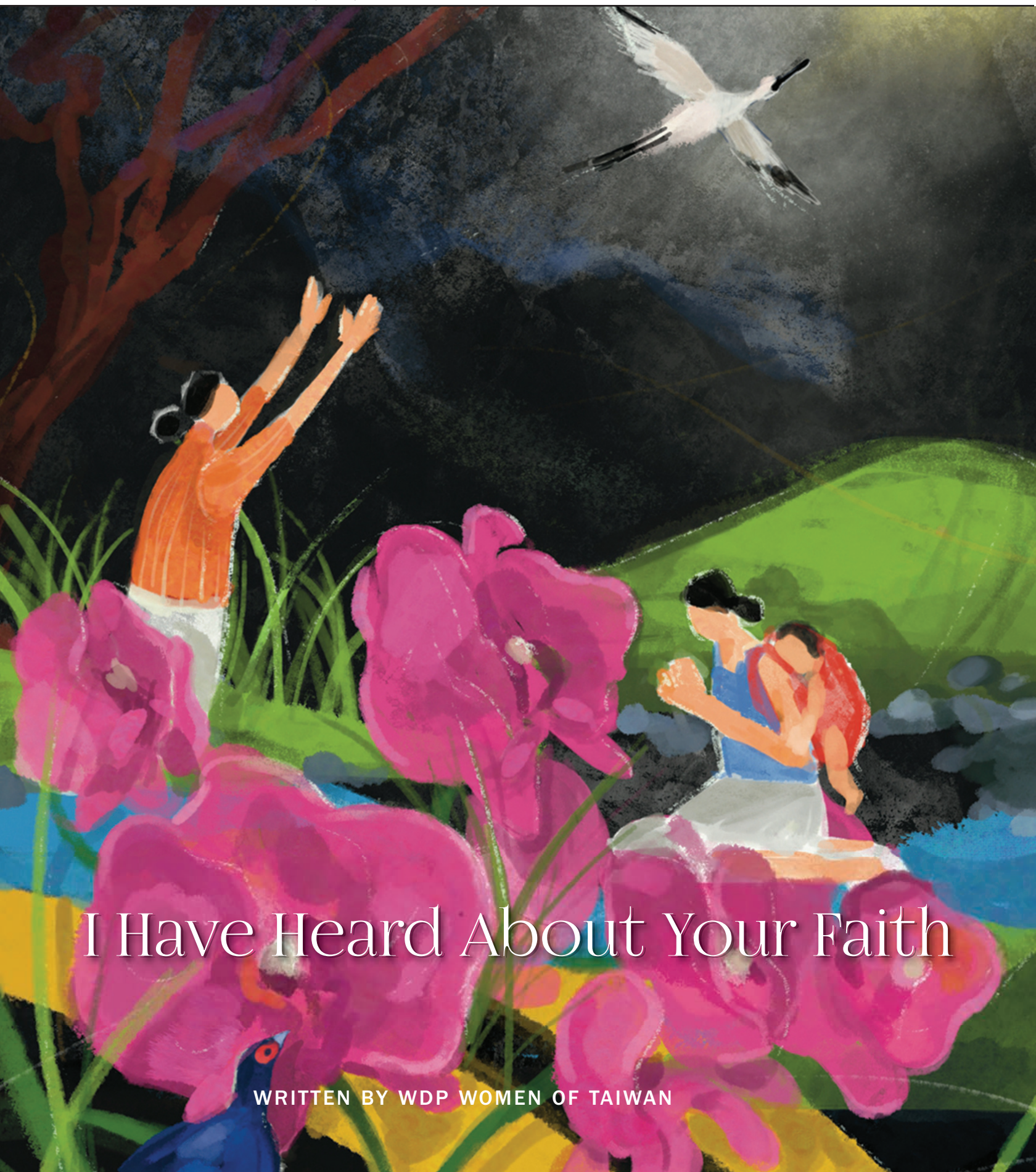


2023

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
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I Have Heard About Your Faith

WRITTEN BY WDP WOMEN OF TAIWAN



World Day of Prayer Writing Committee, Taiwan

SOCIAL MEDIA



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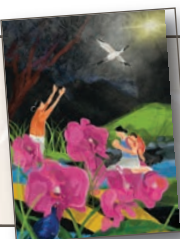
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On the Cover: "I Have Heard About Your Faith" by Hui-Wen Hsiao for the program written by WDP Taiwan

My Faith Looks Up to God

BY JOYCE LARKO STEINER

It has been a great year indeed. God has shown us mercy and love, giving us the strength to go on, even amidst various crises. God's grace and mercy have brought us thus far.

The theme for the 2023 celebration, "I have heard about your faith" led us on a strong path, deepening our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and giving us wisdom about how we Christians should live our lives. The women of Taiwan created very good materials for our worldwide celebration.

The Christian journey is about faith, knowing that our Father in heaven is with us. We are going through very difficult situations in all parts of the world, ranging from economic and political to social and psychological struggles. And yet, we still have faith in our Maker. The theme is relevant more than ever and I am so encouraged by the responses from the celebration. Women throughout the world made time to pray. I believe that our greatest weapon is prayer, and we must put on the whole armor of God as we navigate these times.

I read a story recently about a young boy on a flight from Congo to the United States. There was great turbulence during the journey and all the passengers



Joyce Larko Steiner, Chairperson,
World Day of Prayer International

were terrified, calling on God and crying because they thought their end was close. The young boy was sitting next to a pastor and was playing a game. Out of curiosity, the pastor started a conversation with the boy:

Pastor: "Don't you see or feel that there's something wrong with this flight?"

Boy: "No, sir."

Pastor: "We are about to crash. So, call on your God to save you!"

Boy: (laughing out loud) "My father is the pilot and he's been doing this work for more than 30 years. I know he won't crash. Sir, he's very skillful and will get us to our destination."

Shortly after the conversation, the pilot made an announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, sorry for the turbulence. We are out now, so sit back, relax and enjoy the flight." The young boy started clapping, and then said to the pastor: "I trust my father. He never disappoints." Is your faith in God so strong that you trust in all circumstances that the Lord is with you? Do you believe that God will lead you to the place that He has prepared for you?

The Bible study brought to us by WDP Taiwan was rich and I gained great insights. Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians, who were living out their faith in love. He prayed that the Ephesians would receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation, coming to know God through the light and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Paul asked God to enlighten the disciples, so they could know the hope God has called them to, the riches of God's glorious inheritance, and the immeasurable greatness of God's power.

May we also live a life of hope and faith to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you WDP Taiwan for a job well done. And now, let's take a journey through the world's celebration of the 2023 Taiwan program!



Worship Service Bible Text

EPHESIANS 1:15-19

“I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.”*



MAURITIUS



ARGENTINA



LEBANON



PARAGUAY



ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND



SWITZERLAND

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I Have Heard About Your Faith

BY WDP TAIWAN



We are thankful for God's grace and guidance over the past four years as we came together and prepared the materials for the celebration of World Day of Prayer in 2023. The Holy Spirit has been our guide and inspiration through this time. We witnessed each other's faith. We learned to hear and see many different voices and perspectives. And we reflected on the many Taiwanese women whose faith in God has strengthened them to face hardships. Those life testimonies allowed us to witness God's faithfulness and love. The Spirit has been our comforter and advocator, helping us grow into unity, despite our differences. This journey has restored our faith in God.

