching. I decided to do breeding to yield more income.'

After raising the piglets to maturity, she sold two of her pigs and used the money to restock the pigsty with one piglet (sow). With the profits she was able to purchase sheets of zinc to repair her dilapidated roof and support her grandchildren in providing their school needs. Madam Ngendo said, 'I now have hope that this coming rainy season I will sleep with my two eyes closed because my roof will have been repaired. I am

delighted and thank God for sending NADEV as an angel to wipe away the tears of vulnerable widows like me. May God bless them and their funders to continue bringing hope to the hopeless in our society. Also, I wish to make a promise that I will remain a pig farmer as long as I live and I will start putting materials together such as cement, sand to start moulding blocks for the house I envisage for myself and my grandchildren.'

Find out more at www.allwecan.org.uk



Keeping newborn babies warm and cared for in Tanzania

In Tanzania the premature baby mortality rate currently stands at 15–20%. The Baby Unit at DCT Mvumi Hospital in Dodoma, Tanzania mostly cares for low birth—weight babies born under two kilogrammes. Many are premature and need feeding by tube or by cup, as they are unable to suck. The babies are often twins, as they tend to be born early and are smaller than average.

John Charlton, the Chair at Friends of Mvumi says: 'The grant from WDP enabled us to buy one Kanbed Baby Warmer (shown in the picture) and to expand the Baby Unit. Kanbed baby warmers use relatively simple technology: the water mattress is maintained at a constant temperature by a heat pad, the mattress and the heat pad slide into material "nests" and the baby is then placed in the nest. They are suitable for babies weighing as little as 900g. We propose to buy additional Kanbeds when funds allow. Our grateful thanks go to WDP for supporting us in this work.'



Find out more at www.mvumi.org



Tackling Youth Unemployment in Suriname

feed minds

eed the Minds is an international charity that has been working in Suriname to deliver a transformational education project for disadvantaged young people there. In the Para District in particular, there are many young people in the villages who have dropped out of school, lacking skills



for work and facing unemployment. Feed the Minds are supporting 30 young people with a three month training course in entrepreneurship and financial skills, learning how to identify small business opportunities and make business plans.

Already, the training is having a positive impact. Trainees have gained vital skills and the confidence to grow their own small businesses by running an Outlet Youth Market in their local town, collaborating with community members to set up stalls, as well as promoting, displaying and selling their products. Feed the Minds is extremely grateful for the support they receive from the WDP as they continue to work with these young people who are gaining leadership

skills and are now acting as role models for others in their community.

One young woman named Lucille was producing her own syrup, which she had been selling to family and friends. By participating in the training, she has found out how to improve her sales and marketing and is now actively approaching local supermarkets, restaurants and care centres in order to grow her own small business, increase her income and gain a brighter future.

Feed the Minds continues to help marginalised people transform their lives through education and community projects like these.

Find out more at www.feedtheminds.org



Well-Baby Clinics in Gaza

he Near East Council of Churches (NECC) Well-Baby Clinics work in the Shajaia, Darraj, and Rafah districts of Gaza. They bring help that would not come from any other source. The World Day of Prayer generously donated £3,000 towards the cost of doctors, nurses and medical supplies for this vital project.

Living under a blockade that has so far lasted 11 years, conditions for pregnant women and young children in Gaza have become increasingly difficult. From a population of over two million, some 80% of families currently depend on humanitarian assistance. Half of the adult workforce is unemployed and 65% of families regularly go hungry. Infant mortality rates remain stubbornly high. A bad situation has been exacerbated by the United States' decision to cut the budget of the United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees.

The biggest problems faced by the NECC's Well-Baby Clinics are the effects of malnutrition and anaemia.

For the vast majority of people in Gaza the only foods they can access are bread, rice, and sugarbased processed food and drinks. These assuage hunger but lack the micronutrients that are essential for children to grow and develop as they should. In the face of this the NECC has simply done more: diagnosis, treatment and advice. In 2018 the Well-baby Clinics screened more than 13,000 children against an annual target of 10,000, making nearly 36,000 follow up visits against an annual target of 20,000.

The results are good: within 90 to 120 days of enrolment: 78% of children diagnosed as anaemic recovered and 91% of undernourished children returned to normal. Success has increased demand. Word of mouth had led to more mothers and children coming forward for treatment.

Many are desperate for help. We are extremely grateful to the World Day of Prayer for choosing to help them.

Find out more at www.embraceme.org or 💟 📑 @FollowEmbrace

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Global Care for South Sudan



ducation, education, education. It's not just a political mantra, all the evidence shows education is one of the most effective tools for breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty and changing young lives worldwide.

For Christian international children's charity Global Care, the transformational potential of education is central to their work supporting children. In South Sudan, a young nation emerging from over 50 years of civil war, a shocking 70% of children aged between 6 and 17 have never set foot inside a classroom and just 10% of children finish primary education, one of the worst primary completion rates in the world.

Global Care's partner in South Sudan, the Diocese of Wau, run 13 primary schools across a large area. Nine of their schools meet under trees, few are able to offer the





full primary cycle and they have only two trained teachers. The situation is no better in government schools. When the education system is in such disarray, there's no point building classrooms or providing textbooks. The only resource which will kickstart change is skilled teachers.

Thanks to support from individuals and organisations, including World Day of Prayer, Global Care's first initiative has been to fund a three-year diploma in teaching for 50 teachers across Northern Bahr El Ghazal Internal Province, an area roughly 1.5 times the size of Wales. The 50 trainees teach in the morning and train in the afternoon. Every year they offer an improved quality of education to over 3,000 children.

Find out more at www.globalcare.org



Learning sewing skills in the Punjab



ew Zoi in Pakistan are so thankful to God for the financial support received from World Day of Prayer (WDP). Believing that humanitarian work and mission go together, New Zoi has a holistic approach. It aims to work amongst the least reached and most needy communities to enable every person at least one opportunity to hear about Jesus.

Women and girls are mostly illiterate, many being forced to work at brick factories, fields and in bonded labour. Their work is unpaid, they are ill-treated and often become victims of rape and sexual abuse. One of the projects run by New Zoi is the starting up of sewing schools in the Punjab region. The schools offer women and girls the chance to learn skills such as tailoring, sewing and embroidery so women can make clothing and earn income. The schools empower and rehabilitate the women, giving them the opportunity to live a respected life, feed their children and



hope for their future. Thanks to the grant generously given by WDP, New Zoi were able to start up three new schools which are planned to open in March 2019.

Find out more at www.newzoi.org













st Austell



Come, Everything is Ready!

After the traumas of twelve months ago, the Day of Prayer dawned bright and fair. And all branch committees breathed a sigh of relief, as over 3,000 services began to take place....

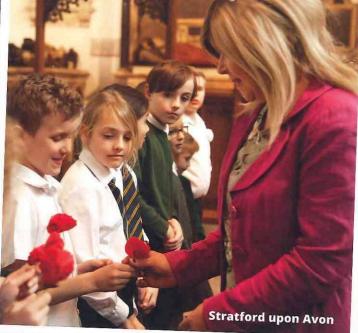
From Bawtry, South Yorkshire: 'Those who attended asked me to tell you that they thought this year's material for worship was the best of its kind they'd ever seen.' From St Austell in Cornwall: 'One of the best [services] I've heard for years – current, relevant, emotive; it raised issues that could be as relevant down the road here in St Austell as on the other side of the world.' These are just two of the many similar

messages that we have received following the 2019 Day of Prayer. I cannot recall a service that has been so universally praised.

Garston thought that it was 'one of the best and most thought-provoking services we have had.' Newquay appreciated the 'beautiful but thought-provoking theme.' The words 'thoughtful', 'uplifting', 'simple' and 'inspiring' were repeated again

and again. Sevenoaks commented on its 'quiet, contemplative nature.' Stourport-on-Severn reported, 'We usually get praise but the reactions today were incredible.' Budleigh Salterton described it as 'personally challenging'. Ammochostas (Cyprus) sent their thanks for 'a calm and meaningful service with a great choice of music.' Ottery St Mary's description was 'beautifully reflective and contemplative.'









Cardiff Welsh churches felt that the clear message that EVERYONE is welcomed to God's table was beautifully conveyed throughout the service. Wimbledon said that the service brought the country to life. But to begin at the beginning...

Preparation

Haslemere

The Slovenian women wanted all those who attended services to go home with a red carnation. Carnations are expensive in early March so most branches made their own. This was often a group activity and accompanied by tea, coffee and lots of laughter. One or two people at **Twickenham** produced pretty 'Slovenian aprons' to

wear while handing out the carnations.

Olveston and Par gave everyone a bookmark bearing a carnation as well and Earl Stonham a freshly-baked bread roll. Colden Common, imaginative as always, prepared a seven foot long collage of Slovenia, some giant bees, and a bookmark for everyone, bearing the words of the Bee Prayer from Together in Prayer. Sheffield had their new banner on display – something other branches might wish to copy.

The Service

Several branches reported that more men had attended services than before. **Budleigh Salterton** noted how the presence of more men had lifted the singing.

Children took an active part in many services, including those at Epsom, South Kensington & Chelsea, Over Kellet, Newburgh (Lancs.) and Stratford-upon-Avon. At Sutton-on-Sea, the children danced in at the beginning and during the service, and performed a dramatised version of the gospel reading, whilst one of them sang the Slovenian song as a solo.

Over Kellett noted that they had the best attended service for years because the school was participating.

Rose Samuels, Chair of the Guyana WDP Committee, and her husband





were surprise guests at the Exeter service, which was also attended by the Lord Mayor. Stretford had visitors from Madagascar; part of the gospel was read in Welsh (because it was St David's Day) and part in Malagasy.

Aldershot was encouraged by the attendance at their evening service, mostly working women some of whom had come for the first time. Chesham reported: 'Numbers at our daytime services continue to fall but we are seeing new (and younger) faces at our evening service.'

Chesham noted that 'the service came together well around the dining table which gave a focal point.' Twickenham was pleased that the guests were seated around a table as it enabled a lady in a wheelchair to take part.

The Slovenian songs were much enjoyed. Many branches found the CD helpful. Hutton & Shenfield had a choir. Tring and Sheffield both specifically mentioned the hymn by Andrew Pratt.

The instrumental interludes were also appreciated as 'a welcome aid to contemplation', as Chesham put it. Whilst most branches used the CD or the accompanist, Over Kellett and Sheffield greatly appreciated the beautiful playing of a nine-year-old girl violinist and a young trombonist, a student from the University.

Budleigh Salterton, Findon Valley, Hutton & Shenfield and Stouporton-Severn all said how much they had appreciated the reflection on the artwork. Aldershot asked a man to read it, which some people found controversial.



And Afterwards

Refreshments were served after most services. These varied from tea and biscuits – the Slovenian honey biscuits were very popular – to a meal. Instead of the usual cakes, **Garston** offered different breads with butter and honey. **Albir** on the Costa Blanca served pumpkin soup (it was colder there than in the UK!); the **Cardiff** Welsh–speaking churches had Welsh cakes for St David's Day; **Broxbourne** provided Slovenian wine; **Farnham** served Slovenian liqueurs. Mindful of

the theme, **Broxbourne** held a feast after the evening service.

