



*Rooted in faith,
called to action*
De la foi à l'action

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada Conseil œcuménique des chrétiennes du Canada

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer: Quick Facts

- ◆ Is an ecumenical prayer movement developed from a Christian women's perspective as a creative response to issues of concern around the world.
- ◆ Women in Canada and the U.S. who committed themselves in the 19th century to missionary endeavours here and abroad created the vision that led to an inter-denominational prayer service practice in the 20th century.
- ◆ The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada has coordinated the WDP service in Canada since its beginnings.
- ◆ In 1926, North American women distributed the worship service to many countries, but 1927 marks the first official World Day of Prayer in countries around the globe.
- ◆ The annual celebration of the World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday in March.
- ◆ In March 2007, the World Day of Prayer service is written by the women of Paraguay on the theme "United Under God's Tent".
- ◆ Recent WDP themes and countries have been:
 - 2006 *Signs of the Times* - South Africa
 - 2005 *Let Our Light Shine* - Poland
 - 2004 *In Faith, Women Shape the Future* - Panama
 - 2003 *Holy Spirit, Fill Us* - Lebanon
 - 2002 *Challenged to Reconcile* - Romania
- ◆ As the circle for WDP participation widened, the World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC) was formed with an office in New York to oversee its administrative work in 1968.
- ◆ At the Quadrennial meeting of the World Day of Prayer International Committee, delegates come from over 170 countries to select themes and writers for future services, discuss current issues, share experiences and grow in understanding of one another.
- ◆ This Spring 2007, the 11th Quadrennial meeting will be hosted for the first time by Canada. The meeting will be held just north of Toronto from May 27 - June 6, 2007.
- ◆ Currently, there are an estimated 2,200 WDP Coordinators across Canada who are responsible for bringing the service to ecumenical communities in their area. These coordinators and their respective committees are essential to the success of the WDP event.
- ◆ WICC offers all WDP print resources to participating communities at no charge.
- ◆ The Women's Inter-Church Council has granted more than half a million dollars to 160 organizations for projects that benefit women and children around the world and here in Canada from WDP offerings in the past 6 years.
- ◆ Proceeds from the WDP help offset the costs of service preparation, resource printing and distribution in addition to enabling the ongoing program work of WICC.
- ◆ Over the past 6 years, it is estimated that the WDP service was translated into more than 90 languages, and experienced by over 16 million participants in over 170 countries.
- ◆ Europe leads WDP participation levels, followed by Africa, Caribbean/North America (Canada, US and Caribbean), Pacific, Asia, Latin America and Middle East.
- ◆ In Canada, over one million participants attended 13,500 services between 2000-2005.

For further information regarding the World Day of Prayer, visit www.wicc.org or call our office at (416) 929-5184.