The WDP movement in Taiwan began in 1960 with an ecumenical group of women engaging from different mainstream



denominations. In the 1970's, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT)'s General Assembly proclaimed three public statements which spoke for basic human rights, self-determination and Taiwan's independence. Because of this political position, the PCT suffered severe oppression from the ruling government authority at that time. This oppression gradually isolated the PCT from other churches

involved with the WDP movement, and sadly, by 1979, the PCT was the only remaining church denomination that annually organized WDP worship services. However, in 1981, a group of other churches and organizations started organizing WDP worship services separately from the PCT. In the process of writing the 2023 program, these two WDP committees sat together for the first time on the 27th of April 2018, and experienced a wonderful fellowship. This icebreaking encounter marked a milestone in the history of the WDP movement in Taiwan.

A highlight in our preparations over the past 4 years was commissioning new artwork and songs, created especially for the 2023 WDP program. The artwork was created by Hui-Wen Hsiao (born in Tainan, Taiwan, in 1993). Two of the worship service songs (*I Have Heard About*



Your Faith and Offering to You) were composed by Yin-ting Lai (born in Taichung City, Taiwan, in 1983). It was wonderful to see the remarkable creativity of these young Taiwanese women.

CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT TAIWAN

This experience sparked new WDP services in new cities and churches throughout Taiwan. There were 165 worship services this year in different cities across Taiwan, with approximately 9,339 people attending. 9 languages were used to pray during these services (Mandarin, Taiwanese, Truku, Atayal, Paiwan, Amis, Bunun, Rukai, and Dawu). We also held 6 children's worship services in different cities around Taiwan. With the relaxation of COVID-19 prevention measures, Taiwan is now open to group gatherings, but for the sake of epidemic prevention, people who attended the services still wore masks - though we took our masks off for pictures!

These worship services allowed us as Taiwanese women to reflect on our faith. Many sisters who attended these services



expressed being moved by this year's theme song. And many shed tears during the prayer time, which so powerfully expressed the hopes in our hearts, as well as giving us faith and vision. The theme allowed us to learn that, no matter what adversities we face, God gives us hope, guidance and provision. The theme also reminded us to witness and evangelize by caring for the needs of others. The children in Taiwan enjoyed the special children's program. They loved crafting garlands by hand and wearing them on their heads for the celebration. We enjoyed watching our children learn about Taiwan's multicultural background, food and culture.

We used our offering to support the Taiwan Women's Development Association, which helps female single parents and underprivileged women become financially independent and confident. The offering also supported our translation, typesetting, and printing. And we will use a portion of our offering to send as our Annual Contribution to WDPIC.

WORLDWIDE CONNECTIONS AND SOLIDARITY

It was truly exhilarating and touching to have over 100 countries pray with us. The internet allowed us to observe worship services from many different places, both near and far. The kind gestures and efforts from around the world helped us as Taiwanese people to feel less alone in the midst of a difficult international situation. We experienced solidarity from all of you through this experience.

We were moved and inspired by the many WDP committees and other organizations outside of Taiwan who reached out to us leading up to the 2023 celebration. Some highlights include:

- ✓ The WDP Asia Region launched an online WDP service to pray for Taiwan
- ✓ The Jesus Christ Church in Japan (JCC) shared their preparations and WDP worship services
- ✓ WDP Singapore, WDP Canada, the Hong Kong Christian Council, and the Hämeenlinnan Vapaaseurakunta in Finland requested our Mandarin translation of the 2023 WDP liturgy
- ✓ WDP Germany invited and supported a young Taiwanese woman to go to Germany for one year, and assist in organizing activities to promote the 2023 program
- ✓ WDP Germany invited our Ambassador of the Taiwan Office in Germany, and Ms. Hui-Wen Hsaio (the artist for our 2023 program) to participate in their WDP worship services and introduce Taiwan
- ✓ The Women's Inter-Church Council (WICC) of WDP Canada recorded a video interview with Ms. Hui-Wen Hsaio to promote the 2023 WDP Taiwan program
- ✓ WDP Austria invited the Taiwan Office in Austria to introduce Taiwan
- ✓ British missionaries participated in the WDP worship in the UK
- ✓ Sisters from Mandarin-speaking churches in Milan, Italy inquired about the Mandarin translation of the liturgy, and about wearing aboriginal clothing
- ✓ The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDE-



- PCA) in Guatemala invited us to participate in their prayer video
- ✓ WDP Scotland asked us for a recipe of oyster omelets, a representative dish of Taiwan
- ✓ We donated to the Slovak Baptist Church Headquarters for Ukrainian refugee ministry through the WDP network
- ✓ WDP Switzerland requested a translation of the Lord's Prayer in our mother tongue
- ✓ WDP Switzerland donated to Taiwan's single-parent women's ministry and sent greeting cards signed by WDP members
- ✓ WDP members in Wales were very happy to receive the WDP Taiwan made calendar

The connections that we were able to have with all these countries allowed us to feel the warmth, care and support of the worldwide WDP community.

LOOKING FORWARD

This experience allowed us to identify with our own nation and culture more deeply, and we hope it inspired the ecumenical community to cherish and appreciate our democracy and freedom. This journey reminded us to live out

God's will, and it motivated us to be a blessing to the next generation. The worship service reminded us of the experiences of the elderly, particularly those living alone in rural areas. We feel moved to establish long-term and stable relationships with them to provide companionship. The worship service also helped us notice the younger women among us. Many young women who have given a lot to the church need support, rest and care. Also, we became more sensitive to the stress experienced by single parent women. In the future, we hope to co-organize WDP services with college ministries, in an effort to connect more with our young people.

This journey inspired us to see our responsibilities and hopes for the future of Taiwan's geopolitical situation, the advancement of women's status, and the protection of the environment. We pray for the stability of Taiwanese communities, and the health of all people. We pray for democracy and freedom, and a future free of intimidation by China's military and other attacks. We pray that the COVID-19 pandemic will soon subside.

Website: <http://women.pct.org.tw/> and <http://www.ywca.org.tw/>

Facebook: @WDPTaiwan and 世界公禱日聯合崇拜

I have heard about your faith..

♩ = 120

Musical score for the hymn "I have heard about your faith..". The score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "I have heard a-bout your fai - th in the Lord Je - sus Christ, I have heard a-bout your love to - ward all the saints. I have not stop - ped giv - ing thanks for you, and re - mem - ber - ing you in my pra-yers." The chords are: Cm, G, G7, Cm, A-flat, Fm, G, Cm, G7, Cm.

Words: Ephesians 1:15-16. Music: Lai, Yin-ting.
Composed especially for the 2023 WDP TAIWAN program, ©WDPIC. Used with permission.

Offering to You

♩ = 86

Musical score for the hymn "Offering to You". The score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 86 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F-sharp). The melody is on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Thank you for your love and grace with all my heart and soul. Bring you a sim-ple o - ffering may it please you, Lord." The chords are: G, C, Am, D, G, C, Am, D7, G.