As we left to go home, hopefully we were all challenged to be more inclusive in future.

As I am sure most people know, the England, Wales & Northern Ireland area includes a number of ex-pat communities worldwide, who use our materials. The services held are greatly appreciated by those who attend and the congregations are always very generous in their financial support of the movement. Our final message comes

from the congregation at **Ammochostas** in Cyprus, where two young men were in charge of the technical side, one from Zimbabwe, the other from Uganda. 'The Ugandan commented that his mum was involved with WDP with the Mothers Union there. When I said "Wow – there will be hundreds attending" he replied "More like thousands!" What joy.'

World Day of Prayer is not 'just another service'; it is a worldwide celebration, and what a privilege it is to be part of it!

Elizabeth Burroughs







'Individual actions can make a global difference.'







Around the World

WDP 2018 - SURINAME - ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD

From the first rays of light in Eastern Samoa to the last glow of sunset in Western Samoa, 'while earth rolls onward into night' we are united in a day of prayer. Each year the International Committee gathers reports from the many countries involved. Here we try to give you a flavour of the 2018 Day of Prayer, prepared by the women of Suriname on the theme 'All God's Creation is Very Good'.

What is really noticeable from the 2018 reports is that all around the world countries are suffering the same social and environmental problems, and people of many nations are now realising they should be concerned about the well-being of their country and of the planet.

The World Day of Prayer service brings the opportunity to learn about the concerns as well as the joys of others; while praying for themselves and each other, God puts it in their hearts and minds to make a commitment to do something about the problems. He uses the annual Day of Prayer service to bring a tremendous focus where thousands of men, women and children promise to make changes in their everyday lives, in order to bring about forces for good in their community, their country and the world.

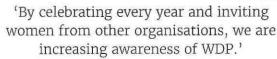
Suriname wrote the service for 2018. They 'felt guided by the Lord in every step of the way. Our sisterhood grew stronger. We kept reminding ourselves that our initiative was not about ourselves but about our country's needs, and for the glory of God.' What an encouragement for the rest of us!

Pakistan, Antigua and Barbuda asked: 'How are we taking care of our lands and waters? How we care for one

another within our own countries... speaks of how we care for God's creation.' Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Barbados said 'this service was a call to action for our people to improve the environment. We must care for our land and for our neighbours.' In Canada a pastor led a Bible study that included a community walk, with discussion on protecting creation on a local and global scale. Finland, Grenada and Guatemala 'recognise our own part in the destruction of God's creation and that actions must be taken to preserve the natural beauty of our land.' France has 'Green Church' which 'focuses on respecting

International Review

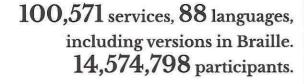








Argentina



Celebrations were held in churches, schools, hospitals, prisons, convents and elderly homes. Around 46 different activities, especially for children and youth, were held in many schools and churches across the seven regions.

creation'. Armenia and Guyana 'feel truly connected to our Surinamese sisters and a part of their community' and, with Albania and Luxemburg, they also noted how important it is to teach children early the importance of caring for God's creation. Jamaica remarked that 'prayer and action are inseparable'. The US, Turks & Caicos and Trinidad & Tobago expressed concern over the negative impact on Earth and recognised responsibility for their own actions. Some churches, including Austria, invited speakers from environmental institutions. Others discussed pollinators and their survival. They realised they have a 'purpose and duty to God's creation' and 'vow not only to keep our surroundings clean, but to accept and embrace those who come to our islands in hope of better opportunities. God has provided us with the necessary provisions and it is our duty to help others in need.' The US Virgin Islands might have

Luxembourg

been forgiven for cancelling their Day of Prayer service having suffered not one but two hurricanes but, 'despite all the destruction around us, we held a worship service and connected with our sisters praying around the world.' Organisers in Angola and Madagascar were greatly encouraged that members of many different churches happily came together to serve the community - some 'visited hospitals and prisons to bring the WDP liturgy to those in need. We felt a sense of harmony in the Word of God through actions. We should make every effort to treat everyone with dignity.' Ireland used an Eco-congregation version of The Lord's Prayer which incorporated elements of creation. Italy was very blessed- they had a choir member from Suriname who sang the Surinamese national anthem - how lovely! In Norway and Sweden former missionaries to Suriname shared memories of their time there. The Lord's Prayer was read in Sranan

in Palestine. Poland concentrated on Christians being light in the world and that God has a plan for us all. Children played a big part in services in Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Slovakia. Some said prayers, some learned and sang the song Mi Moi Kondre, while others prepared the turtles with recycled materials in order to raise awareness of environmental issues. In Switzerland and Ukraine services were held in schools and private homes. Being neighbours, representatives from the Suriname Consulates in Brazil and Venezuela attended those services. Cuba when it wrote the service in 2016, created a children's choir named World Day of Prayer and a dance group named Generation with a Purpose. This year they produced a green (for the environment) shawl worn by leaders of the services. Nicaragua saw the benefit of having their own WDP Committee to work for the good











'We are so thankfu to be part of the WI movement – we fee connected through Holy Spirit.'



Czech Republi

of their country. They have 'formed a WhatsApp group to inform and pray together'. In **Uruguay's** services they enjoyed repeating the Sranan words. **Cook Islands** congregations will wear black each Thursday and pray for those suffering violence. **Marshall Islands** and **Nauru** strongly believe the WDP motto 'Informed prayer, prayerful action' is helping build ecumenical relationships, and leading them to support refugees.

Three cheers for **Botswana**, **Sierra Leone**, **Slovenia** and **Malawi** who
promoted the WDP celebration on TV,
radio and internet, resulting in services
held across countries. 'We praised and

rejoiced in the Lord as one body in Christ'. Very many countries, including Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Serbia, South Sudan, Syria and Tunisia take seriously their responsibility to care for the environment. Their prayerful actions include promises to plant trees, keep gutters clean, reduce litter, use less plastic, and be involved in district meetings while keeping others informed, and to teach children about recycling. Philippines promised to

plant mangroves. People in Estonia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iceland, Lithuania and Macedonia were surprised 'that a country so far from our own could be facing the same daily life problems. We felt a close connection to our sisters and felt right to join in prayers with Suriname.' Hungary is teaching eco-farming techniques. In EWNI many pledged 'to become better stewards of God's Creation'. Czech Republic, Faroe Islands, Gambia and Malaysia services involved several different churches. Before the day, many attended meetings, retreats and rehearsals









'We wanted to feel as connected to them as we could, so we sang the song in the Surinamese language.'











to properly prepare. On the day, a procession took place with church leaders and children, who carried fruits and vegetables, while others held up the flags of Gambia and Suriname. In many countries, including Australia, Japan, Mauritius, Republic of Congo, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe, children and young people had a special place in the services. At services in Uganda health professionals were available to give onthe-spot check-ups and to run blooddonor sessions. In Bangladesh the issue of Rohingya refugees was foremost in their prayers. The Hong Kong service included a moving portrayal of the

darkness and gloom caused in Earth through pollution. A large roll of black cloth was held over the heads of the congregation while they confessed their part in the harm of the environment. As the cloth was taken away everyone was deeply moved. Seychelles are particularly concerned for the protection of sea turtles. Singapore promises to give support to the many women and children who need shelter and work. South Korea is praying for healing of their differences with North Korea, especially by ecumenical means. Congregations in Spain and Belgium are opening their hearts to migrants

Croatia

and refugees. People in **Turkey** took gifts and prayers to those who could not attend services. **Aotearoa/New Zealand** is seeking ways to use ecofriendly materials. **Vanuatu** believes an ecumenical base for WDP meetings brings true unity.

In many countries, women and children suffer from violence, neglect and trafficking. A lot of women struggle to keep their family fed and safe. It seems clear – having a heart for matters of the environment and God's creation overflows to include helping those who are in need. Praise the Lord!

Beryl Cosens



On the path to WPD 2022

Picture this: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A hot day in August – 188 women from 81 countries and three very excited representatives from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We have just heard we have been invited to write the service for 2022. But it's only 2017! **How long does it take?**

Prayer International Meeting, which takes place every four to five years. Some months before, national and regional committees submit their suggestions for themes and bible texts; they can nominate themselves or others to be the writing country. Then at the International Committee Meeting, a working group with representatives from the seven regions of the world considers the submissions, and which themes to match with which countries.

How was this done? Through prayer and reflection

Rosângela Oliveira, Executive Director of WDPIC explains the procedure: "In 2017, the working group formed to select the theme and countries started its work by praying together for guidance, that their choices may be informed by the Holy Spirit. Then they examined the Bible texts suggested by the various National

Committees. They read the passage's chapters and reflected on what the Bible texts meant for them, and what it would lead the movement to. That exercise of going deeply into the meaning of the text was very helpful. After choosing the Bible texts and themes, the working group considered the nominated countries, the current world situation and issues relevant to WDP in which it may be involved in the years ahead.

The final proposal of the working group was then presented to the International Committee members at the Meeting. The proposal was received and accepted. At this stage, the process was handed to the World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC), who would coordinate

the development of the writing resource to make it available for the worldwide network."

We have our theme. Can we get started?

Not quite. Although we received the theme in 2017, it was more than a year before the first writing workshows held. The intervening time

was spent recruiting volunteers from a wide range of ages, backgrounds, skills, denominations and ethnicities'. We wante to have a really divers group to represent a broad context of life in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It was also a somewhat frustrating process, as we could not give a definitive answer as t



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the exact commitment in hours or the precise timetable. In November 2018, 33 women ranging in age from 23 to 84 years, ordained and lay, and representing at least 8 denominations turned up for the residential workshop held in Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire. Professions were varied – from Barrister to Puppeteer. From the International Committee, to assist and guide, came Rosângela Oliveira and Laurence Gangloff, Chairperson.

Can we start now?

So many ardent women, committed and eager to begin, are a force to be reckoned with, but before the different writing groups got under way, there was a session of introductions and reflection. Laurence and Rosângela wanted to ensure that we fully understood the significance of the text and that there would be unity in the product of the different

groups (Worship Service, Bible Study, Children's Materials, Country Background) as well as in the art work and music chosen. Many found themselves allocated to groups they had not envisaged, only to find they had skills they had never suspected.

And then the real work began. How do you explain in just a few words that Britain is not 'England', that the Republic of Ireland is not in the UK but Northern Ireland is, and that Scotland is in the UK - but not part of this National Committee. And that just for starters. At times discussions were lively - accommodating different priorities and views is not easy - but at the end of the weekend, four groups had begun to produce drafts. The process did not end there: the groups continued to work together, face to face and electronically. Artwork and some music and songs had to specially commissioned.

A continuing dialogue

Within a year of the first workshops, the drafts of the worship service and educational resources were sent to the WDPIC for a global perspective. Would it be clear and acceptable to other countries and cultures? The Executive Members reflected on the materials and offered suggestions to expand the message to the world community. The dialogue continues until a final version of the resources is agreed with the EWNI Committee. About 18 months before the 2022 service the English version will be distributed internationally, followed a few months later by the Spanish and French versions, and finally the music and powerpoint CDs. And after March 2021, WDP worldwide will begin preparing for the service on 4 March 2022, focusing on I know the Plans I have for You (Jeremiah 29:11) and the themes of Freedom, Forgiveness, Justice and God's Peace.

