



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 1st March 2013

Written by the Christian women of France

INFORMATION BOOKLET



'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'



PRESIDENT & SECRETARY SAY HELLO

Greetings everyone

The past year has been a particularly busy one and it is time to prepare for the 2013 service – time seems to fly!

WDP Ireland received an invitation from the Executive Committee of World Day of Prayer to send 2 delegates to the WDP International Conference in the Inter – Church Building New York in June 2012. We, Eilis O'Malley President and Joan Forsdyke Hon. Secretary, were both honoured to be elected by the General Committee to attend. This Quinquennial Conference brought together 224 women from 103 countries from 7 global areas: Africa, Asia, Europe, Caribbean/ North America, Latin America, Middle East, and the Pacific.

The aim of the meeting was to worship and celebrate together, study the Bible, report on WDP world-wide, elect new office bearers, and to work together on the theme 'Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 5:24) Through your generosity, as well as all the donations to various charities, WDP Ireland donated €550.00 to help fund a delegate from a country with financial difficulties.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet, learn about and to enjoy the company of our sisters from around the world. Remembering that WDP is a 'global movement of informed prayer and prayerful action' we were urged to share our stories and look at justice issues in our own countries. We shared the story of Ruhama and its work for trafficked women in Ireland. Worthwhile parts of the week include the 'justice visits' to organisations in New York that work mainly for justice for immigrants. Eilis went to Damayan an organisation that works with women from the Philippines who have been trafficked to the USA and Joan went to the group 'Honduran's against Aids'.

Bible studies led by Ulrike Beckman a German Theologian were outstanding. She brought the story of the Samaritan women alive in a remarkable way. During the week each Global Area led a cultural evening. When it was Europe's turn we (Eilis and Joan) led the whole room in a simple Irish dance to the music "I'll tell my Ma...", and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the lively music and dance. Europe led the Prayer service on Thursday evening and quite a number of the prayers from our 75th Anniversary booklet were used.

In April Eileen King retired from her position as Executive Director after 25 years of service – but stayed on to help organise the conference. Rosangela Oliviera, a Methodist from Brazil who has lived in New York for the past twenty years, was her chosen successor. A presentation was made to Eileen and the heart-felt gratitude of the movement for all her years of hard work was conveyed at a special dinner on the final night of the conference.

The newly elected WDPIC Chairperson is Corrina Harbig (Slovenia) replacing Annette Poirier (Bahamas). Laurence Gangloff (France) and Emmanuel Bauer

(Luxemburg) were elected as European representatives. They replaced Corrina Harbig (Slovenia) and Jean Hackett (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). We wish all of them God's blessings in their new roles.

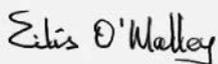
The Conference ended with a day in New York when the delegates from England, Scotland and Ireland joined together, forging a relationship that we hope to build on in the coming year. More details and photographs can be seen on our website.

Since the Conference we learned that Alison VanBuskirk has resigned to study for Ministry in the United Methodist Church. WDPIC have appointed Hannah McIntyre as the incoming Publications/Administration Associate. Hannah has recently graduated from Union Theological Seminary, with a Master of Divinity and a Master in Sacred Theology with special focus on Worship and Arts.

The theme for this year's service is "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" and is written by the Christian women of France. We intend using our new website much more and will have the Information Booklet and Bible Reflection (not the services) available for you to download. Thank you to Major Gillian Dicker who has agreed to keep the website updated. She would love any information or photos about World Day of prayer for inclusion on the site. Please e-mail them to: wdpirl@gmail.com

Two new women have joined the National Committee Mrs. Gillie Hinds and Mrs. Priscilla Chirenga (both Methodists). We still need more representatives from the Presbyterian Church – do you know someone?

Thank you in anticipation of a wonderfully prayerful year.
God Bless.



(National President)



(Honorary Secretary)

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REGIONAL GATHERINGS

CORK

Date: 22nd November 2012
 Venue: Ardfallen Centre
 Time: 1.45pm

LIMERICK

Date: 24th November 2012
 Venue: Adare or Rathkeale
 Time: 2.00pm

DUBLIN

Date: 26th January 2013
 Venue: St. John the Evangelist School Adamstown
 Time: 10.30am

BALLINASLOE

Date: 19th February 2013
 Venue: Gullane's Hotel
 Time: 8.00pm

GALWAY

Date: 20th. February
 Venue: Presbyterian/Methodist Church, Victoria Place
 Time: 11.00am

PUBLICITY

The best way to ensure that your service gets maximum publicity is the personal touch! Make personal contact with your local radio station and local newspaper offices. If there is an ecumenical event earlier in the year, like a gathering for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, you might publicise the World Day of Prayer as the next ecumenical event in the calendar.