Words: Ephesians 1:15-16. Music: Lai, Yin-ting.
Composed especially for the 2023 WDP TAIWAN program, ©WDPIC. Used with permission.

Asia



HONG KONG

Our WDP Committee works hard to distribute the materials each year, spearheading the ecumenical prayer movement in Hong Kong. This year's focus was on the worship theme "I have heard about your faith," which we felt was a relevant and insightful theme. The prayer materials, initially prepared by Taiwanese women, were thoughtfully refined by our dedicated liturgy group under the committee's guidance. The highlight was the worship service held on March 4, 2023, at Rosary Church, featuring Father Joseph Chan Wing-chiu, Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong, as the speaker. Notably, this was also the first in-person WDP service post pandemic restrictions on indoor mask mandates were lifted, marking a joyful reunion.

INDIA

In our efforts to empower women in our country, we embraced the theme which

emphasizes the recognition of both faith and action. We provided sermon preparation guidelines to our churches, especially pertinent in a climate where communal violence can hinder women's expression and contribution. Through this theme, we encouraged women to believe that God acknowledges their efforts in community development and peacebuilding, even in challenging circumstances. We stressed that small actions have a significant impact and urged women to persevere without expecting worldly recognition. Monthly Bible studies were hosted for Asian chapter women, supported by Ms. Devika from Sri Lanka. We promoted gender policies in churches and workplaces, highlighting Taiwan's example. Amid



communal disharmony, we inspired women to stay strong in faith, addressing issues often ignored due to fear. The youth embraced the theme, fostering their engagement. Despite COVID-19, we expanded our outreach to new churches

JAPAN

As the world gradually eases pandemic restrictions, the WDP program brought a renewed sense of freedom. In our country, gatherings were held in 310 locations, both in person and online.



This represents a recovery of about one-third of our pre-pandemic gatherings. The flexibility of scheduling the event based on convenience for churches, Christian women's groups, and Christian schools allowed for innovative and diverse gatherings.

We gained insights into the historical depth and proximity of Taiwan, fostering a sense of appreciation and empathy. The ceremony's focus on reconciliation, while also understanding the pain of history, added a profound dimension to the experience. The WDP, with its motto "Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action," continues to unite trans denominational church women globally and offers a platform to share realities and experiences.

Website:
<http://cloister171.blog.fc2.com/> and
www.ncc-j.org

NEPAL

Praise the Lord for His mercy upon us! March is a blessed month for us as we get to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. We feel joyful being a part of this movement,



which strengthens our self-dignity and spirituality. We celebrated in a small group jointly with the ACWC Nepal (Asian Church Women's Conference). It was a great time to connect and pray with women of different churches and faiths. We started the program by singing the choruses and the hymn about the Lord's love and healing, remembering the sisters, children and families around the world still dealing with the effects of the pandemic. We remembered our sisters in Taiwan, as well as around the world, where wars rage, food security is threatened, and access to portable water is a challenge. We prayed for health issues that frustrate the masses among a myriad of other issues,

with women and children suffering most. In all of this, we acknowledged the presence of the Lord. We have faith in our powers to respond to our needs in a way that we cannot comprehend. What an awesome God we serve, who has promised to never fail us. Living by the word of the Lord, we are more than conquerors.

PHILIPPINES

We had a successful celebration of the WDP in the Philippines. Various churches participated and people dressed in traditional Taiwanese attire. The program emphasized that prayer is an essential part of building a relationship with God. We acknowledge that many Christians, including ourselves, often struggle to communicate with God and fail to intercede for others. The reason for this is the lack of understanding that life is a constant battle where prayer is our weapon. Trusting in God alone, Christians can face various challenges such as human trafficking, global warming, and healing for abuse victims. The program encouraged believers to start praying from the beginning of life, not



just when problems arise. It emphasized that God is powerful, and every knee will bow before God. The line of communication with God is always open, and believers should run to God for hope.

SINGAPORE

The program, centered on the theme “I Have Heard About Your Faith,” successfully conveyed the message of experiencing God on a personal level and sharing love and faith with others. The testimonies played a crucial role in raising awareness about the needs and challenges faced by vulnerable women and children. Despite facing challenges, the committee’s enthusiasm and creativity shone through as they organized the worship service both online and onsite, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. The service in our country brought people together to pray for Taiwan, with a focus on creating mindfulness about its spiritual climate. A post-service assessment allowed the committee to identify areas for improvement and celebrate the successful execution of the program. The event not only enriched attendees but also raised funds for charity through a generous offering collected during the gathering.



SOUTH KOREA

In exploring the history and culture of Taiwan, we gained insight into the challenges confronted by Taiwanese women. Their struggles, akin to those faced by women globally, resonated with us as we understood their battles against societal and familial discrimination. Their experiences as housewives mirrored concerns in our own country. However, amidst these challenges, we also learned about the remarkable progress in women’s status and their pursuit of equality by breaking free from oppression. Notably, they actively engage in addressing environmental issues for the future. Similar experiences were found among our women, with Korea Church Women United (KCWU) leading the charge against gender bias within religious contexts. Our organization annually examines gender discrimination cases, advocates church reforms, and empowers women through education. Additionally, we promote environmental activism within churches. Despite hurdles like COVID-19 and job commitments, the World Day of Prayer remains a unifying force for women worldwide, highlighting shared themes and struggles.

Website: <http://kcwu.org/>

SRI LANKA

In our country, many women face challenges like those experienced by Taiwanese women. We find ourselves in unsatisfying marriages where we are treated poorly, yet we often remain in these relationships for the sake of our children. Additionally, there is a lack of awareness regarding the environmental damage caused by our negligence in protecting the environment. By shedding light on these issues, women are becoming more conscious of the long-term consequences of our decisions. Our country’s religious diversity adds another layer of complexity, as some individuals deliberately provoke tensions between different religious groups. The recent persecution of Muslims and Christians has caused considerable distress among the general population. Despite these tensions, there is evidence that people recognize the different ways in which Christians respond, people of other religions have heard about our faith and planted seeds of hope in our country. Raising awareness about these issues is highly relevant to our current context.



THAILAND

Even though we are facing challenges in our daily lives, we are confident that God is with us. We share our faith in Christ with our friends and we are encouraged by theirs. Praying and remembering others in our prayer supports ministries that are at work. Paul emphasized that knowing Jesus and opening our hearts to God will give us wisdom to see and follow our calling.

In Thailand, there is a ministry to Myanmar's refugees called Safe House. It was established many years ago, and is situated close to the Myanmar border. It is there to help those who have run away from injustice and who came with nothing. The Safe House has become home for 35 people who have been living there for many years and have no intention of returning. We praise God that the Safe House is helping those who have lived in

difficult circumstances for so many years. We pray it will continue to be a blessing to many.

We ask God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, to give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know Christ better and better, day by day.

“The service in our country brought people together to pray for Taiwan, with a focus on creating mindfulness about its spiritual climate. A post-service assessment allowed the committee to identify areas for improvement and celebrate the successful execution of the program.”

—WDP SINGAPORE

From the Artist Statement
by Hui-Wen Hsiao

“The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently and looking up into the dark.

Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.”

**“I Have Heard About Your Faith”
Ephesians 1:15-19
WDP Taiwan 2023**

worlddayofprayer.net

Africa



BOTSWANA



CAMEROON

BOTSWANA

This year it felt so great to be able to meet again and praise the Lord after the deceleration of the pandemic. We prayed for those who have not yet healed, that they may find peace. The theme of active listening and encouragement taught us the importance of listening to each other and the need to improve those skills so we can come together in one accord. Women of faith are encouraged to have faith and not have the spirit of fear. There is nothing too difficult that women of faith cannot handle, especially when they look to God for strength and wisdom. The women of Taiwan also highlighted the importance of protecting the environment which inspired our committee. We pledged to take care of the environment as custodians and stop littering. We also plan to provide educational workshops where parental and pastoral guidance is offered.

CAMEROON

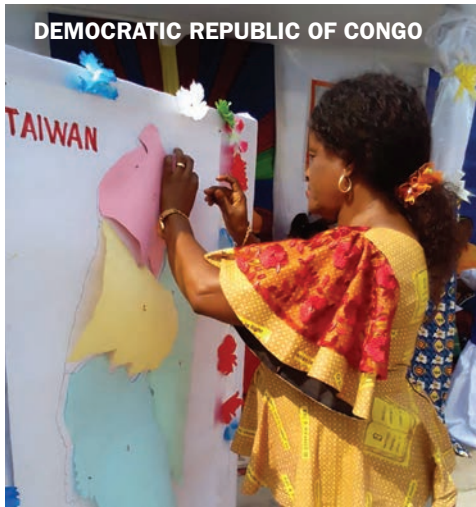
The theme presented a significant challenge to us, highlighting our responsibility not only towards ourselves but also towards others. As women of faith, we recognize the duty to support and listen to our sisters facing various hardships such as family issues, violence, discrimination, and more. Inspired by the Taiwan program, we understood the importance of women witnessing to God's love through acts of faith and compassion.

In our context, women face numerous challenges, including climate change that impacts rural women's livelihoods and workplace harassment. Our committee aims to help victims through active listening, encouragement, and by providing support and gifts. We plan to focus on disadvantaged individuals, collaborating with women of faith who run reception centers. With the guidance of

the Holy Spirit, we hope to make a positive impact and have the Lord say, "I have heard of your faith."

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The chosen theme was uplifting and encouraging to us, revitalizing our faith despite facing similar challenges. We could identify common issues like gender-based violence and discrimination. However, the Taiwanese women's unwavering faith in the face of these problems inspired the women in DRC to persevere with assurance in God's word. To further empower women in the DRC, the WDP National Committee organized awareness campaigns on waste management, emphasizing the importance of caring for God's creations. Additionally, we focused on breaking gender stereotypes, fostering collaboration and harmony between women and men. Our



hope is to plant seeds of empowerment in underprivileged environments, including war-torn areas and domestic violence situations.

GABON

We delved into an enriching topic, celebrating it with fervor while adapting it to Gabonese context. The program was intense and engaging, marked by the strong involvement of women in liturgical performances, utilizing stories and skits. Our focus in Bible studies and workshops evolved around the WDP Constitution and Guiding Principles. We explored the vital role of Gabonese women in promoting social cohesion and peaceful elections, acknowledging the under-addressed issue of gender stereotypes on the African continent. Although Covid-19's impact on women (the cornerstone of households) was significant, our government provided care. Our committee is devoted to enhancing women's empowerment through awareness and communication, fostering a collective understanding of the theme. This prosperous year also saw intensified prayers for our Taiwanese sisters and peaceful elections in our nation.

GHANA

We had discussions involving diverse groups of people to focus on this year's Taiwan's program. The Asian community in Ghana, including eight women, participated via online platforms, exploring and reflecting on the issues raised through the worship service. These discussions shed light on Taiwan's history with colonization, prompting parallel conversations about Ghana's challenges. The Asian Community Council has been active in advocating against gender stereotypes, supporting abused women, children, and survivors of human trafficking. The relevance of the theme was magnified by Ghana's economic struggles post-COVID which have exacerbated domestic violence due to lockdowns and unemployment. Our worship services celebrated Taiwan, and the use of technology facilitated remote participation, fostering awareness and support. The theme ignited hope, encouraging continued service to the Lord



despite challenging circumstances. As COVID continues to be a challenge, masks remained even as our prayers for Taiwan persisted, echoing our shared journeys.

IVORY COAST

In our beautiful country, the theme of women's influence remains a topic of importance. As a result, we have been motivated to persist in our mission to empower women. We organize enriching spiritual retreats centered on the WDP theme and other subjects that foster faith and personal growth. The Taiwan program was a source of excitement during local festivities, providing an opportunity for connecting with sisters from different nations and sharing life



KENYA



MALAWI

experiences. This experience has been immensely enriching for us.

We express gratitude to the Lord for guiding us through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling us to overcome unemployment and loss, and restore jobs. The theme this year was particularly relevant, given the testing times for the Christian faith globally. It calls us to persevere despite worldly temptations, while we sow seeds of hope through biblical teachings and early childhood education.

KENYA

The challenges faced by women and girls in Taiwan strongly resonated with the situation in our country, mirroring our socio-economic and political struggles. This is particularly evident in school dropout rates and unemployment. To address this, our committee collaborates with church members to host impactful sessions featuring guest speakers who delve into these topics. Despite limitations on public gatherings, we successfully organized a meaningful event, promoting unity and ecumenism. The event brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds and denominations, fostering joint prayers for our nation's leaders and shedding light on the WDP Kenya chapter. Through our

prayers and shared messages, we aim to spark positive change, offering a seed of hope for our society's improvement and healing.

MADAGASCAR

The service shed light on various issues faced by women, including poverty, sexual harassment, gender stereotypes, and vulnerability during the pandemic. In our context, many women encounter similar problems, particularly at our center where we strive to implement protective measures for girls. The main Bible text, Ephesians 1:15-19, emphasizing faith, resonated deeply with our committee. It is challenging for women and children to follow Christ and establish faith firmly. To share the Gospel and to preach God's word are our first ministry. The children and youth participated enthusiastically in the activities, particularly enjoying the roleplay focused on letters of encouragement. As a committee, we aim to spread the Gospel effectively to offer hope and new life to those in need.

MALAWI

We embraced the theme "I have heard about your faith," penned by our Taiwanese sisters, with gratitude to God. Our annual prayers, traditionally on the 1st Friday of March, faced disruption due

to Tropical Cyclone Freddy hitting Malawi in February. Initially, considering the devastation, we contemplated canceling this year's event. However, after thoughtful analysis, we decided to reschedule it. Eventually, on March 24th, 2023, we held the event in Zomba, graced by dignitaries like the Vice President's spouse and former First Ladies (the Republic's First Lady couldn't attend due to commitments). Over 2,000 women attended, filling an open field. Amidst powerful sermons and musical performances, we focused on Taiwan's struggles and prayed for global nations impacted by climate-induced disasters. Afterward, we donated essentials to displaced families in a camp. Despite adversity, our resilient spirit prevailed, reflecting on God's unwavering grace. We anticipate another blessed gathering in the coming year.

