

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Written by the WGD Committee of Suriname 4 March 2018 "Everything God has made is very good!"

## Children's program

**Orientation** The children's program is planned for children between the ages of 4 and 13. To lead the program, you can invite a teenager or adult to be the narrator and five children who represent the ethnic diversity of Surinamese people.

Tokoro (Indigenous girl) carries a percussion instrument (maraca), Kwame (Maroon boy) carries a jar wrapped in a cloth, Liang (Chinese girl) carries a bag of plastic bottles with soda or other liquor, Viresh (Hindu boy) carries a percussion instrument (drum or tabla), Samanie (Javanese girl) carries a basket covered with a cloth.

If possible, reserve three areas in the room where the children will meet during the cultural part of the program. Make a special decoration or a sign to mark the places so that the public knows where they are: Kwame's front yard, Chinese shop, Sunday school.

### Decoration

Place a black cloth on the half of the table representing darkness and a blue cloth on the other half representing seawater. Place on the black cloth (darkness) an empty round glass bowl to depict that the earth was empty and dark. Also, on the blue cloth, place an empty round glass bowl with a tealight or candle in it, representing the light (sun, moon, stars) that God created. Place sand on the edge of the blue cloth to indicate the separation of the sea and the earth. Place seeds, petals and paper clippings or toy animals on the sand. On the blue cloth place paper clippings or toy animals that live in the sea. Make a simple mobile with birds or butterflies and hang them in the room. Make an arc from a flexible piece of wood or plastic tube and bend it over the blue cloth and attach it to the table legs. Make enough paper birds or butterflies to hang from the arch.

A flag of Suriname can be attached to the cloth at the front of the table. Or use balloons or garlands in the colors of the Surinamese flag (green, white, red and yellow).

### Bible story

The most important Bible text is Genesis 1:1-31. Prepare the material needed in advance for each participant in the story.

**Material:** Cloths of about 2 meters. The white cloth represents the light; the black cloth the darkness; and the light blue cloth, the sea. Have some real (or pictures of) tree branches, plants and flowers; stuffed animals and paper clippings of the sun (yellow), and moon (white).

**Story telling:** Practice the role play with the children so that the story will be an enthusiastic presentation. In italics between the brackets you will find instructions for the actions performed by the children. The narrator should not read these instructions aloud during the presentation. The narrator should involve the listeners. For example, they can place the paper figures on the wall or on the arch. They can imitate the animal sounds and name some of the animals made.

## Play and craft

Enter the following activities at the right time in your program.

### Interactive quiz

Material: Prepare green and red paper squares. Red indicates 'wrong' and green indicates 'right'. Ask some questions that represent the right and wrong attitudes that affect the care of God's creation.

The goal is that the children will learn what is good or bad for the environment, by holding up the right colored paper and explaining the influence of the posture. For example: we throw bacoven peels in a special container for plant and fruit residues? (A green piece of paper must be lifted). Why do we need to do this? (Let the children answer).

When we eat in the car, do we throw the garbage out the window? (A red square must be lifted). What do we do with it? (Let the children answer).

### Milieuspel



The game was created by Alice Pomstra-Elmont, the same artist who painted the artwork for the WDP 2018 program. It gave the WDPIC and WGD National Committees permission to translate and reproduce the game for the WGD programs. You must please acknowledge copyright when reproducing it. The cardboard and instructions for the game are in a separate file.

Goal of the game: to raise awareness of how children can contribute to the care of creation through simple practical examples.

### Handicraft activity

Remind children of the importance of caring for God's creation and that recycling or reuse is good for the environment. Plastic bottles can be recycled into a flower pot (activity for children aged 8-13 years) or a jar to collect small things (activity for children aged 4-7 years).



Material: large plastic bottles (approx. 1.5 liters), sturdy piece of yarn or thread and permanent markers and scissors. If possible, take soil, seeds to plant and leaves, flowers, seeds, glue, tape or nots to decorate the pot.

Hanging flower pot: draw a rectangle on the bottle and cut it out. Make two holes in the bottle just below the opening that was made. Thread the thread/yarn through the holes and tie a knot at the top. Make a number of holes in the bottle under the rectangular opening so that when watering the plant, the water can drain out. If possible, plant with the children and let them take it home.



Vase: Cut out half of a large plastic bottle (1.5 liters) and use the lower part for the jar. Let the children decorate the pot with leaves, flowers or seeds. Help them glue, stick or tee the decorations on the pot.