Siobhan Canham

What a weekend!

Three members of the Writing Committee describe their experiences.



At the writing workshop I was struck by how different we all were and the immense breadth of experiences that we brought with us. What has stayed with me since the workshop is the way in which so many different women engaged so positively together and the warm way in which we all related. In our conversations and interactions I could see the unity of the body of Christ, there seemed such a good connection between us all. I am working

with the group writing the service material. Putting services together with a group can bring up tensions but my experience with WDP has shown each of us really listening to one another, truly celebrating our differences and working so hard to make sure all voices are heard. Being a participant with this group has been a tremendous experience for me, so affirming of myself as a child of God.









Dr Claire Rush - Children's Program Writing Working Group

As Vice-President of Girls' Brigade International, I was thrilled to be invited to be part of the writing team for WDP 2022. Both Girls' Brigade and WDP share a similar synergy – to see girls' and women's lives transformed through prayer, discipleship and social action. It was a blessing to spend the weekend with other women who shared similar passions, had a heart for prayer and whom God had gifted in amazing ways.

I am very passionate about making the World Day of Prayer an intergenerational event so I'm excited that in 2022 for the first time ever, there will be two separate resources to engage children and young people. Working with a fantastic team to compile it, the youth resource will help young people explore Jeremiah Ch.29:11 in a relevant, creative and engaging way. The resource will reflect on the core message: God is with me through

the good and the bad times with a purpose and vision for my life. What a hope-filled 'Good News' message to explore with young people in a world which has a deficit of hope and breeds uncertainty. Young people are today's hope-bringers, culture shapers and society transformers – it is important to engage and mobilise them in the WDP! Just think of the transformation it could bring to lives and communities across the world.



Dottie North - Country Background Working Group

This was an amazing experience! It was a total joy to be working with 33 other like-minded Christian women. Laurence and Rosangela are two very down-to-earth but incredibly inspirational women!

The first day was spent getting to know each other.... lots of bonding exercises, sharing in worship, and familiarising ourselves with the text for 2022 – 'I know the plans I have for you' from Jeremiah 29:11. This included looking at the context in which the book of Jeremiah was written and discussing its relevance in today's world.... I found this fascinating and so informative.

I was pleased to be placed in a group of 7 working on the background and history of our country. I quickly came to realise that to put our history into the brief space allowed in the service booklet is a huge task! That weekend was just the beginning! From now on we shall all be working by email as we think, write, discuss – and no doubt re–think, re–write, and continue to discuss.

On a personal note I have to say that being part of the Writing Group has given me the most wonderful experience. I am not an ardent feminist! I have often said that I'm not into all women groups –but being part of this group has changed that! To be with women with a common faith (albeit in different traditions) and who have a common purpose and commitment was just wonderful!



The Bible Study group











Welcoming
Friendly
Fun
Fellowship
Eat
Pray
Laughter

Engaging Interactive Creative Full

Mylechreest, an officer from the Salvation Army, as our keynote speaker, who provided much laughter, but also made us think and reflect at the workshops and talks she organised. Dr Ray Motsi, Principal of the Theological College of Zimbabwe, which runs a programme promoting women's ministry, gave an inspirational and

thought-provoking talk about life

'blessed' and 'inspired' after their time together.

were joined by Val

in Zimbabwe, and made us look at

artwork for the service next year in a

Another great Y-Pray? Weekend held at the beautiful

conference centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, 3-5 May.

Thirty-two delegates attended for a weekend they describe as

'full of fun', 'laughter' and 'fellowship'. They left feeling 'refreshed',

different way.

Helen Pollard, from Christian Music Ministries, led us in our worship time, introducing us to new songs which were moving and uplifting.

We were entertained on the Saturday night by Union Jill, a duo from York, providing folk music with audience participation which was great fun.

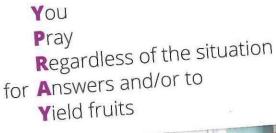
Nicci Buckner

Exciting
Surprising
Amazing
Different
Diverse
Delicious

Dr Motsi

speaking

Enthusiasm Encouraging Hopeful Inspiring







Bible Study workshop

Time out
Space
Stillness
Recovery Time
Me & God Time
Restorative
Mind-renewing

Creative activities

Enriching
Enlightening
Exhilarating
Invigorating
Thoughtprovoking

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Walking with Jesus, isn't a marathon to be run, or a task to be done; it's a relationship to nurture and a story to tell.

Louise Bowes

This was my year at Y-Pray? I had no idea what to expect so was quite curious. As the weekend began I got more and more excited. Learning of God and the work that he does for us every day; looking at different perspectives of how his work can make us feel. We learned a lot about World Day of Prayer and about Zimbabwe, the country which has written the service for 2020. Y-Pray? is a refreshing, modern, faith driven conference with people who are caring, loving and devoted to God. My time at Y-Pray? has been amazing and I can't wait to go next year!

Emma Robinson



Throughout the weekend we were privileged to hear from Major Val Mylechreest and Dr Ray Motsi who helped us to reflect on passages in the Bible and our walk with God, with devotionals entitled '500 miles' to which we sang a clever song to the tune of 'I'm gonna be.' We were also made to consider how life in Zimbabwe differs from ours in the UK.

The different devotionals made me contemplate 'what is the mat that I am carrying' (based on John 5). Although there are certain aspects in life you are meant to carry with you, there are also aspects that I need to leave behind. Forgiving is not actually forgetting, but leaving the bitterness behind, as it can prohibit our ability to grow with God.

Although we question why God has let us face these situations, we have to bloom where we are planted and make a difference wherever God leads us.

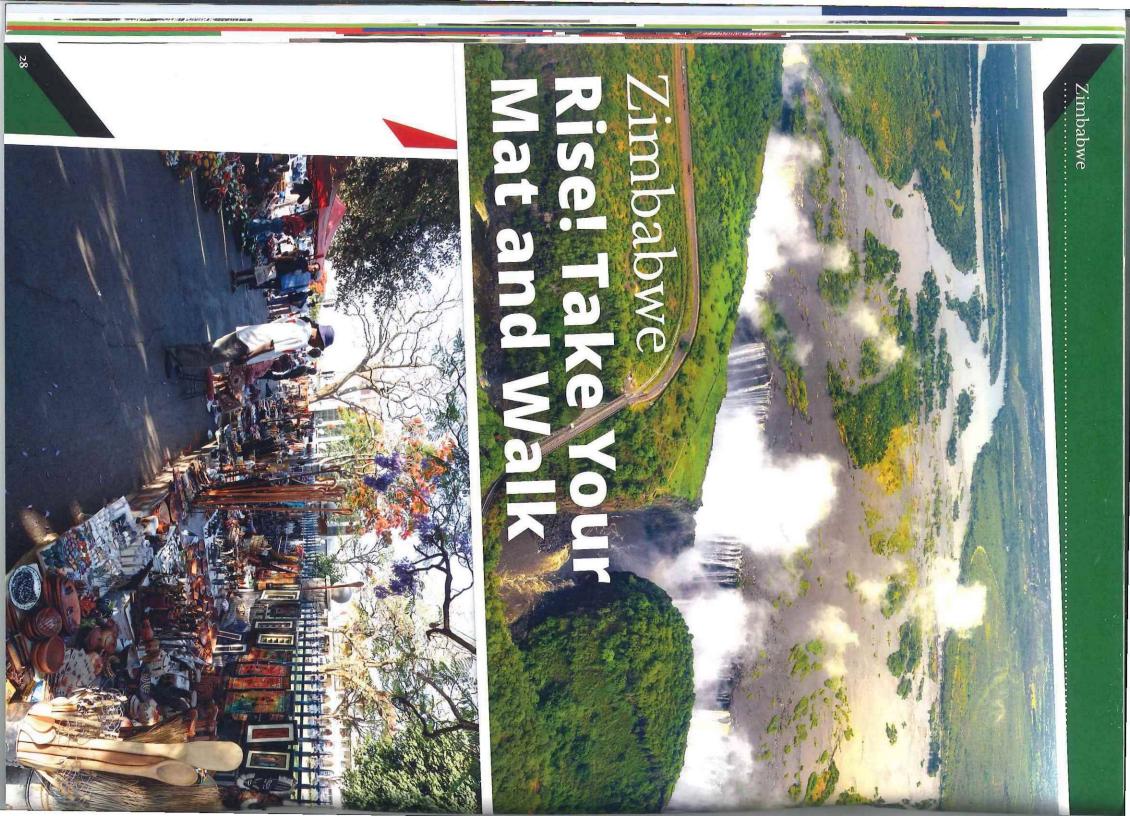
Throughout the weekend I got to make friends with people from different locations and of different age groups which led to interesting conversations across different aspects. I look forward to being able to have further conversations with them.

Nicole Rea

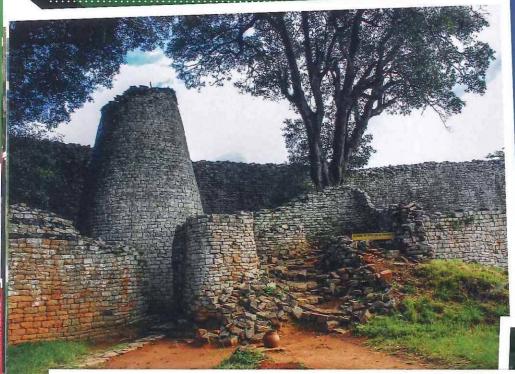
Spiritual
Blessed
Faith
Love
Prayer
Intimate
Emotional
Holistic
Recovery

Refreshing
Restorative
Uplifting
Rewarding
Affirming
Memorable

Join us for the next Y-Pray? Weekend at King's Park, Northampton on 1-3 May 2020. More details at www.wwdp.org.uk



Zimbabwe

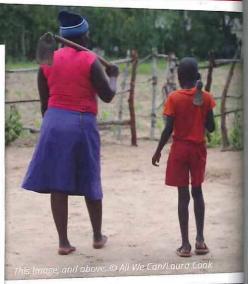




The Story of **Zimbabwe**

The name Zimbabwe (derived from the Shona words dzimba dza mabwe) means 'house of stones' and one of Zimbabwe's impressive historical sites is the monument of the Great Zimbabwe, stone structures of granite, built with great masonry expertise about 900 years ago. It is thought to have been the capital of the Empire which lasted from 1220 to 1450. There is evidence of a sophisticated civilisation, trading in cattle, ivory and gold. The ruler Munhumutapa was the first to trade with the first Europeans to arrive (the Portuguese).

n the 1890s Cecil John Rhodes arrived to exploit the region's mineral wealth with his British South Africa Company. He was also responsible for colonising the area that became Southern Rhodesia. During this period there was a systematic purge of the indigenous population in order to dispossess them of their land and its rich natural resources. The independence of Zimbabwe came at a huge price as thousands of lives were lost when people rose against the colonisers. Resistance to colonial rule continued until mass nationalism began to take shape in the 1960s. In 1965 the then Prime Minister, Ian Smith, unilaterally declared independence under white minority rule, because Britain refused to grant Rhodesia independence until it introduced black majority rule. From 1960 to 1979 there were many influential nationalists including Joshua Nkomo, and Robert Mugabe. In 1979 Ian Smith formed a unity government with the African National Council, and the country was christened Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.