MAURITIUS

The overarching theme of the worship service was active listening and encouragement, which we experienced firsthand by listening to testimonies from participants. For example, a woman shared with us her struggles with her husband and his alcoholism. The issues highlighted by the women in Taiwan impact us as well, and we do our best to give each other advice and encouragement



through difficult times. We hold meetings with the help of our churches, strengthening us in community. We also try to stay in contact with older members who can no longer travel. We keep all women in our prayers, including former members and widows. This year we also made contact with someone from a national television in our region for the organization of a program, “Tipa Tipa ouavant”, in Mauritian Creole. We pray for a positive outcome.

NIGERIA

The impact of the Taiwan program was particularly profound on the lives of women, especially the younger generation. Our Taiwanese sisters spoke to us amidst Nigeria’s challenging times, marked by security concerns, economic difficulties, and scarcity of essentials. The program’s message resonated widely, yielding positive testimonials. Despite economic hardships and inflation, people across various churches and tribes gathered, fostering unity and hope. The program aimed to empower women and girls, addressing issues like sexual abuse and domestic violence through education around self-protection, and awareness campaigns via radio and TV. The enduring relevance of the program’s theme is evident, offering



faith and hope amidst economic challenges. The members found solace in its message, promoting gratitude and faith.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Our committee has personally witnessed the dedicated observance of the WDP in our country, particularly within the Salvation Army. This significant day is celebrated across more than 20 parishes in the Congo, involving both children and adults. A special celebration is held for children. The widespread celebration extends to many villages and regions, leaving no place untouched. In Brazzaville alone, 7 sectors held vibrant celebrations, with 5 different churches coming together—Evangelical Church of Congo, Catholic Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Congo, Orthodox Church, and Salvation Army. The essence of our collective efforts in embracing the liturgy and decoration was evident. Notably, women’s active participation stood out, with over 100 women taking part in each celebration, and one sector in Brazzaville proudly engaging more than 600 women.



SEYCHELLES

Our focus on Taiwan and preparations for the worship service have heightened our awareness of global changes. Recent news concerning Taiwan has prompted us to offer more prayers for the country, given its relevance to our own. Our committee, inclusive of dedicated women from the WDP, collaborates extensively with government bodies and NGOs. While collaboration is key, WDP members stress the power of prayer. Bible studies on the theme sparked in-depth discussions, closely tied to the pertinent issues. Notably, within our church groups, such as the Mothers’ Union, our contemplation of “faith” has deepened. Youth involvement has been limited, but with a new youth leader on the committee, future participation seems promising. Our organization is committed to celebrating the service and attendee en-



SIERRA LEONE



SOUTH AFRICA

thusiasm bodes well for forthcoming support. Our prayers mainly focus on health and health ministry workers, focusing on their ongoing achievements.

SIERRA LEONE

During the service, we had the privilege of hearing from resilient women who triumphed over conflicts stemming from ethnicity, politics, family, and community through their unwavering faith. Their stories left a profound impact, shedding light on the multifaceted challenges women endure globally. One courageous survivor shared her harrowing experience of abuse, highlighting the restorative role of an organization which supports her skill development, particularly in catering. The gathering emphasized the urgent need for gender-stereotype awareness in our society. Empowering women with this knowledge can shape their perspectives and foster stronger faith. The involvement of youth, who adorned the altar with symbolic cloth strips, highlighted the event's inter-generational essence. Our connections with fellow women in the ecumenical community and our charitable endeavors, like supporting a school for the deaf, further underscored the significance of this occasion. Anticipation for

the annual WDP celebration remains high among women.

SOUTH AFRICA

If God should meet us, will God be able to say: "I have heard about your faith"?

The program this year was truly inspiring and has rekindled our passion to make a difference in our communities and be a source of help and support, guided by God's hands. We were reminded that the same mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead resides in us, ensuring that we never face a "power shortage" in our lives. Despite the challenges we encounter daily, the theme encouraged us to maintain our faith and find strength in unity. We learned from the Taiwanese women's experiences and their reliance on God to overcome their problems. In our country, we relate well to their stories, as we also face domestic violence, inequality, and corruption. Our committee members provide support at the local level, praying for each other and contributing to causes like safety houses for women and children. We're excited about hosting a workshop under the theme, Rebirth of the WWDP, and planning for our 95th anniversary as a committee. We

express our heartfelt gratitude to the Taiwan Committee for writing this empowering program, and we pray for their continued strength and faith.

TANZANIA

The theme had a profound impact on the hearts of those involved, especially the women. It inspired self-reflection and introspection on our faith journeys. Connecting with the women of Taiwan brought unity and solidarity. The sharing of their stories and experiences fostered understanding and empathy. These women displayed unwavering faith and courage, inspiring others and even influencing environmental conservation efforts. Recognizing similar challenges faced by women in both Taiwan and Tanzania, our committee devised a strategy to empower women through training programs, enabling them to assert their rights and break free from oppressive norms. Our committee remains steadfast in its commitment to effecting positive change. Hearing about others' faith resonated as a catalyst for new hope and strengthened personal faith. Within our celebration, we had the participation of women from diverse denominations, united in worship and prayer, leaving a lasting impact. It was a



day of spiritual connection and humanitarian endeavors, demonstrating unity, compassion, and faith.

ZAMBIA

The women who listened to the preacher's message and reflected on the program's theme were deeply touched. They were encouraged to persevere in their faith, which brought hope to those facing various difficult situations. Even when they felt like giving up, the message restored their hope, and we are thankful to God for that. The preacher shared words of encouragement to restore hope in our lives, and committed to offering help to the survivors of COVID. At the end of the day, the women embraced the message, and we believe they shared it with their communities. Unfortunately, the children didn't participate much because their Sunday school teachers were attending a conference. However, the participating community enjoyed drawing and



sketching activities, which added to the fantastic experience. The women truly held onto their faith, trusting that God would protect them, and they achieved their goals.

ZIMBABWE

In reading the testimonies of the women of Taiwan, we were inspired to show love, kindness, hope, and encouragement to others. We learned about God's grace and love for everyone, as well as the importance of caring for our environment.

The unity among the women preparing the service materials taught us the power of working together as a committee. We learned to persevere, love, and pray together during difficult times. Efforts were made to counsel and empower women and children affected by bad situations, providing them with self-sustaining skills. Workshops helped us handle different situations, while the Bible verse (Ephesians 1:15-19) reminded us to love everyone and find hope in the programs and projects we undertake. We reached out to mothers with special needs children and those struggling with drug addiction, offering them hope and support. Children actively participated in World Day of Prayer activities, showcasing their talents and learning about Taiwan's history and culture. We prayed for an end to the pandemic and comfort for those who lost loved ones, and we continue holding worship services both in person and online.

“Despite the challenges we encounter daily, the theme encouraged us to maintain our faith and find strength in unity. We learned from the Taiwanese women’s experiences and their reliance on God to overcome their problems.”