### Children's program

**Theme song of the children's program:** Mi môi kondre. Lyrics and music by Reza Karg.  
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### Welkomswoord

### Openingsgebed

**Narrator:** Suriname is located in the northern part of South America. Along the coast of Suriname flows the Atlantic Ocean. Suriname's neighboring countries are French Guiana, Brazil and Guyana. In Suriname you have children of different origins. They can be Indigenous or from African descendants, Chinese, Dutch, Hindustani and Javanese. (*You can show the people from alicé Pomstra-Elmont's artwork*). Although Dutch is the official language of Suriname, the most common language for everyone is Sranan, but each group also speaks their own mother tongue (*proposal: ask what their mother tongue is*).

Today we introduce you to some of our populations. We will start with the indigenous peoples because they are the first inhabitants of Suriname. Most of them live in the rainforest where they feed on hunting, fishing and planting. Some of them have moved to the city and now live in the capital Paramaribo, where they go to school. May I introduce you to Tokoro.

**Tokoro:** Hi, I'm Tokoro. I am 8 years old. When I was 6 years old, I moved with my parents from the interior to Paramaribo, so that I could go to school. There is not a school everywhere in the interior and often we have to walk long distances to get there. But the schools in the city are overcrowded. Sometimes there are not enough tables, chairs or books for all students. Still, I really like the school.

**Child 1:** Let's pray. We thank you, Lord, for we enjoy learning. We pray that education at all levels will be accessible to all children in our country.

**Narrator:** Tokoro goes to church every week. This week there is a special party. World Day of Prayer is celebrated today. This happens every year. In this celebration you will hear about the children of a certain country. This year everyone will pray with the Surinamese children. Tokoro likes to invite her friends to go to church with her. Today she invited Kwame, a Maroon boy.

**Narrator:** Kwame's family lived in the Maroon communities in the rainforest, in the interior of Suriname. In the past, the rainforest and rivers were not polluted. But his family had to flee to the capital to escape the war in the interior. In the city, he began to tell people what was happening to the rivers in their community.

**Song: Wan odi di wi de bari yu.** Text and Music: © Mavis Noordwijk. Used with permission.

*(Kwame and Tokoro come forward with a jar wrapped in a pangi/scarf)*

**Tokoro:** Hello Kwame. Fa waka? How are you doing? What do you have there?

**Kwame:** This is Afingi soup for the celebration. It is a soup of wild meat and cassava balls that we, Maroons, love very much. Inland we ate it with fish from the river. That's really tasty!

**Tokoro:** Cool! I heard my parents say that there is gold in the interior.

**Kwame:** yes! But my village is worried because the miners wash the gold with mercury in the river. It pollutes our rivers. It would be good to tell everyone about it so they stop.

**Tokoro:** That's bad for the river, the fish and for us too. I will help you to tell others.

**Child 2:** Let's pray. We pray to the Lord for the protection of the forests, rivers, fish and minerals that are on earth. Help us learn how to live with it without destroying the earth.

**Narrator:** Tokoro and Kwame walk to the Chinese store. There Liang comes out with a bag of soda in plastic bottles. Liang is a Chinese girl. The shop, which is owned by her father, used to belong to her great-grandfather, who came from China a long time ago to work in the coastal region of Suriname. Many of the Chinese remained in Suriname, as did Liang's great-grandfather.

**Tokoro:** Hi Liang, we have come to take you to the celebration. What do you bring for the World Day of Prayer celebration?

**Liang:** Hello Tokoro, Hello Kwame. I take soda with me, but I have to return the plastic bottles. My friends and I collect the bottles for our school. The bottles are collected by a collector and sent to a recycling factory. There they are shredded into small pieces to be reused.

**Kwame:** let's do it in our church too! Let's clean our yards and streets of the plastic bottles!

**Child 3:** Let's pray. Lord, help us prevent disease in our communities by keeping our streets and yards clean of trash and discarded plastic products.

**Song: Worship theme song: San Gado du, reti tru!** Lyrics and Music: Herman Snijders. Composed at the invitation of WGD Suriname. © WDPIC and 2018 WGD Suriname.

**NARRATOR:** Just as the three children are about to leave, they see two of their friends arriving. They are Viresh, a Hindu boy and Samanie, a Javanese girl. Their ancestors also came to work as contract workers in Suriname a long time ago, and they have chosen to continue living in Suriname. Both children have brought something with them.

**Tokoro:** Hello Viresh and Samanie. What do you have there?

**Viresh:** This is a tabla. It is a drum from India. With this I will make music during the celebration.

**Samanie:** I brought bakabana, for the celebration of the world day of prayer. My simba, grandma, made them. What do you take with you?