Timeline

European hunters/ traders. Cecil Rhodes founds Rhodesia

Legislation restricts Black access to land

lan Smith declares UDI. **Economic sanctions**

·· 1200-1600 ······ 1830s-90s ······ 1922 ····· 1930 ···· 1930s-60s ···· 1965 ····

Growing Black opposition ZANU and ZAPU emerge

Great Zimbabwe trade ivory/gold

White minority opt for self-government

Independence and its Aftermath

ll party talks in London led to democratic elections in February 1980. Zimbabwe became an independent nation on 18th April that year. The majority Zimbabwe African National Unity Party (ZANU) was led by Robert Mugabe, the first Prime Minister. The Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) the second largest party, was led by Joshua Nkomo, who became the country's first Minister of Home Affairs.

The new nation now had to address issues of poverty, reintegration of warring factions and reconciliation. There were disturbances in different parts of the country until 1987 when the different factions signed a Unity Accord and the two major parties united to govern with Robert Mugabe as head of state and government, and Simon Muzenda and Joshua Nkomo as his Vice Presidents. Problems and grievances continued and living standards deteriorated.

In 2000, Zimbabwe embarked on a land reform programme with the aim of redistributing land, resources and wealth. White farmers were forced off the land. This policy provoked criticism and sanctions from the US and Western Europe. The deteriorating economic situation, galloping inflation, nationalisation of diamond mining, and the question of political succession have continued to occupy the country in recent years. In November 2017 a military intervention removed Robert Mugabe from power after 37 years as president, and Emmerson Mnangagwa replaced him. In 2018 elections were held but the result was contested by Nelson Chemisa, leader of the opposition party Movement for Change. However, the constitutional court upheld the result and Mnangagwa was confirmed the elected President with 50.8% of the vote.





Zimbabwe Today

'imbabwe's two largest cities are Harare (the capital and seat of government) and Bulawayo. Its major industries include mining (precious metals, clay and diamonds) and agriculture (livestock, corn, coffee, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco and peanuts).

On Independence, Zimbabwe declared access to education a basic human right but, in spite of one of the highest literacy rates in Africa, education is not free and some children in rural areas cannot afford or access schools, colleges and universities.

Missionaries brought Christianity to Zimbabwe just before the establishment of colonial rule. They built schools, hospitals and churches, many of which are still in use today. Churches worked closely with the colonial government to deliver health and education but, as time went on, became increasingly critical of injustice and lack of democracy, and supported the movement for independence and black majority rights. They had high expectations of independence in 1980 and despite the many problems have continued to encourage the country to find its way democratically and peacefully. The current Zimbabwean constitution allows for freedom to gather together for worship. Christianity is the main religion (80%), with the rest of the population following Islam, Judaism and traditional African religions.

Zimbabwe becomes independent

Land reform policy -White farms seized

President Mugabe resigns

1979 · · · · · · 1980 · · · · · 1980s-90s · · · · · 2000 · · · · · · 2010 · · · · · · 2017 · · · · · 2018 · · · ·

Britain brokers all-party agreement

Continued unrest. Economic situation worsens Diamond mines nationalised

Mnangagwa ratified as President

The Flag

he Flag of Zimbabwe was adopted at independence in 1980. It consists of seven coloured stripes in four colours: black for the majority population, green for the lush vegetation, red for the bloodshed during the liberation struggle, yellow for gold and minerals. On the left the white triangle stands for peace, the red star for hope, and the bird, the national emblem, represents the soapstone birds found in the ruins of the Great Zimbabwe.

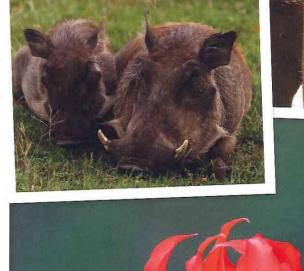


Geography

imbabwe, in the south–east of Africa, is a land–locked country of immense beauty and diversity, almost 400,000 square kilometres (nearly twice the size of the UK). It lies between the mighty rivers of the Limpopo to the south and the Zambesi to the north. It shares borders with South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique, and the Inyanga and Udzi mountains stretch along its eastern border. It is rich in natural resources and minerals, among them coal, copper, nickel, gold and diamonds. On the Zambesi and at the point where Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe and Namibia meet are the dramatic Victoria Falls – a major tourist attraction.

Zimbabwe lies in the tropics. The temperature and climate vary greatly with the altitude. There are distinct seasons: cool, dry winters (July – October), hot, dry summers (November – March) and a rainy season from April to June. In the eastern mountains there are tropical forests, but most of the country is savanna where big game animals (elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards, water buffalo) are found. Among the numerous flowers the flame lily is the national flower of Zimbabwe.

About 16 million people live in Zimbabwe, and about 50% of them are young. There are 16 official languages, reflecting the tribal history of the region. The majority languages are Shona and Ndbele, and English is a first language for only two per cent of the population.



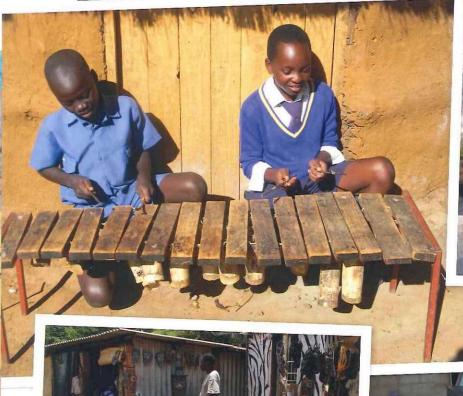




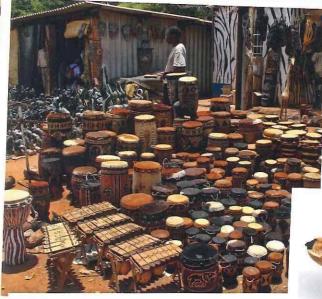
Women and Children

omen make up 51% of the population. They play a significant role in the socioeconomic life of the country. Many rural households are headed by women, since husbands often migrate to towns to find work, and young people leave their villages for neighbouring African countries or elsewhere in the world. Because of a complex interplay of economic, social and historical factors, women and girls often face systematic disadvantage, especially those who are poor, live in rural areas or are from particular social groups. They face barriers to education, early marriage, poor gynaecological and obstetric provision, violence in the home and legal discrimination regarding family law. Various groups are lobbying for gender equality and some laws have been enacted to protect women against gender-based violence. It is nearly always women who look after those with disabilities: physical, mental and emotional.

Even where specialist schools exist they are expensive and beyond the reach of most families. Autism is a particular problem as this condition is widely misunderstood and generally not supported. Cervical and breast cancer affect many women, while typhoid, cholera and HIV/AIDS are responsible for many deaths. The highest incident of AIDS is in southern Africa, and in Zimbabwe it accounts for the many children left without parents, who now have to act as head of the family, caring for younger siblings. Some live with grandparents, but have to work to help earn money for the basic necessities of life. Some years ago UNICEF noted that 'one in four children in Zimbabwe has lost one or both parents due to HIV and other causes.'









Music

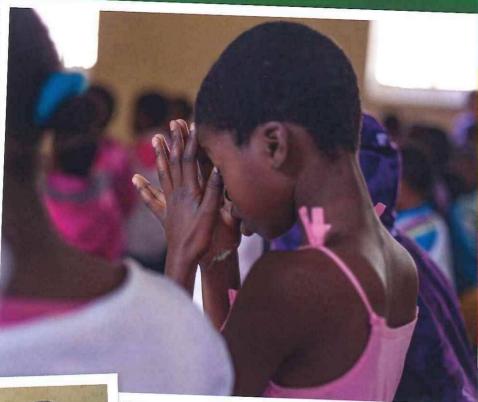
Imbabwean music covers a wide range of genres, but folk music (and sometimes also pop music) is played on traditional instruments. The *mbira* is an integral part of Zimbabwean music. It is made of a series of different length strips of metal or cane attached to a wooden sounding board. It is played by plucking the strips with the thumb, so it is sometimes called a 'thumb piano'

The *hosho* is a kind of rattle made from a hollowed-out gourd, filled with dried seeds, shells or pebbles. Hoshos can be played in pairs, one in each hand, or can be tied to the ankles of dancers.

The *ngoma* is a drum, traditionally made from a hollowed tree trunk, covered with cow hide, pegged at both ends with wooden pegs. (Although ones made for sale to tourists are covered with zebra skin, which is much cheaper!) Typically, they are played in groups of seven or four drums. Each drum has a different sound or 'voice' and they are treated as individuals.

The *marimba* is a like a large xylophone, with a set of wooden bars struck with yarn-wrapped rubber mallets. Pipes suspended underneath amplify the sound.





HOIT HOLY BIBLE

Craftwork

imbabwe has a rich tradition of art and craftwork: textiles, basketry, metalwork, wood and stone carving, wire and bead work jewellery, and recycled paper products, to name just a few. Sold from roadside stalls and artists' studios, the near collapse of the tourist industry (due to the global economic crisis and internal political problems) has affected the livelihoods of craft producers in Zimbabwe. However, innovative product designers are blending traditional skills with contemporary design, whilst traditional potters are still making functional pots using shapes, decorative motifs and firing techniques that have remained largely unchanged over centuries.

World Day of Prayer

In 1962 Mai* Rev Kachidza of the Methodist Church and Mai Major Nhari of the Salvation Army Church formed the first interdenominational prayer committee meeting. These two leaders saw the need for the wives of the clergy to meet, pray, and get to know each other, so strengthening each other to do God's work. They used their homes as venues for prayer meetings and had a strong sense of identification with the needs of women and children. Many widows would come back from burying their husbands to find their belongings on the street and the house locked against them. If they were foreigners, as many were, they were homeless and without family support.

When Major Nhari and Rev Kachidza protested to local government about the summary evictions they were detained by the police, but they were not deterred and eventually their grievances were heard and a solution found.

The participation of women in WDP meetings continued to grow. Women would meet once a month to discuss issues affecting their communities.

The power inherent in World Day of Prayer Zimbabwe is seen in the tradition of praying and helping the needy in the communities. WDP has grown from churches to schools, from universities to girls' and women's organisations. The circle of prayer and the call to help those in need has rippled out around Zimbabwe.

*Mai can be translated as 'Mrs', but is a title of respect literally meaning 'mother'.



Bulawayo Bites!

Julie Caddick arrived in Rhodesia (as it then was) in September 1964, a child of immigrant parents. She knows no other country as home apart from Zimbabwe, although naturally her upbringing had tones of England and all things English which have influenced the way she sees and lives within Zimbabwe. She is the director of a program at the local Theological College of Zimbabwe seeking to equip lay women leadership for service in the church and community.

She gives us a lively insight into urban life, the challenges of a rapidly changing city, and how she has learned to adapt.