—WDP SOUTH AFRICA

Caribbean and North America



BAHAMAS

During the 2023 World Day of Prayer service, women of all ages came together to worship and support one another. The event showcased the importance of women in leadership positions and encouraged young ladies to follow their example. Despite facing challenges, the impact of the service was profound, and everyone worshipped with joy and dedication. The women of Taiwan were a source of inspiration, displaying resiliency in the face of obstacles. The testimonies shared by both Bahamian and Taiwanese women highlighted the common experiences they shared, fostering a sense of unity and solidarity.

The event sparked discussions about various issues affecting women in society, including protecting the environment, overcoming gender stereotypes in the workplace and family, healing



BARBADOS

This year's services took place in the Anglican and Moravian churches, with longstanding participants cherishing the stories from the women of Taiwan. Families were warmly welcomed, and men were invited to contribute prayers. Children engaged in scripture reading and other roles. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the outdoor preparations for the service brought excitement,

victims of abuse, and supporting essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee plans to enhance missions work, promote sustainability, and empower women through mentoring programs and entrepreneurship opportunities. Seeds of hope were planted, addressing issues such as domestic violence, declining church attendance during the pandemic, and educational challenges faced by children.

aligning with the popular trend of embracing outdoor activities due to relaxed protocols. The theme reinforced faith and a commitment to addressing local issues, resonating with Taiwanese narratives. The Barbados WDP Committee aims to collaborate with local organizations, assisting abused women and empowering them through Christ. The committee's vision includes expanding participation among churches across our country,



expressing gratitude for shared experiences and a determination to extend the reach of these impactful stories worldwide.

CANADA

The WDP service written by our sisters in Taiwan was much appreciated and timely as we continue to emerge from COVID-19 restrictions. The scripture from Ephesians emphasized living out our faith with love to inspire others during our recovery. In-person gatherings made a comeback, though online viewing remained popular, with some flexibility in scheduling. Women's Inter Church Council of Canada (WICC) hosted an online virtual gathering, making WDP more of an ongoing prayer movement. Participants were encouraged to donate electronically or traditionally, supporting WDP grants for projects benefiting women and children worldwide.

We also worked on improving our service video, involving women from Taiwan now living in Canada. The WDP service video included country information, prayers, music, and scripture from

Taiwan, along with liturgical dance and reflections. The WDP Kids Pray Too! video gained popularity, getting almost three times the views compared to last year. WDP Canada is already planning next year's service, looking forward to sharing a heartfelt service from our Palestinian sisters!

Website: www.wicc.org
 Facebook: @WICCCanada
 Twitter: WICC_CA

JAMAICA

The theme highlighted the significance of faith and prayer for understanding God's purpose and presence in our lives. Faith is having an active trust in God's actions and intentions for us. It is important for us to share this faith within our communities and teach its value to others.

The experiences of Taiwanese women are similar to ours. The stories they shared illuminated our common challenges with abuse, stereotypes, unemployment, and poverty. Our committee collaborates with relief organizations to alleviate these issues. In the Bible

passage for this program, the Apostle Paul expresses his concern for the spiritual growth of the Ephesian church. Paul's message sets a higher standard for prayer, encouraging a deeper connection with God. The letter calls us to trust in God's promises and understand God's power. With the withdrawal of COVID-19 restrictions, we hope for continued healing and interpersonal interactions. Despite the pandemic's impact and aftermath, support for outreach programs remains. The WDP service continues to foster unity amidst diverse perspectives.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

The worship service carried a simple, informative, and spiritual tone. It emphasized the commonality of struggles and challenges despite geographical distances. The theme underscored how living out one's faith daily serves as a testimony of God's help and presence in our lives. Our discussions about the program revolved around encouraging each other in various aspects of life, particularly in nurturing children and supporting



one another through pastoral care. Different zones participated in this year's program, some meeting in person, while others connecting online. The service aimed to foster connections among women from different churches and assemblies. A former student from Taiwan shared her experiences, and the Taiwan Embassy also addressed one of our congregations. Participants appreciated the opportunity to gather physically after two years and found the experience enriching and inspiring.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

As COVID restrictions have eased, preparing for the program was exciting. It brought people together in fellowship, reflecting on scripture and the experiences of Taiwanese women. The worship service emphasized the importance of encouragement, which was particularly relevant as our country returns to a new normal. The theme motivated people to move forward and ensure the worship services were carried out. The



involvement of children and youth in the services was encouraged, and they participated in reading, prayer, and preparations. The program highlighted the challenges faced by women and children, and we identified cultural similarities and differences. The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) implemented the Beth-Rapha (House of Health) Mission Project, addressing violence, oppression, abuse, and mental sickness in society. The program aims to plant seeds of positivity and hope, especially for families who lost loved ones during the pandemic and for those who have withdrawn from society.

UNITED STATES

Many services were held across the country and some highlights mentioned by participants were the ability to meet in person after three years to rekindle old friendships and create new ones as well as having attendees originally from Taiwan find a service and join us in prayer. The theme helped us to deepen our faith in Jesus and develop a greater measure of love for others. Participants at one celebration experienced a taste of Taiwan after the service. They dined on three cup chicken, basil stir fry eggplant, and vegetable fried rice. Taiwanese apple soda, samples of bubble tea and water washed it all down. Delectable treats of sweet potato balls, coconut squares, and pineapple cake satisfied every sweet tooth. It was such a beautiful service and wonderful fellowship! We are excited about celebrating Palestine for 2024.

Website: wdp-usa.org
 Facebook: [@WorldDayOfPrayerUSA](https://www.facebook.com/WorldDayOfPrayerUSA)

Europe



ALBANIA

We felt that the theme was deeply connected with reality, encouraging us to place our trust in Jesus Christ and become more responsible. Our committee's motto, "Trust in the Lord always," holds great significance in our lives, as we firmly believe that God guides, cares for us, and plans for our future. In our country, there is a concerning prevalence of domestic abuse, especially following the Covid-19 pandemic. To address this issue, we actively collaborate through our networks, sharing and discussing such cases. We extend our support to specific women and families, offering them advice from specialists and doctors. Our mission also involves planting seeds of hope for our young people, who often feel hopeless and seek a better future abroad. During the worship services, both adults and young people participated, enjoying informative content and music. Overall, the WDP program in 2023 provided us with valuable materials, and we cherished the

opportunity to join hands with other nations through Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.

AUSTRIA

This year, we had the joy of celebrating the worship service in person. With around 3,000 more participants than last year, it was truly a special occasion. Alongside the main event, we also celebrated the 70th anniversary of WDP Austria, hosting a vibrant worship service in Vienna in September 2022. Women from various countries like Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, and the WDPIC European Representative from Croatia (Senka Sestak Peterlin) attended the event. To commemorate this milestone, we released a publication chronicling the history of the WDP movement. We included Austria specific details, as well as information about all participating countries worldwide since 1952.

The Taiwanese liturgy called for peace and action, bringing attention to regional

conflicts and their impact on women, girls, and families. The liturgy was well-received, and throughout the celebrations, we highlighted the beauty of Taiwan's landscape, its people, and its turbulent history. A significant highlight was a visit by the official representative from the Taipei Economic and Culture Office in Austria during the WDP conference in November. Overall, the year was a success, bringing people together, promoting understanding, and supporting important causes.