Our Publicity Officer sends out publicity information to the national and local media as well as to regional church clergy. This is one of the reasons we request all the information on your report form. The main publicity drive starts in early January but the time, venue etc, of each service is placed on our website during the autumn and so if we do not have it before then, there is a blank space beside your branch.

Our Publicity Officer can be contacted by email: wdpirl@gmail.com or through our Secretary, Joan Forsdyke, 107 Rathfarnham Wood, Rathfarnham, Dublin14, 01-494 2385

FINANCE TO WDP INTERNATIONAL

The WDP International Committee. Every National Committee is asked to send at least 5% of their collection each year to the office of the International Committee in New York. This is where the Executive Director and her assistant oversee the work of the worldwide movement. This office also provides the link with the 170 countries which participate in the World Day of Prayer.

Fund for the Future (formerly Second Century Fund) was set up when the world movement was approaching its centenary with the idea that this would be used to update office equipment for the second century of WDP. It is increasingly obvious that more administrative assistance is urgently needed in the office and this requires funding.

The European Fund provides finance for holding the Quinquennial European Conference and is a resource for the two European members of the International Committee from which they can draw travel expenses for liaison work. It also funds delegates to the European Quadrennial from countries which otherwise could not afford to send a delegate.

SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

COULD WE HAVE SOME IDEAS FOR THE MEDITATION?

- Show pictures/slides of France.
- Have a short period of silent meditation. The Leader could give some guidance by having a short list of issues she has picked out of the service. Perhaps give a pen picture of the country using the information in this booklet or taken from our website. Two copies of this Information Booklet go into each parcel.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COLLECTED AT THE SERVICE GO?

When all the costs of producing the service and the basic expenses of running the national movement (e.g. postage, stationery, and printing) have been paid, then the balance is allocated to various charitable causes. Each year the largest proportion of the money goes to a project in the "writing" country – this year France. Details of the previous year's gifts are always printed at the back of the order of service booklet.

WILL THE SERVICE BE TELEVISED IN 2013?

RTE have a new policy regarding religious broadcasting so we wait until we get the phone-call. We were privileged to have our service televised last year and hope that it will be televised in 2013 also. Please watch the RTE programme schedule for February and keep an eye on the website. As soon as we hear anything we will let you know. If you provided us with *an email address* we will send you a message as soon as we know for certain what is happening.

PREPARING FOR THE SERVICE

FIRST ...

As soon as your parcel arrives, please check that your order has been correctly dispatched – thus avoiding any last minute panic for you and us! Read through the service in good time to make your plans for how best to conduct this service in your area. *If you do all this before your Regional meeting, it gives you an opportunity at that meeting to raise any questions you might have, or to share your ideas with others.*

We hope that you will build on any new contacts made last year, especially with younger women and with families and schoolchildren.

This year we are putting most of the information on our new website: www.wdopi.org

Once again we remind you that to be part of the worldwide wave of prayer on the first Friday in March, you can hold your service on Thursday evening or Saturday morning if you cannot arrange it for the Friday.

If you need extra copies of the order of service, please contact Sylvia Denner (Tel. 01 822 3063 or email: wdpir1@gmail.com)

BIBLE REFLECTION

Some people felt that using the word "Study" was off-putting to people who have never shared in this way. We have taken your words onboard and changed to "Reflection". We hope this encourages more people to pray this way. We still have a separate Bible Reflection Booklet to help you prepare for the Service. Prayer is at the heart of the preparation. Perhaps your local group might consider incorporating a study of the Bible passages as part of your preparation.

ARRANGING THE VENUE

If your local group is small consider using an alternative (ideally free!) venue for worship e.g. a community or church hall rather than a large church.

If there is scope for re-arranging the seating, you might consider arranging the chairs in semi-circles around a central space. Alternatively, you could arrange the chairs in a circle, with the reading participants placed at strategic intervals around the circle.

TEXT OF THE SERVICE

The actual script of the order of service is covered under copyright and so you may NOT alter that. You may change the hymns to ones better known in your area, provided you observe any necessary copyright requirements for the ones you choose.

A DISPLAY ABOUT FRANCE

A simple exhibition on the writing country is always helpful for those attending the service because they have not had the time to learn and prepare as the organising group have. Suggested items might include a map either of France or a map of the Europe with France marked, the French flag with an explanation of its significance. Involve any French people who live in your area as you prepare – perhaps ask them to help with the display.