Historically it was the railway hub of the region with a massive infrastructure and teeming light and heavy industrial sites. To all intents and purposes those areas are 'ghost towns' now, shadows of their former selves. It's hard not to grieve for that.

Bulawayo is a beautiful city which presently looks tired and faded and frankly, abused. Years of economic hardship within the country and province have led to a population of over one million, with which it cannot cope. It teems with activity as people try to make a living, no matter how small, and often enough only for the day's needs.

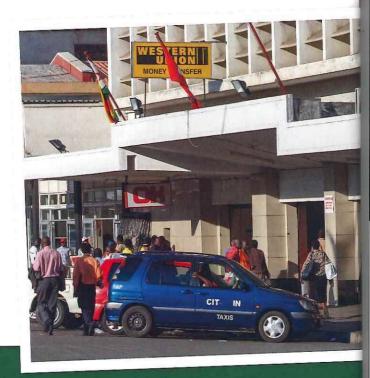
The first challenge of city life is the traffic situation and the standard of driving. My upbringing and age remember there are 'rules of the road' – which were enforced – and where one could almost guarantee that a driver had a licence. Now when I take to the road I gird myself, particularly in the city, and remember that the vehicle in front of me is unlikely to signal any intention to stop or change direction. The rule of the road at an uncontrolled intersection (to give way to the right) has been superseded by 'he who dares wins' at the worst, or at the best 'first there has right of way'!

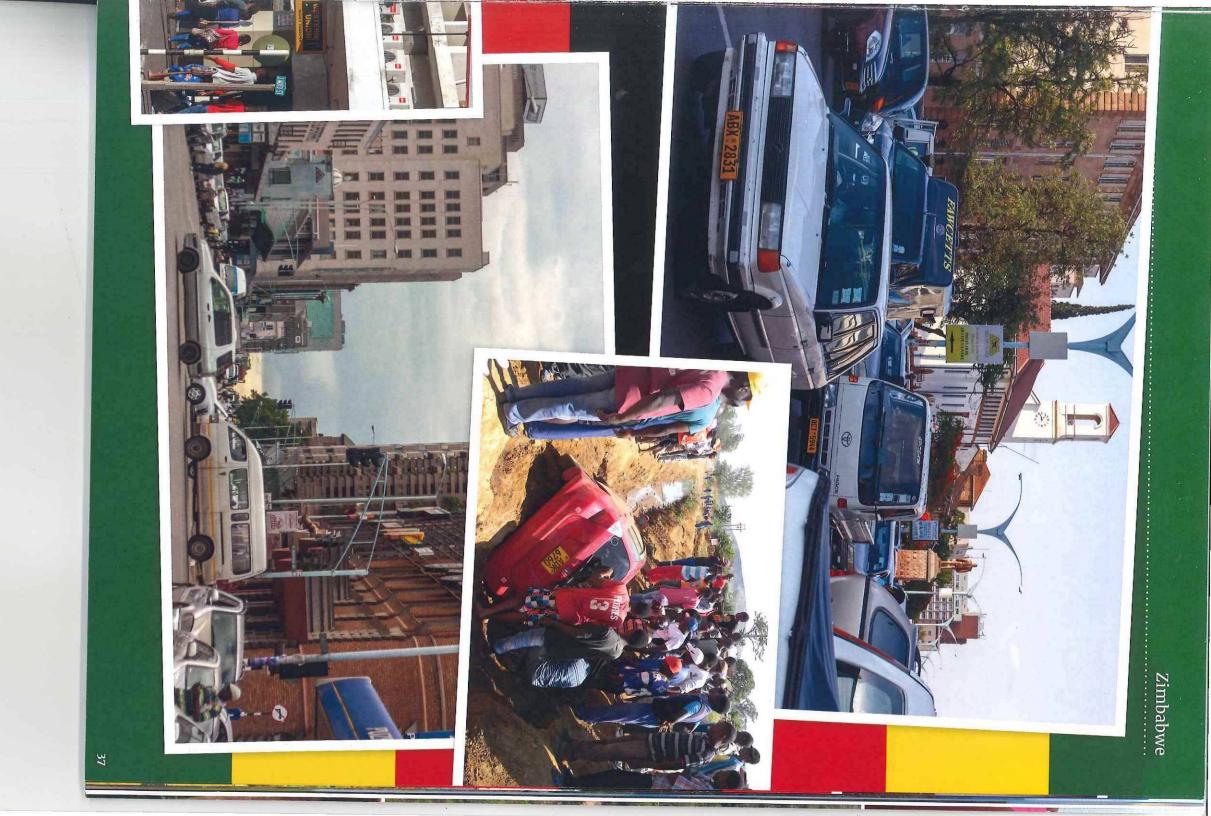
There are thousands upon thousands of cars on the road. In the last few years little, cheap cars such as the Honda Fit have poured in. They are privately owned but operated as taxis often carrying eight passengers. Although there are registered taxis, transport is big business, fiercely and ruthlessly competitive – and successful, due the lack of a public transport system. Routes are jealously defended, not often with violence (though occasionally one witnesses an errant driver who has tried to muscle into an area given a stern talking to by a group of other drivers). Combis (mini buses), licensed to carry 14 passengers carry more and, if children are being transported, more still. However, school buses carrying children are more regulated.

A red light does not necessarily mean a vehicle will stop. If the driver judges he can get through, then he will go. A concrete island down the centre of a dual carriage way is no deterrent to a driver who sees a potential passenger on the other side of the road, so u-turns are skilfully executed, with 'hair's breadth-from-an-accident' precision. Mobile phone use whilst driving is common.

We never travel between towns or cities at night – the danger is too great: from cattle and donkeys, cars travelling without lights or overtaking in the face of on-coming traffic.

For someone who drives every day the experiences described above become natural and a way of life. The first challenge: if I can take these things into consideration, be bold, courageous, unintimidated, focused, not frustrated and calm I can reach my destination unscathed. The second challenge: not to mimic this driving behaviour!



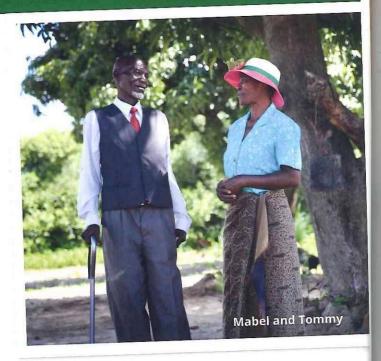


Coming together in Marumisa

'Before we were very lonely here. We were living in a land of foreigners. We were strangers in this land.'

abel and her husband Tommy had not always lived in Marumisa, a rural village near Gokwe in the Midlands province in Zimbabwe. When they arrived in Marumisa they found it hard to settle. They did not speak Shona, the local language, and could not communicate with their new neighbours. The retired grandparents found the social isolation very challenging: it made it difficult to earn the money they needed to live but it also left them feeling rejected. Tommy found this particularly difficult, as he had worked most of his life in teaching or as a clerk. Tommy missed having purpose and connection with others. Slowly, he became depressed and Mabel worried about him as he spent long days in bed sleeping. Tommy, once an active man, became withdrawn and miserable.

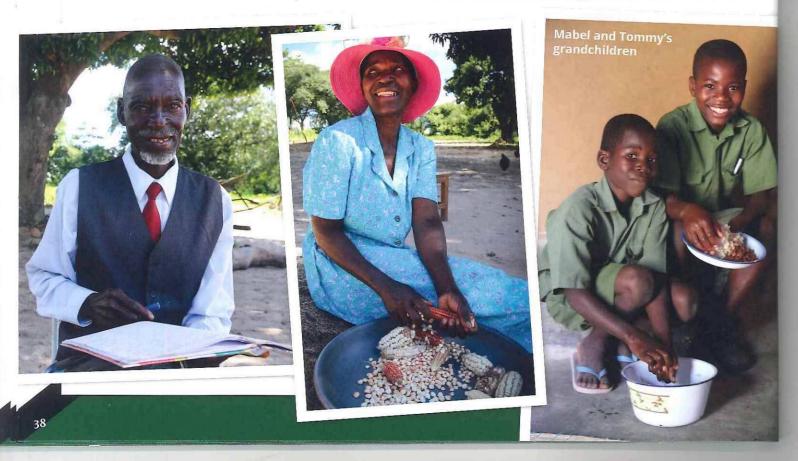
Zimbabwe holds the Guinness World Record for being the country with the highest number of officially recognised languages – 16 in total. In a country with such diversity of culture, language has sometimes been a source of conflict at both a national and local level. Nationally, critics claim too much of an emphasis is placed on the three most widely spoken languages of Shona, Ndebele and English. Locally, language barriers can create the kind of seclusion Tommy and Mabel



experienced. These obstacles are especially pertinent in rural communities that rely so heavily on cooperation to ensure harvests are good so that food can be provided for the family table.

'When we came to Marumisa, a challenge we experienced was that there were a lot of thieves who would take what did not belong to them. I think people do not value who is not part of their family, they will steal from them.'

Change came for Tommy and Mabel through the power of community collaboration. They became part of a small cooperative in their village. The group decided to venture, with support and training, into chicken rearing. Mabel had hoped that the group would provide them with a way to earn some income to support themselves. It did, but











working together with others ended up providing so much more. Mabel said of the experience, 'When we first came here I was alone. Now, with this group, I can be with people. I can greet them. I can call them aunt or I can call them sister. We have been brought together.'

Tommy has found a new sense of purpose as the group's book-keeper and treasurer. He describes himself as enjoying every moment of working in this collective:

'I learnt that I need to learn to work with different types of people. Dismissing each other destroys confidence. What you need to do is work as a team and help each other. The whole concept of coming together matters to me.'

Tommy and Mabel now feel part of the Marumisa community and look forward to each new day and the cooperative is running a thriving small business. Their story serves as an example of how diversity can act as a potential resource in a community to initiate and sustain positive change. The couple, though 'strangers in the land', were able to bring their unique skills and experience to the group, building the group's capacity to succeed. In Zimbabwe, in the past, sometimes diversity and difference have been seen as a political threat nationally. In Marumisa, learning to embrace each other's differences has transformed village life.

Laura Cook, Communications Manager, All We Can

All We Can, an international relief and development charity, is supporting local work to build community through small businesses in Zimbabwe. **Find out more at allwecan.org.uk/zimbabwe**Images © All We Can/Laura Cook

Sadza (serves 4-6)

Method

large pot.

• 1 litre (35 fl oz) water

2. Combine 240g (8oz) of the

about 5 minutes.

shape the sadza.

Rock Shandy

4. Slowly add the remaining

to a serving bowl or plate.

mixture into a round shape.

6. You may use wet hands to help

1. Half fill a tall glass with ice.

3. 2 tbsp lime or lemon juice.

2. Add 3 dashes Angustura bitters.

4. Fill up with soda or sparkling water.

Approx 400g (140z) of cornmeal

1. Bring 3/4 of the water to a boil in a

commeal with the remaining water.

3. Reduce heat to medium to low and

add the cornmeal mixture to the

boiling water, stirring constantly

with a wooden spoon. Cook for

cornmeal. When the mixture is

5. Use a wooden spoon to shape the

very thick and starts to pull away

from the sides of the pan, transfer

Food and Drink

s food has become so international, the majority of the crops grown in Zimbabwe are familiar to us, but some are unusual in Western Europe. Expensive restaurants serve kudu and springbok (kinds of antelope), crocodile and warthog. Two common dried food snacks are kapenta which are tiny dried fish, and biltong, sun-dried, salted meat from beef or antelope, cut into strips.