Website: <http://weltgebetstag.at/>
Facebook: @weltgebetstaggerfrauen

BELGIUM

We ask our good God in prayer for wisdom, to continue this beautiful and great work that values women all over the women! We were able to host 8 worship services this year, with the liturgy translated into Dutch. Thankfully, COVID-19 is no longer a significant issue in our country, but of course, we lost contact with many people through the



BELGIUM



CROATIA

pandemic, and we are now brainstorming and planning ways to invite and reach more people. We also reach groups with our annual newsletter 'Beleven' ('Live'), which we try to send to many church communities in Belgium. We are sending this year's offering to the Pearl Family Garden, a project of the OMF International organization (Overseas Missionary Fellowship). This project started in the red-light district of Wanhua, Taipei, to help sex workers and women marginalized by poverty, illiteracy and physical or mental disabilities. The organization provides those in need with prayer, counseling, Bible teaching, and room to socialize. They provide low-income and elderly women with an income from part-time work in handicrafts.

CROATIA

During our prayer service, we connected with and understood the experiences of women from Taiwan, as their stories resonated with those of women in our own country. Our hope is that this event deepened the participants' understanding of global issues, fostering compassion and active listening. We aimed to share God's message of hope, peace, and



DENMARK

acceptance, reaching out to those in need, especially those affected by social isolation during the pandemic.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, we successfully restored in-person WDP worship services and branch meetings. The theme, "I have heard about your faith," inspired reflection on our faith through WDP activities and in our daily lives. The committee's accomplishments include fostering ecumenical sisterhood, strengthening cooperation between branches, and a renewing a sense of togetherness and unity despite diversity. Through this prayer service, we found encouragement, reminding us of our hope and faith in God's promises. The joy of being able to gather in person after two years of online prayers was immeasurable, strengthening our resolve

to continue our mission of spreading hope and support to all.

Facebook: @SMDhrvatska

DENMARK

Learning about the stark contrasts between Taiwan and Denmark left a deep impression on us, particularly as we engaged with remarkable women and their perspectives. During our service, we noticed diverse representations from various denominations. In both Taiwan and Denmark, our shared concern for environmental preservation was evident. We reflected on our commitment as Christians to responsible practices such as waste sorting, even within church contexts. The concept of the "Green Church" emphasizes working collaboratively with authorities to promote resource conservation and sustainability, a testament of our gratitude to God and our care for future generations. This year, a substantial portion of our collections aided Bangladesh and Burundi, with additional support sent annually to Ukraine and Malawi. WDP creates rare interdenominational and intercultural encounters, fostering understanding of varied worship forms and songs. This



year, one church hosted a “Prayer and Brunch” session, drawing enthusiastic participation from both women and children. The women engaged in prayer, while the children enjoyed activities such as stone painting. These moments embody the unifying spirit of the World Day of Prayer across the world.

Website: www.kvindebededag.dk

ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

During our annual ‘Link Day’ conference, we had the pleasure of hosting representatives from WDP Taiwan in Victoria, who also joined us for the London worship service. During this event, we discussed the concerning political tensions. The topic continued to influence local discussions through our Preparation Days. Our focus on supporting charities that aid women and children affected by domestic abuse was particularly relevant given the challenges we face post-Covid lockdown. We are actively working to build support among younger women. And we have engaged children in schools, Sunday schools, and uniformed



organizations with activity sheets and services. Although we long for a return to in person meetings, we’re grateful that online platforms have allowed more women to access our meetings and services. This program has increased our awareness of the issues facing Taiwan, and we are committed to maintaining the connections we’ve made with Taiwanese women living in the UK. We hope that the project grants we provided to Taiwan will make a meaningful difference. As we slowly rebuild after the pandemic lockdown, we’re utilizing the technical advances made during this time and striving to effectively reach out to younger women.

Website: wwdp.org.uk
 Facebook: [@WorldDayOfPrayerEWNI](https://www.facebook.com/WorldDayOfPrayerEWNI)

ESTONIA

We felt that this year’s theme, “I have heard about your faith”, was well-chosen and easily interpretable. Despite challenges, our dedication as messengers of Christ’s love remains strong, urging us to push forward with even greater effort. Our primary focus is on offering support and assistance, as financial gains are not our main motivation. Our capable leaders ensured that those attending our worship services had a delightful and educational atmosphere, including for the children who joined us. The joy of singing and praying was evident. In Estonia, we prayed for wisdom and divine grace to navigate beyond the challenges of Covid-19. While the impact of WDP in Estonia’s secular society and church-life might not be immense right now, our unwavering faith keeps us steadfast. With three decades of WDP services behind us, we remain hopeful for brighter days ahead, strengthened by the harmonious collaboration of diverse confessions.

FAROE ISLANDS

During our worship service, we heard voices from Taiwan sharing experiences



of women protecting the environment, battling gender stereotypes at work and in families, healing from verbal and sexual abuse, and understanding the challenges faced by essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. These issues have sparked our committee's determination to help women and children facing similar situations in our context.

The theme resonated strongly with us. We believe in sowing seeds of hope in our country, guided by the assurance that God has plans for us, as stated in Ephesians 2:10. We aim to be the hands and arms of Christ, reaching out to those in need and offering support and prayer for the lonely, the poor, and the fearful. We hope to inspire more women to join us in celebrating the Women's Day of Prayer in their communities. We are working to make a positive difference in the lives of women through the teachings of the Bible and the hope found in Jesus Christ.

FRANCE

The worship service, with letters of encouragement inspired by Paul's letter to the Ephesians, allowed us to deeply

connect with the experiences of Taiwanese women. The testimonials exuded comfort and positive energy, and we express our gratitude and appreciation for the ways that WDP Taiwan encouraged us. Their letters demonstrated a sense of unity, bridging the gap between their stories and our own. What resonated profoundly is how these women derived strength from their faith to overcome challenges, highlighting the unwavering support of God. Despite hurdles like the COVID-19 pandemic, they orchestrated a moving liturgy, radiating joy while inviting the world to pray alongside them. This prompts introspection: Can we, in secular France, boldly manifest our faith and overcome our shyness? Our faith is shown not just through occasional overt actions, but in our daily lives, child-rearing, and even simple gestures. The assurance of God's unconditional love amidst trials is a beautiful beacon of hope, affirming the truth that every part of our existence matters in the Lord's eyes.

Website: journeemondialedepriere.fr

GERMANY

Upon reflecting on our recent experience, we were astonished to discover the significant number of Taiwanese women living in our country. It was a delightful surprise to see these vibrant women in our communities and churches, sharing their culture and faith across Germany. Their presence was truly soul nourishing, warming our hearts and filling us with joy. We express our gratitude to WDP Taiwan for sharing their wonderful pictures, which encouraged us to view the world with open hearts and minds. This experience taught us that we are not mere confetti, but essential pieces in God's grand puzzle. We now understand the importance of everyone's role in God's kingdom, knowing that when one piece is missing, the artwork of love remains incomplete. As part of the World Day of Prayer, we receive postcards with artwork every year. But this year, we were encouraged to share them with others and spread the love of Christ and sisterhood. To our dear sisters of Taiwan, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your



prayer liturgy, and we pray for God's blessings upon you all. Píng-an!