INFORMATION

LARGE PRINT SERVICE

The Large Print Service is a shortened version of the booklet and should not be used in conjunction with the ordinary printed service in the A5 booklet. The Large Print version is intended for use in nursing homes and sheltered housing where people may not be able to sit through the length of the complete service.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

A copy of the Children's Service is enclosed in each parcel with the adult literature for you to use to try to encourage the local primary school or youth organisation to take part in the World Day of Prayer. This year France has provided wonderful resources – so why not have a Children's Service. All the resource material is on the website.

MUSIC CD

A CD of music from France is available. If you would like a copy and have not already ordered one you might like to get one at your Regional Meeting, or contact Sylvia Denner, Service Booklets Liaison person.

AFTER THE SERVICE

BRANCH REPORT FORM

Each year we are obliged to send a report to the International Committee in New York. The basis of this report is the information which you supply on your branch report form. It is important, therefore, that the completed forms reach us as soon as possible after the service, preferably before the end of March.

We do read the forms and note any suggestions you make. We appreciate all of these comments and suggestions, if we do not use yours, it is only because it may not be possible for us to do so or perhaps it would not be appropriate for the whole movement.

COLLECTION/ OFFERING

The offering, which is taken up at your service should, be sent to the National Treasurer, Ruth O'Donnell, along with your branch report form as soon as possible.

If, for some reason, your collection is being sent separately from the report form, please ensure that the Branch name and County are included.

NB. Almost every year at least one branch sends the collection to England. Money sent to England is kept in their national account. Please, ensure that it is sent to our National Treasurer, Ruth O'Donnell, 5 Cherry Park, Rathingle, Swords, Co. Dublin. Tel. 01- 840 4302 along with the branch name.

OUR PRAYER PARTNERS

Europe is one of the seven regions into which the global movement of WDP is divided. Within Europe countries are linked together as prayer partners, with the intention that their National Committees share concerns relating to their countries and pray for each other. Ireland has been linked to Albania and Croatia for many years. Branch organisers might like to join our National Committee members in praying for both countries.

In Croatia leaders of the Roman Catholic Church give the WDP leaders great support. The leaders are trying to find ways to encourage Orthodox women to join them in the service.

In Albania the WDP women face many problems. Please pray for them as they prepare for their services.

RUHAMA

Last year we supported RUHAMA (www.ruhama.ie) in the work they are doing with women who have been trafficked or who have been "on the streets". This was our way of acknowledging the work of "Tenaganita" (woman's force) the group who are establishing "protective tools" working with women in Malaysia. Ruhama really appreciated our help in their ongoing fight for women in these situations.

TELEVISION SERVICE 2012

The picture on the left includes all those who participated in the service – including Gerardine Rowley from Ruhama. We are including a picture of the prayer space prepared by members of the Committee. If you have photos of your service please let us have them and we will put them on the website – a lovely way to share our memories.



MEDITATION AND MUSIC

Reflection or Meditation on the Theme

If you are opting to have a speaker, please make sure you send her a copy of the Service. The Information Booklet, website (www.wdopi.ie) and Bible study leaflets are also helpful.

The women of France offer two alternative activities for this part of the service:

Alternative choice 1: Meditate in silence as you look at the picture on the front of the order of service. Where are you in this picture? Are you in the light or in the shadow? How does it feel to be where you are? Turn to the person beside you and share your answers.

Alternative choice 2: Each person receives a piece of ribbon or fabric about 2½ feet long (some should be in warm colours like those in the picture and some in grey). Turn to the person sitting beside you and describe a time when you were a stranger and felt welcomed. After this exchange tie your ribbons together. Now turn to the person on the other side and repeat the process. When everyone has finished you will lift the long chain of ribbons that now connects everyone

Music

Some tracks of French music are provided on the music CD. The rest of the CD contains the hymns and songs from the service, both with a choir accompaniment and with a simple organ or piano accompaniment. The special song 'Comm' un grain semé' may be sung or played during the collection.