In the open-air markets you can find a good source of protein in dried mopane worms (spiny caterpillars) and can buy flying ants. Both generally are eaten fried and are said to be chewy and salty. Flying ants can be eaten raw and taste slightly buttery.

In much of Zimbabwe meals are eaten from a common dish. Guests are served first, but diners must take care not to eat too quickly, so food is shared fairly. Generally



- · 2 medium onions
- 50g (20z) butter
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp pepper,
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 green peppers, chopped
- 1 chicken cut into pieces
- 3 4 tomatoes
- 6 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 225g (8oz) fresh spinach
- 1/2 litre (just under 1 pint) water

Method

- 1. Cook onions, then add garlic and seasoning.
- 1. Add green pepper & chicken.
- 2. When chicken is browned, add tomatoes.
- 3. Add water & simmer with half the peanut butter.
- 4. In a separate pan cook the spinach in a little water.
- 5. Add the rest of the peanut butter to the stew. Serve with the spinach.

Cornmeal Cake (serves 12-16)

- 225g (8oz) commeal flour (or maize flour or polenta)
- 1 litre (38 floz) milk
- 2 eggs
- 175g (6oz) butter or margarine
- 110g (4oz) sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla essence
- 150ml (1/4 pint) sour cream

Method

- 1. Heat milk until almost boiling. Allow to cool for 10 minutes.
- 2. Stir in eggs, sugar and 2/3 butter.

- Bring to the boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.
- 3. Stir in the cornmeal, return to heat and cook for 2 minutes, stirring all the while. At this stage it looks like creamy scrambled eggs.
- 4. Remove from heat. Melt and add remaining butter. Stir in flavouring of your choice - vanilla, caramel, ginger, maple, etc.
- 5. Pour mixture into prepared 20cm (8 inch) cake tin, placing a sheet of greaseproof paper across the top of
- 6. Cook in preheated oven, 180 C (350 F) for about 40 mins. It will seem a bit sticky but as it cools it will set.
- 7. Eat warm or cold, with or without a topping of your choice to complement the flavouring - creme fraiche, yoghurt, jam.

Mapopo (Papaya) Candy

- 1 -2 papayas approx. 450g (1lb)
- 400g (14oz) sugar
- Lemon peel, grated
- 1/2 teaspoon mint, dried or fresh

Method

- 1. Peel the papaya and wash well. Slice into little strips.
- 2. Place the papaya, mint, grated lemon and sugar over low heat until the sugar dissolves.
- 3. Cook for 10 minutes, then set aside for half an hour.
- 4. Reheat over medium heat until the mixture crystallizes.
- 5. Remove from heat and, using a spoon and fork, mould into ball or stick shapes.





western utensils are used but in rural areas, sadza may be eaten with fingers: diners wash their hands in the bowl

provided, then use their right hand to break off a piece of

The national dish of Zimbabwe is sadza - made from

cornmeal or maize, cooked slowly until is like porridge. It is

so common that **sadza re masikati** (sadza of the afternoon)

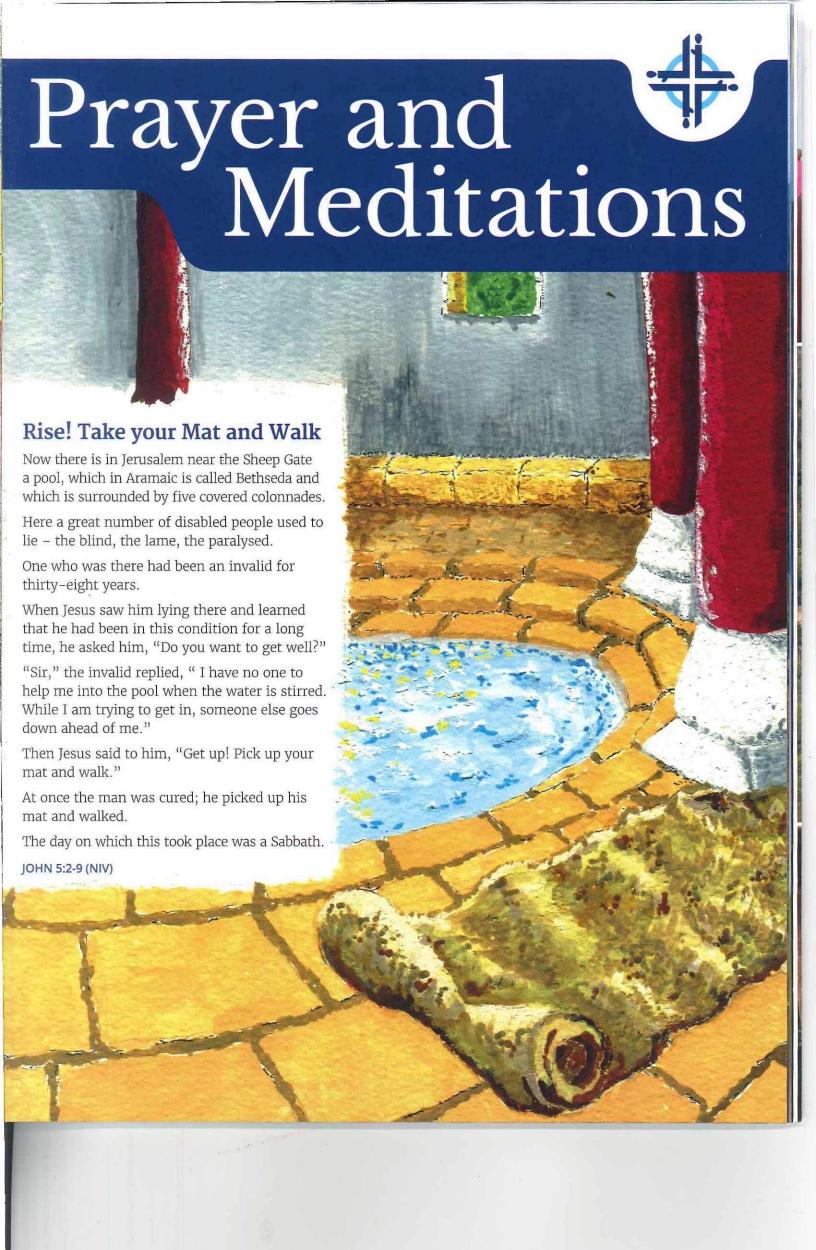
means lunch and **sadza** re **manheruI** (sadza of the evening)

sauce, but any kind of stew: vegetable stew like dovi (peanut

means dinner. Sadza is eaten with 'relish' - not pickled

butter stew) or beef or chicken stew for those better off.

sadza, roll it into a ball and dip it in the relish.



Lord, Why Me?

Surely disability wasn't in your perfect plan for my life.

I pleaded with you many more times than the Apostle Paul Who cried out three times for his "thorn in the flesh" to be removed.

"Listen to my pleading, Lord," I say with the psalmist; "answer my prayers, O Lord.

Do not ignore my cry for help!"

I cry out to the Lord without holding back.

I cried out to the Lord in my suffering; you don't let me sleep;

I am too distressed even to pray.

My sight is blurred because of my tears -

O God whom I praise, don't stand silent and aloof!

I see some, but not all, receiving healing.

You speak to me from your Word, the Bible.

Why not me?

"My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak,

but God remains the strength of my heart;

he is mine forever."

"Praise the Lord - for each day he carries me in his arms."

"The Lord is like a Father to his children,

for he understands how weak we are."

You don't make mistakes;

you knew me when I was formed in my mother's womb.

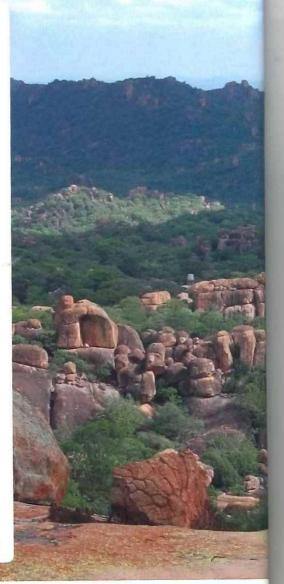
"I am fearfully and wonderfully made!"

Your strength is made perfect in weakness;

your kingdom come, your will be done, O Lord.

Your way will not be easy... but you will be there beside me.

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A Prayer for the Disabled

Used with permission of © Ruth Archer

Our loving heavenly Father, we hold in the mainstream of your love, those whose lives are hampered by disability.

We think of those who are born with a physical impairment, who have never known what it is to have full health and strength. Who, like the man by the pool, have to rely on others to meet their needs.

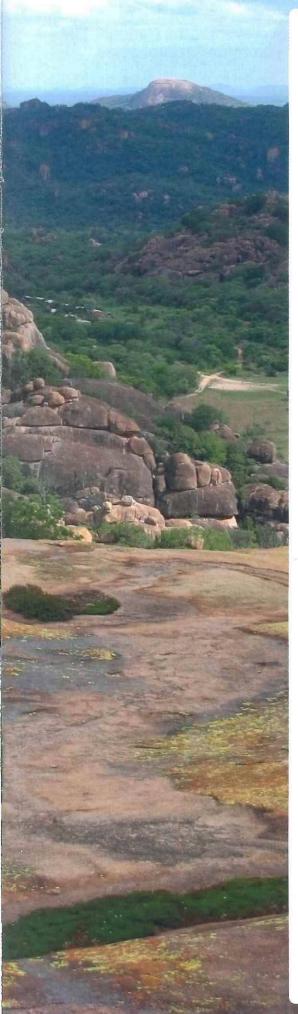
We remember those whose disability is a result of illness or injury, who can remember a time when they had a healthy and active body. Give them your strength to adapt and cope with their life-changing situation.

Healing Lord, we pray for those whose disability is invisible, known only to themselves and their loved ones. We pray that you will give them courage and the grace to cope with the misunderstanding and hurtful remarks of others.

Lord, there are many in our society who suffer from dementia. In their confused and disoriented state, may they know your eternal love, and may your light shine into the fog of their lives. Be with their loved ones who have lost the person they knew and loved; give them the strength and fortitude to continue to love and care for their relation, even though they may no longer be recognised by them.

We pray also for those whose mental health is precarious, who are prey to phobias and fears that they cannot control. Be with their families and carers that they may have compassion in situations that they may not fully understand.