**Tokoro:** I have two maracas! I will play them when we sing. Let's go now otherwise we'll come late.

**Narrator:** The children go to church happy.

**Child 4:** Let's pray. Thank you, God, that, despite our differences in faith, population and culture, we can live in peace with each other.

**Theme song: Creator of the whole World. Genesis 1:31.** Text and arr: Mavis Noordwijk. Composed at the invitation of WGD Suriname. © WDPIIC and 2018 WGD Suriname.

**Narrator:** Tokoro, Kwame and Liang arrive and greet everyone present. They put their treats on a table and sit down. Today, the celebration of World Day of Prayer is about "All that God has made is good!" Let's listen to a Bible story about the creation of God from the book of Genesis chapter 1.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was a chaotic and shapeless mass *(two children take a few steps forward. They hold the black cloth firmly at the four ends and quickly move it up and down. A blue cloth symbolizing the sea is spread on the floor by two other children).*

And the Spirit of God roamed the mass of waters *(The narrator blows through the microphone while the children move the black cloth up and down)*. Over the waters was deep darkness *(the black cloth is held above the bluecloth)*. Then God said, "Let there be light." *(Children hold the white cloth above the water.)* And then there was light. God saw that the light was good. He was content with it and separated the light from the darkness. God called the light, "day," and the darkness "night." Together they form the first day of God's creation.

Then God created the oceans, and between the oceans He created land, and on land all kinds of trees and plants *(Oceans are illustrated by children moving a blue cloth, like waves of water, others keep plants and branches of trees)* And God was happy, because He saw that it was good.

God spoke and everything happened just as He wanted. He didn't need anything else to make his beautiful creation. God is so good and kind. He also wants us to say to Him, "Lord God, You are so wonderful. Thank you for all the beautiful things you have made for us." Shall we do that together? "Lord God, you are so wonderful. Thank you for all the beautiful things you have made for us.

"Then God let a great light shine over the day and called it "the sun" *(a child holds up a picture of the sun)* and at night a shimmering moon *(a child holds up a picture of the moon)*. In the sky he puts millions of stars *(a child holds up a picture of the stars)*. And so the world began.

He then filled the oceans with fish, crabs, sharks, whales and other creatures. Above the land, the birds, butterflies, bees and bats replenished the air. *(Pictures of these animals are placed on the wall)*. It was only through his spoken words that God created all these animals. God looked at them with pleasure and blessed them. Can you also name a few species of birds and fish? How do the birds fly *(make the children move with their arms)*. And how do the fish swim *(let the children make fishing movements with their hands against each other)*. God created them all. God said to them: Multiply, make sure your number grows and fills the earth.

On the fifth day, God made all kinds of wild animals, cattle, and crawling things *(horses, elephants, giraffes, goats, dogs, chickens and cows, lizards, lettuce, etc. are placed on a large plate or stuck on the wall)*. And God saw that it was good and He was satisfied.

But on the sixth day, God also created something beautiful. He said, "Let us make men to be caretakers of all life on earth, the heavens, and the sea." And God then created the children of the world. And we are all so different from each other. And God loves us all. **Let's look at each other and say, "Everything God has made is very good!"** (*Motivate the children to repeat the action among themselves and end with a big and joyful embrace*).

On the seventh day, God rested. Everything that exists, man and nature owes its life to God. He blessed all living things and said that nature and animals are good. Now let's thank God for His goodness, kindness, and love.

**Child 5** - Lord God, we thank you for the beautiful earth you have given us. Forgive us if we don't take good care of it and if we don't show love for our neighbors. Help us take better care of our environment and nature, and help us to tell our friends to do the same.

**Collection:** Collect the collection while singing, pray and thank you for it

**Song:** Choose an appropriate song to exit the program.

**Finalprayer:** Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us. "*(You may have a group of children who recite the prayer in their mother tongue and another group who recite it in Sranan)*".

Wi Tata after heaven (Our Father, in Sranan).

Wi Tata after heaven! Yu nen mu de Santa! Yu kondre mu could! Yu wani mu go doro na grontapu, so leki na hemel!

Gi wi tide da nyanyan fu wi! Gi wi pardon fu den ogri, di wi du, so leki wi tu de gi pardon na den suma, disi du wi ogri!

No meki wi kon na ini tesi! Ma puru wi na da ogriwan! Bikasi ala kondre de fu Yu, èn ala tranga nanga glori de fu Yu, têgo Amen.