HYMN TUNES - some sources

Light up the Fire (Colours of Day)
Hymns Old & New 87
Celebration Hymnal for Everyone 118

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
Complete Mission Praise 564
Songs of Fellowship 470
Hymns Old & New 427
Church Hymnary 124
Celebration Hymnal for Everyone 608
Hymns & Psalms 16
Rejoice and Sing 74
Church Hymnal 365

The Servant Song (Brother, sister let me serve you)
Songs of Fellowship 54
Hymns Old & New 73
Church Hymnary 694
Baptist Praise & Worship 473
Rejoice and Sing 474
Celebration Hymnal for Everyone 813
Church Hymnal 517

Jesu Jesu
Rejoice and Sing 648
Hymns and Psalms 145
Church Hymnal 495
Celebration Hymnal for Everyone 318

Taize Chant - O Lord, hear my prayer
Found in most hymn books

The Day Thou Gavest
Found in most hymn books

Some Recipes from France You Might Like to Try

(1) Crêpe a la Marie Thérèse

Ingredients

- 250g plain flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 soup spoon of oil
- 1 soup spoon of cognac
- ½ litre milk
- Pinch salt.
- Oil and Butter to cook

Method

Combine all together.

Beat with a whisk.

Leave for an hour

Lightly grease a pan and heat to 220°C.

Use enough batter to make a thin crêpe.

Use with whatever filling you prefer or alone – delicious.

(2) Boeuf Bourguignon Recipe (Region: Burgundy)

Ingredients

- 4 lbs beef shoulder (stewing beef – cut into cubes)
- 6 oz bacon
- 4 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 lb mushrooms, sliced
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 bottle red burgundy wine (young wine)
- 2 cups of beef bouillon (beef stock)
- 1 ounce flour
- 4 tbs. olive oil
- 1 ounce butter
- 1 small bunch parsley
- 1 sprig thyme
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 18 small white onions
- Salt and black pepper

Method

- Cut bacon into small strips. Simmer bacon for 10 minutes in water. Dry bacon.
- Cook bacon in a large heavy-bottomed saucepan with the olive oil at moderate heat for 2 or 3 minutes. Remove bacon.
- Cut the beef in 2-inch cubes. Using the same saucepan, cook the beef in the bacon's fat until browned. Remove the beef.
- Still in the same pan, put in the onion, carrots and celery and cook for 2 or 3 minutes. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Remove the fat from the saucepan.

- Mix the butter and the flour to make a paste.
- Again put the beef and bacon with the vegetables in the pan. Add salt and pepper. Add the butter and flour mixture and mix with the beef. Cook for 3 or 4 minutes, uncovered, turn the beef.
- Pour in the wine and enough bouillon so that it covers the ingredients. Add small, white onions, garlic and herbs. Bring to a boil.
- Cover the pan and simmer for 3 hours on a low heat.
- The meat is done when the fork slides out easily from the beef. Remove from heat.
- Sauté mushrooms in butter. Add mushrooms to Boeuf Bourguignon. Garnish with parsley.

Cooking time: 3 hours

Boeuf Bourguignon is traditionally served with boiled potatoes

Wine suggestion: Young red wine such as Beaujolais Villages, Saint Emilion or a red wine from Burgundy (French Wine Guide).

(3) Savoury Pear and Red Onion Gratin

Perfect for supper on a chilly night

Ingredients:

Gratin:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large red onion, thickly sliced
- 3 large pears
- 1 1/4 teaspoons dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

Topping:

- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons melted butter

Method:

- Preheat the oven to 400°F.
- Sauté the red onions over medium-high heat – until they start to brown around the edges.
- Transfer them into a casserole dish and set it aside for a moment.
- Core the pears and cut them into thick wedges.
- Toss the pears with the onions, thyme, salt and pepper.
- Bake the gratin, covered, for 25 to 30 minutes.
- Stir together the breadcrumbs, cheese, and melted butter.
- Sprinkle the topping over the pear onion gratin and bake it, uncovered, for an additional 25 minutes, or until the topping is golden brown and the gratin is bubbling hot and tender. This pear and red onion gratin recipe makes 6 to 8 servings.



France – a flavour of some of the information available online at:

www.wdopi.ie

Geography

France is situated in Western Europe and its overseas territories are Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, Reunion, Mayotte, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, St Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna.

The country is roughly shaped as a hexagon. It has coastlines on the North Sea, the English Channel, the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean. The Pyrenees constitute a natural border with Spain; the Jura and Alps Mountains with Italy and Switzerland and the Rhine River with Germany. France also shares borders with Belgium to the North and Luxemburg to the North-East. The climate of France is temperate.

Politics

France is a “Republic – one and indivisible” with a parliamentary system of governance: the National Assembly and the Senate vote bills. The President of the Republic is elected for five years. The members of Government are appointed by the Prime Minister and have decision making powers.

The judiciary guards its independence carefully. France is a member of the European Union.