Lord, we are all in need of your healing, in the varied circumstances of our lives. Help us to embrace difference, and to welcome others whatever their situation, that your Kingdom may come here on earth. Amen



Gweddi dros y rhai sydd yn byw gydag Anabledd

O Dduw ein Tad a thad ein Harglwydd a'n Gwaredwr Iesu Grist, ti yw ein craig a'n noddfa, mawrygwn dy enw. Yr wyt yn gweld angen dy blant, ac yn rhoi nerth iddynt. Nid oes terfyn ar dy drugaredd ac ni phalla dy dosturiaethau. Gofynnwn i ti yn awr ein cynorthwyo i ddangos cariad i bawb sydd yn byw gydag anabledd. Na ad i ni eu trin yn ddirmygus, nac i siarad yn ddilornus am y rhai sydd yn byw bob dydd mewn poen. Mawr yw dy ffyddlondeb a'th gymorth tuag atynt. Nid oes terfyn ar dy drugaredd. Yr wyt yn gymorth parod i'r rhai sydd yn disgwyl oddi wrthyt, bydd yn gymorth i'r rhai sydd yn gobeithio ynot, yn disgwyl yn dawel ac yn amyneddgar am dy arweiniad a'th nerth. Disgwyliant am iachawdwriaeth yr Arglwydd. Bydd yn gysgod i bawb sydd dan bwys a gwres y dydd. Bydd wrth law i gymryd cyfran o'u dioddefaint gan gredu yn nioddefaint y Crist a fu farw drosom ar Groes Calfaria.

Trwy dy air gall y tywyllwch droi yn olau ddydd. Cynnal ni yn ein pryder a nertha ni yn awr ein prawf. Cofiwn "Deuwch ataf fi, bawb sy'n flinedig ac yn llwythog, ac fe roddaf fi orffwysfa i chwi.." (Mathew 11:28)

O Dduw, yr hwn sydd yn ein gwaredu cymer y rhai sydd yn byw gyda anabledd a'u plethu i wead dy bwrpas cariadus gan y credwn na all dim ein gwahanu ni oddi wrth dy gariad di yn Iesu Grist.

Yn enw Iesu Iachawdwr y byd rho inni dy dangnefedd. Amen
Parchg Carys Ann

Those living with disability

God our Father, and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, you are our rock and our refuge, we magnify your name. You see the needs of your children and give them strength. Your mercy knows no bounds and your compassion never fails. We ask you now to help us to show love to all those who are living with a disability. May we not treat them scornfully, or speak disrespectfully of those who live in pain every day. Great is your help and your faithfulness towards them. Your mercy is boundless. You are ready to help those who wait on you. Be a help to those who hope in you, and wait patiently and quietly for your strength and guidance. They wait for the salvation of the Lord. Be a shelter for those who suffer the strain and stress of the day. Be near to them to share in their suffering, believing in the suffering of Christ who died for us on the cross of Calvary.

Your Word can turn darkness into daylight. Support us in our troubles and strengthen us when we are tempted. Let us remember "come unto me all who are weary and bearing heavy burdens and I will give you rest." (Mathew 11:28)

O God our Saviour, weave those who are living with disability into the fabric of your loving purpose since we believe that nothing can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ.

In the name of Jesus, Saviour of the world, give us your peace. Amen.

> Rev'd Carys Ann. Kindly translated from the Welsh by Beryl Jones

Prayer and Meditations

Zimbabwe Prayer

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!"

"O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!"

We never cease to marvel at the wonder of your unique creation.

We praise you for the high veldt, the mountains, and the mighty Zambesi river;

For the awesome spectacle of the Victoria Falls, and the lunar rainbows adorning the evening.

From the sandstone cliffs to the low flood plains, from the majesty of granite to the rain-soaked eastern highlands,

We praise you for the splendour of all you have made.

We thank you too for a land teeming with life – with elephants, crocodiles and giraffe; with deer, antelope and baboons; with lions, cheetahs, civet, aardvark and bears. And the vibrant variety of the birds you have given us – from the tiny hammerhead to the soaring eagle.

And yet we know that amid the beauty, the ugliness of famine threatens a land where the seasons yield less, as the soil is robbed of its nutrients. We see the widening gap between rich and poor. We see the rampant inflation which has destroyed the national currency.

We cry to you for political and financial stability. We plead for fertile, productive farms. We long for justice, mercy for all, and restoration for this land.

Lord, hear our prayers. And let our cry come to you.

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A prayer for the National Committee in Zimbabwe

Our Father, as we look forward to the Day of Prayer in 2020, we ask you kindly to bless the preparations that are taking place for it. We pray especially for members of the Zimbabwe National Committee in their efforts to prepare, under the guidance of your Holy Spirit, a service that will guide our people throughout the whole world to the living waters of the Word and join them in a wave of world-wide prayer. Open their hearts and thoughts so they may feel the warmth of your presence beside them. Help them to have trust in your care for them. Sustain and strengthen them in their work and mission. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Rev'd Beti-Wyn James



Be Still

Be still and know that I am God Be still and free from care, And let no anxious thought come nigh, Jesus, my Lord, is there

For when He walked the earth with men and fear filled every heart, His loving Word came, sweet and clear – Come ye, yourself, apart

The storm will rage and all seem dark But there is peace within, There in the quiet room apart, He whispers "you are Mine"

There, let His Love flow over you As at His feet you bow, The Truth indeed, shall make you free His Peace surround you now

So gently will He come to you With hands outstretched to bless, Rest in His Love, your hand in His, Go forth, for ever blessed.

Beryl Cosens

For the Women and Children of Zimbabwe

Heavenly Father, we pray for the women and children of Zimbabwe who have endured so much hardship over many years. Through many conflicts they are the ones who have tried to keep home and hearth together when their menfolk have gone away to war, or died through ethnic cleansing or AIDS or, in peace time, when they have gone to find work. It has been women and often, children, who are left to look after the family, usually in extreme poverty. Lord, it is beyond our western understanding how these women and children have survived at all – we can only stand in awe of them and praise and thank You that You have indeed been faithful to Your Word, and have been their Comforter and their Help. We thank You that You have enabled them to rise, take up their mat and walk.

Beryl Cosens

Gweddi dros pobl Zimbabwe yn eu hymdrechion ymarferol i ddod o hyd i heddwch, cariad a chymod

Dduw Cariadus,

Gweddiwn dros ein cyfeillion yn Zimbabwe a'u hymdrechion i ddarganfod heddwch, cariad a chymod.

Rho iddynt dy arweiniad yn eu hymchwil am ffyrdd ymarferol o hybu perthynas iach rhwng pobl â'i gilydd;

i garu'r di-gyfaill,

i gofleidio'r gwrthodedig,

i gario'r di-hyder,

i gynnal y di-ymgeledd

ac i fod yn ofalus o'i gilydd.

Arwain hwy i ymddiried yn dy gariad iachusol,

ac i wybod dy fod, trwy eu hymdrechion,

yn sianelu dy ras i eraill.

Defnyddia eu hymdrechion i feithrin cymdeithas, a fydd yn codi pontydd rhwng pobl, cymunedau a chenhedloedd â'i gilydd,

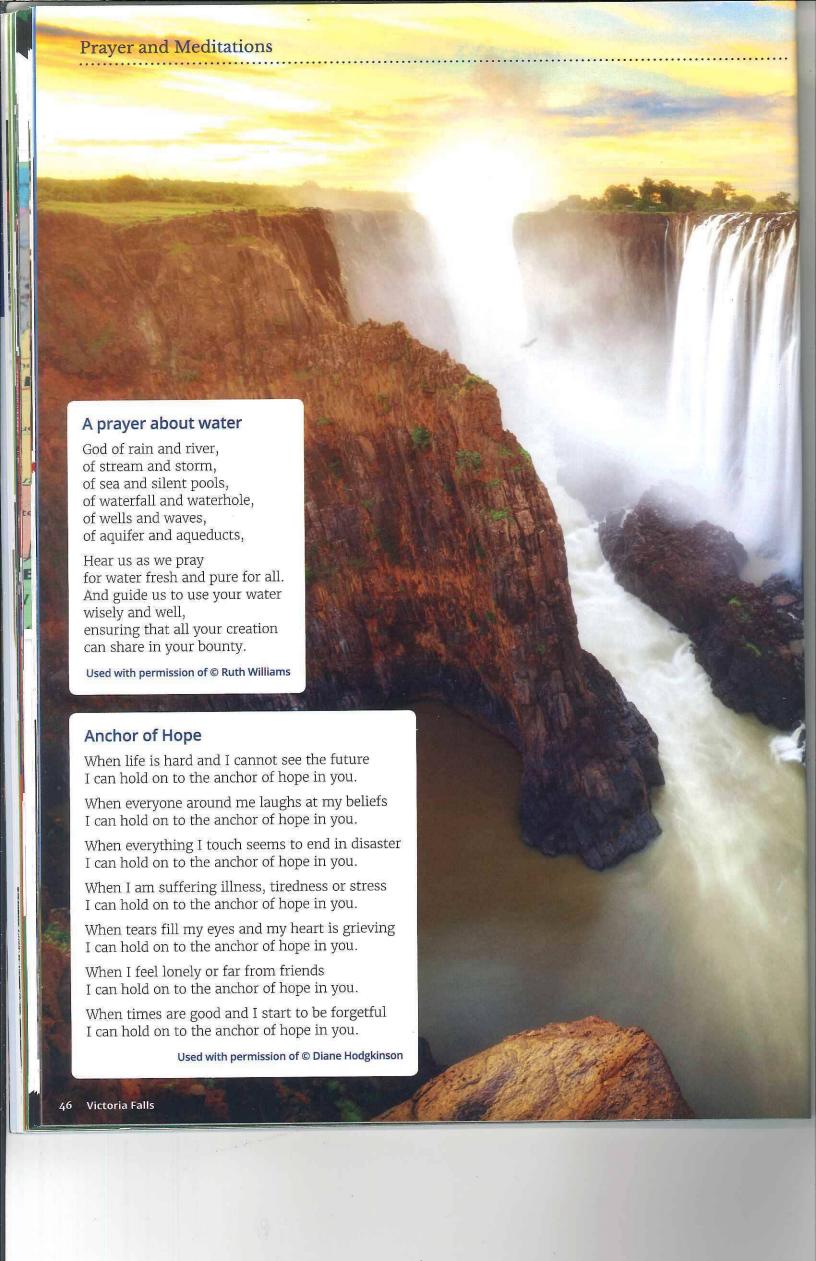
fel y cerir pawb yn ddiwahân

fel y cawsom ein caru gennyt ti O Dad.

Yn enw Iesu Grist. Amen

Parchg Beti-Wyn James

Translation available on website wwdp.org.uk



Reflection about God's gifts shown through Water:

God of rest: Leads me beside still waters

Psalm 23

God of new life: That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season *Psalms 1*

God of power: Moses held out his hand and God sent a strong wind that drove the sea back

Exodus 14

God of the past: Long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water.

2 Peter.

God of now: Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

Numbers 20

God of the future: Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God.

Revelation 22

Jesus stills fear: He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. **Luk**

Jesus gives joy: The master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. **John 2**

Jesus satisfies need: Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. **John 4**

Jesus shows care: After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet. **John 13**

Water as a sign: Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him.

Mark 14

Water as a symbol: When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. *Matthew 27*

Water as a blessing: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3

Christine Miles

Not Such a Silly Question! Meditation on John 5: 1 - 9

"Do you want to be made well?" Jesus asked

"What a silly question!" I thought. "Surely anyone who had been ill or disabled for 38 years would jump at the chance to be made whole again.

But the man didn't say, "Yes please." Instead he gave a reason – an excuse maybe – as to why he hadn't already sought healing.

Maybe he had an inkling that, whilst being made whole might make his life more interesting, it wouldn't make it any easier!

We don't know anything about the man and his circumstances but we can assume that he lived with his family – his parents at first, then one of his brothers (probably the eldest) – and that they took full responsibility for him, providing him with a home, food, clothing and personal care. A family member would have carried him to the pool each day and brought him home later.

However, if he were healed, life would change dramatically for him. First of all, he would be expected to take responsibility for himself and to pay his own way. He would need to find a job – not easy for an older man with no experience and no skills. Then it would probably be suggested that he might find a wife and start his own household and family. Huge changes for a man used to being looked after and most likely very set in his ways! I wonder how he got on.

When Jesus comes into our lives, he brings wholeness. Wholeness brings freedom and joy but it brings responsibilities too.

Do you truly want to be made well? In this question Jesus is also asking:

Are you willing to accept the disruption to your settled lifestyle this might bring?

Do you value feeling safe and unchallenged more than risking change and possible failure to become everything you are capable of being?

Jesus told the man to pick up his mat and walk because he would never need his mat to be at the side of the pool again. His days, months and years of waiting for something to happen were over.

Elizabeth Burroughs

By the Pool

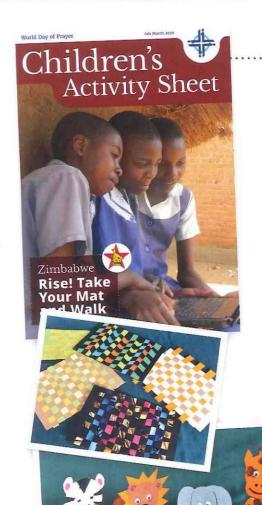
Lying by this pool each day, I had been here for years. At times, with sheer frustration, my eyes filled up with tears. When the water is stirred up, the first one in is healed Of whatever wrong there is inside, their happiness is sealed.

How I longed to be the one to enter that stirred pool. Because I could not move at all, I lay there like a fool. There was no one to put me in, but I heard people say That someone called Jesus would be travelling this way.

A man stood beside me, with compassion he looked down.
"How long have you been like this?" he asked with a troubled frown.
"38 years" I said to him, he said "Get up and walk."
Strength entered my body, we stood face to face to talk.

I knew that it was Jesus when he said these words to me. "Make sure you do not sin again, for worse things there can be. Tell no one I healed you." Then he went his way. To walk again and live my life; I'll not forget that day.

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For the Children

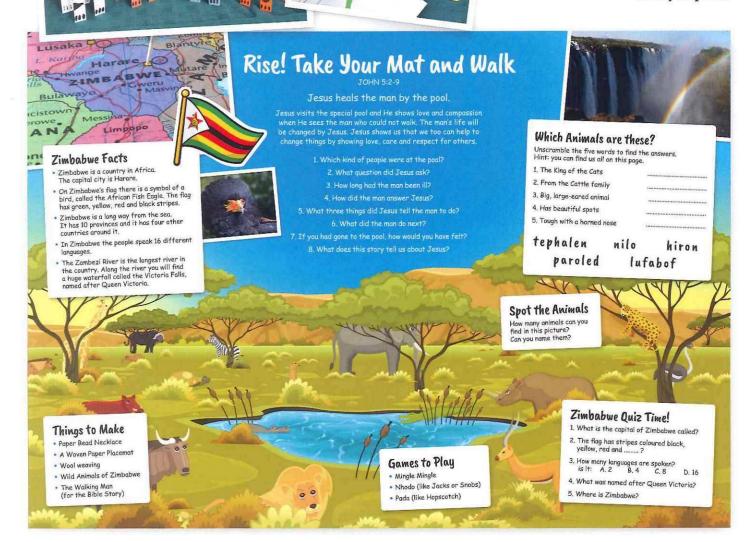
As usual, our children's materials offer a mixture of activities suitable for all children in the primary age range.

ith activities, games and crafts, in our Children's Material you will find plenty of ideas that can be adapted for use in many different ways. Whether you have a small number of children or a larger organised group such as Girls' Brigade, Messy Church, Sunday School or crèche; whether individuals or a mix of ages – there will be something for you.

The theme of Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk is brought to life through the simple telling of the Bible story, with some ideas on how to make mats and figures to enhance the telling, and to emphasise how Jesus can change things through love. Zimbabwe is an African country with many challenges, but for children Africa usually conjures up images of wild animals – so this is a focus for some animal craft ideas, plus some fact-finding and problem solving. A school drama set in Zimbabwe is available to download from the website and this can be used with older children, which could then lead to discussions at a higher level.

In the Leaders' Resource which accompanies the Children's Activities pages there are clear instructions for each activity and guidance for games and drama. Everything you will need can be easily provided and so... let the fun begin!

Wendy Hopcroft



hat a difference a year makes! The weather was certainly a lot kinder to us on the first Friday in March 2019 and the majority of planned services took place, resulting in a lot of prayer going around the world for Slovenia. We have received some lovely photographs from the services and a lot of wonderful reports. Some of these appear in this magazine, others will appear on our website. Do remember to take a look. The Slovenian honey biscuits certainly went down well and the carnations were gratefully received. It was really good to hear of the fellowship that took place when making the carnations for the service. The prayers continue for Slovenia; may the Slovenians feel the wave over them.

National Committee – As with many committees there are always changes and this year the WDP Committee is



no exception. We have said goodbye to several members who have left the committee whether through ill health or having come to the end of their term on the National Committee: Wendy Hopcroft, Moravian Church; Irene Hayes, Methodist Church; Janice Reid, Church of God of Prophecy; Heather Pencavel, United Reformed Church. Wendy has been on the committee for nine years and during this time has been an Appointed Officer and in charge of the production of the materials for Children and Leaders of Children's Groups; Irene Hayes, whose help with the social media and website has been invaluable, is unable to continue on the committee due to other commitments; Janice Reid and Heather Pencavel both feel unable to continue on the committee. We thank them all for their contribution to the Movement and wish them all well for the future. We welcome Irene Cade, Christian

> Brethren; Ana Gobledale, United Reformed Church; Stephanie Grant, Religious Society of Friends; and Gwen Wildman, Welsh Speaking Churches, to the committee and look forward to getting to know them as they begin their journey with WDP.

At the Annual General Meeting in May Carole Bourne and Muriel Stonehewer were voted in as Appointed Officers for a one-year period.

New Resources for 2019 can be found on page 52. As well as accepting cheque GIFT AID 2018 £12,500 Thank you!

Thank you again for gift aiding.
This helps so much in enabling the
National Committee to give out
more in grants to Christian charities
world wide. A list of grants given in
2018 is on the facing page.

payments, we are able to take card payments for orders over £10. Please telephone the office if you wish to pay this way. You can also use your card to order materials online at

www.wwdp.org.uk.

If you are outside the UK please contact the office either by email or phone before placing any order to check the cost of postage.

Our World Day of Prayer journey for 2020 takes us to Africa. Zimbabwe, the land-locked country about twice the size of the UK, has savanna, mountains and tropical forests with immense beauty and diverse flora and fauna. Rise! Take your Mat and Walk is the call with the focus on Peace, Reconciliation and Love. I pray this for Zimbabwe and the world as a whole.

Yours in Christ, Mary

More Prayer Resources on our Website The many prayers that we did not have room to publish here can be found in the Prayer Resource on our website, for you to read, download or print for use throughout the year. www.wwdp.org.uk

			QUANTITY	COST
Together in Prayer no. 37	(this booklet) containing material for 2020 service	£3 00 each		
Together in Prayer no. 38	(Vanuatu - ready September 2020)	£3 00 each		
WDP Badge	with safety clasp Silve	er £1 50 each		
	Gol	ld £1 50 each		
WDP Silver Pendant		£4 00 each		
WDP Candle	(height 15cm)	£4 00 each		
WDP Fridge Magnet		£3 00 each		
Prayer Card	(various designs)	30p each		
WDP Car Sticker	'First Friday in March'	50p each		
WDP Folding Shopping Bag		£3 00 each		
WDP Hessian Bag		£5 00 each		
NEW RESOURCES	on Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk – Zimbabwe			
Bookmark		30p each		
All Occasion Card		60p each		
Compact Disc	Hymns/songs for 2020 service	£5 00 each		
CD Rom	PowerPoint presentation pictures of Zimbabwe with scr	ript £2 00 each		
Stationery	Headed Notepaper (pad of 40 sheets)	FREE		
	Postcards for calling Committees (pack of 25)	FREE		
COST OF STOCK			Sub-total	
POSTAGE	Please add 10% of stock total for postage*		Postage	
*For orders from outside UK please contact the office for postage charges - office@wwdp org uk or 01892 541411				

Send completed form with cheque made payable to World Day of Prayer to: WDP, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2RR

Name Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Revd

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GRANTS ALLOCATED IN 2018

CORE GRANTS	£	INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS			
28 Too Many	5,000	World Day of Prayer European Committee	500		
PROJECT GRANTS Feed the Minds	5,000	World Day of Prayer International Committee WDP workshop, Albania WDP National Committee of Suriname (writing country for 2018	11,471 5,000 10,000		
Bible Society Seed International Fund Trust (SIFT)	4,000	OTHER DONATIONS			
Embrace the Middle East USPG – India	2,000 3,000 2,500	RNIB WDP Welsh Committee	4,000 7,500		
The Leprosy Mission PartnerAid International					
Wycliffe Bible Quakers All We Can Quakers - Congo Evangelical Church Guinea - Bissau Christian Solidarity in Nigeria Global Care Christian Blind Mission Quakers - Tanzania Emmanuel Int - Uganda Mission 4 Water Mission without Borders Green Christian Burslem Methodist Mission Hope UK	5,000 3,000 2,000 1,150 2,500 2,000 3,000 5,000 4,000 2,500 2,000 2,000 3,250 1,200	SPCK Sunday School Council Cymdeithas Y Cymod – Reconciliation Society North Wales Society for the Blind Cristion – Interdenominational Magazine Y Tyst – Union of Welsh Independents Newspaper Cytun – Churches Together in Wales Stori'r Nadolig – Christmas Story Y Gwyliedydd – Methodist Bi-Monthly Magazine Capel Cana A Bancyfelin Llyfrau Llafar Cymru – Wales Talking Books Cyfundeb Annibynwyr Gorllewin Caerfyrddin – Union of Welsh Independents Congregational Churches Cell Caerdydd – Cymdeithas Y Cymon – Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales	3,000 1,100 750 400 500 400 500 250 1,500 250 1,000 900		
Haven Day Centre	1,000	Gwasg Ilston Seren Cymru – Baptist Newspaper	400		

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION AND SCRIPT



CD Rom containing PowerPoint presentation with script – £2 each



CD of music for 2020 Service - £5 each



Magnet - £3 each



Zimbabwe Bookmark - 30p each



Prayer Cards - 30p each





Candle - £4 each



WDP Hessian Bag - £5 each



Badges – £1.50 each



Car Sticker - 50p each

Visit our website at www.wwdp.org.uk

Our colourful and easy-to-use website gives useful information and background to our Movement and lists some of the local services taking place each year. From the website homepage follow the links to add details of your service.