The political parties range from extreme left to extreme right, and encompass the more moderate parties. France accepts the principle of a market economy with a social dimension.

Population

On January 1st, 2010, nearly 63 million inhabitants lived in France, plus a little over 2.5 million in the Overseas *Départements* and Territories. The birth rate is approx. 2 children per family, which is above the European average. However the increase in life expectancy has resulted in an aging population: the percentage of 60+ has grown from 17% to 22% between 1980 and 2009 and the number of centenarians is increasing. Children born on French soil and children who have at least one French parent are offered French nationality. They are considered as French citizens, regardless of their origin, or religion.

Languages

In 1539, King Francis I set up the Registry office and imposed French as the official language to be used for all administrative acts. In 1635, under King Louis XIII, the “*Académie Française*” was created to define

the French language through an official dictionary. A few regional languages have survived. At present, Alsatian, Basque, Breton, Catalan and Corsican remain. Regional languages are part of the French heritage.

History

France's origins

There is evidence of the presence of prehistoric human beings, in particular in caves such as Lascaux dating back to around 18,000 years B.C. The land called "Gaul" was populated by Celts, 2,000 years ago. It belonged to the Roman Empire for four centuries. In the 4th century A.D., other tribes invaded. The Franks gave this land its final name. King Clovis was baptized into the Catholic faith around 500 A.D. This act greatly influenced the course of French history.

Some words of encouragement from our former Chief Executive Eileen King who retired in April 2012

Dear Friends,

Each year when we read for the first time the worship service for the next WDP, we begin with a feeling of curiosity. What will we learn about the theme and the country? What will challenge, inspire and encourage us? We approach the materials with an open mind and a welcoming heart. We may not know the women who have written the worship, but we are already connected and related to one another.

For WDP 2013, the women of WDP France begin their worship with this sense of connection and introduce us to six women on their committee. We learn their names and we learn that some have come from other parts of Europe and Africa.

With this introduction we realize that the WDP Committee of France is inclusive and representative of the multi-cultural complexity of France today.

The six women making the introduction are wearing warm and vibrant colors that are also in the graphic for WDP 2013. Meanwhile a woman wearing gray is hesitantly approaching the group. She is anonymous, invisible. The woman in gray is also a figure in the artwork. She is a reminder of the key question posed in Matthew's portrayal of the judgment of the nations: "*Lord, when was it that we saw you a stranger?*"

The six women turn toward the woman in gray and greet her. In our local worship services, we too will greet the woman in gray in our own customary way. We offer a genuine welcome to the person not yet known.

After the welcome the woman in gray speaks:

God calls us.
God calls us his children.

And we know that we are but "*strangers and foreigners on the earth.*" In these few words, we hear an essential truth and a contradiction: we are all related to one another as God's children, and we are all strangers and foreigners on the earth. The first reading is from Leviticus 19: 33-37. God's call to be holy requires that we act justly.

Then we turn to Matthew 25 and listen to Jesus describes a scene in which the nations are judged. Jesus is speaking to people who know him. They are following Jesus; they are personally connected to him. As they are listening to how they will be judged, they become confused and ask, "Lord, when was it that we saw you a stranger?"

The woman in gray gives the final blessing with the affirmation, "*I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*" She continues:

May the way we look upon one another help others to exist. May our smile bring warmth. May our words help to sustain life. May our presence become a support. May God our Father grant strength to our testimony. May Jesus Christ direct our deeds. And may the Spirit guide our thoughts. Jesus tells us, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

As I end this letter, I am aware that this will be my last time to introduce a WDP worship service. I take this occasion to thank each WDP Committee that has been a WDP writer because you have welcomed me to join with you in this most amazing process of preparing a public worship for the first Friday of March. I thank all the other WDP Committees who translated the worship service and other materials into more than 90 languages and who brought this worship service faithfully and creatively into tens of thousands of local communities.

My gratitude is without measure to all the WDP Committees. Together may our rainbow cord of prayer around the world continue to strengthen us to see and respond to the least among us.

Sincerely,



Eileen King
Executive Director.



GENERAL COMMITTEE

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Mrs. Ruth Lee	Methodist
Mrs. Jean Kenny	Roman Catholic
Mrs. Valerie Swanwick	Church of Ireland
Mrs. Gillie Hynes	Methodist
Ms. Hannah Clarke	Church of Ireland
Ms. Mary Grogan	Roman Catholic
Suzanne Hayes	Society of Friends
Major Gillian Dicker	Salvation Army
Mrs. Priscilla Chirenga	Methodist