Website: weltgebetstag.de/en/

Facebook: @weltgebetstag

Twitter: @weltgebetstagD

Instagram: @weltgebetstag

GREECE

The theme was highly effective, leaving a profound impact on all members of our committee. Despite Christians in Taiwan being a minority compared to Buddhists, their strong faith and dedication were evident during the worship service. Representatives from the Taiwan embassy were present and engaged in prayers. We sought wisdom from the Holy Spirit, teaching us how to have love for humanity, and care for the planet. It was impressive to witness the determination of young ladies in Taiwan who knew their goals and took prayerful action without giving up on their dreams. In the context of an ongoing economic crises, our committee emphasized the importance of being vigilant and relying on God to maintain optimism. Prayer topics encompassed global health, healing for abuse survivors, and peace in countries like Ukraine, Armenia, and the Middle East. The program highlighted



the significance of supporting one another, assisting the needy and refugees, and empowering oppressed individuals as a testament to God's love.

HUNGARY

This year's WDP celebrations enjoyed a steady participation, on par with pre-Covid levels. However, in March 2023, due to lingering pandemic concerns, the services were mostly conducted online or postponed to a later date, many of them around Pentecost. Collaborating with our Hungarian sisters beyond our borders, we shared translated preparatory materials for the occasion. Notably, the national leader of the Orthodox Church delivered a sermon in Miskolc,

marking a significant achievement. The central meeting at the headquarters of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary (ECCH) held moments of encouragement, showcasing Taiwan's resilient spirit amidst challenging circumstances. The issues that Taiwan highlighted resonated with our own concerns, leading us to support victims through seminars and practical aid efforts. We collaborated in this ministry with the Women's Desk of Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary.

Through these endeavors, we offered messages of faith, unity, and hope, with a focus on supporting those affected by various challenges, including the pandemic and conflicts in Ukraine and Asia.

IRELAND

As Christian women, we come from diverse theological and church traditions, but we share a common faith in Jesus Christ and a foundation in the Bible. Our unity is rooted in prayer, where we listen to God and each other, leading us to action. COVID-19 posed challenges, but it also pushed us to embrace technology, conducting meetings online, enabling participation from across the country. We've formed strong bonds and embraced each other's gifts, even praying



ITALY



LUXEMBOURG

monthly with our WDP sisters in Slovenia. This year, we held over 98 services, focused on supporting Women's Refuges, and generously donated to organizations offering hope. Our national broadcaster, RTE, aired our service, helping us expand our reach. The issue of membership and leadership is crucial for our future. We cherish the prospect of working and praying with our Northern Ireland sisters and anticipate leading a service prepared by our Palestinian sisters in 2024. Our commitment as a global sisterhood of ecumenical Christian women remains steadfast, trusting in God's transformative power to unite us in love and action.

Website: wdpireland.org
 Facebook: @WWDPI

ITALY

The worship service theme has urged us to take immediate action against growing economic injustice worldwide and within our nation. Challenges faced by the women in Taiwan are present in our country as well, including environmental disasters, domestic abuse, and poverty. The Federation of Protestant Women in Italy (FDEI) releases an annual leaflet with prayers and reflections, prompting churches to combat violence.

While our committee lacks a specific action plan, numerous women's groups engage in meditation, prayer, and support for refugees and domestic violence victims. Some churches participate in the Mediterranean Hope project, facilitating safe passage for migrants, especially families, to Italy and Europe. The resilience of our Taiwanese sisters, along with biblical teachings, motivates us to undertake concrete steps. Our hope lies in fostering closer connections with women dedicated to the WDP both in Italy and abroad.

LUXEMBOURG

It was eye-opening to learn that despite uncertainties about their future, the women in Taiwan remain positive and hold on to their faith in the Lord. This reminded us that women, regardless of where they are in the world, share similar challenges, and it's crucial to face them with positivity and resilience. Inspired by this, we are determined to continue our efforts in supporting women in our country and globally. We had the privilege of having Taiwanese women at one of our worship services, which provided us with firsthand information about their situation. We are committed to supporting them through national organizations. Additionally, we recognize

the importance of instilling faith in our youth and children, ensuring that they see hope and light in the world. Thankfully, all restrictions around COVID-19 have been lifted, allowing us to continue organizing our activities, workshops, and meetings in-person. The annual WDP worship service always renews our faith and empowers us to find ways to aid women worldwide. We eagerly await the next WDP service and the opportunities it will bring.

Website: acfl.lu/weltgebetstag/

NETHERLANDS

We held approximately 125 worship services this year in the Netherlands, celebrating the 2023 program brought by WDP Taiwan. Some services were held in person in churches, and others were viewed online through a virtual format. We used a Dutch translation of the materials for this celebration. We did collect an offering, which we are using to support projects both in Taiwan and in the Netherlands. The celebration this year was really uplifting, and we look forward to the next one.



NORWAY

The WDP event opened our eyes to the situation in Taiwan and fostered a sense of solidarity and understanding among women. The use of personal testimonies and a slideshow presentation by the national committee helped us connect with the people and their struggles in Taiwan. Amidst the pandemic, we deeply appreciated the opportunity to come together and experience fellowship with Christian women from different parts of the world. Our country tends to be insular, but WDP provides a valuable platform to learn about diverse ways of living and the issues faced by other countries. The impact of Taiwan's situation left a lasting impression on all of us, and it inspired us to engage more actively with NGOs and organizations addressing similar challenges. The prayer movement's unifying spirit was felt across different denominations. Looking forward, we are excitedly preparing for the next WDP service in 2024, hoping to continue making a positive difference in the world.

Website:
norgeskristnerad.no/kvinneres-internasjonale-bonnedag/



Facebook: @kvinneresinternasjonale-bonnedag

POLAND

In our experience, active listening played a crucial role in our Bible study, inspiring us to write touching letters to Taiwanese women. During the church services, we were fortunate to have Chinese-speaking guests who shared their experiences about Taiwan during the agape. Ritual tea brewing added to the cultural richness of the gathering. We were saddened to learn about the unfortunate reality of women mistreating each other, even in our country. The discussion shed light on the importance of supporting those in need and not hesitating to defend others' rights. As Christians, we

were reminded of the significance of faith in the resurrected Jesus Christ and how it unites us all. Members of the WDP National Committee in Poland are from diverse denominations, allowing us to host the WDP worship service in different churches each year. This helps us to better understand and appreciate the faith of our friends. This experience highlighted the importance of empathy and unity among Christians, regardless of our backgrounds.

PORTUGAL

The theme of the worship service urged us to maintain our hope in God's promises and have faith in God's kingdom even as we face challenges. It emphasized unity in Jesus Christ, breaking down barriers that



divide us based on social origins, contexts, regions, and cultures. Trusting in the power of the Lord unites us to share the Gospel and its inspiring message. The children's program helped our young people to learn about other countries, cultures, and religious beliefs. Preparation meetings brought together women from diverse religious denominations, fostering unity and understanding. The impact of the WDP Taiwan program brought enthusiasm, inspiring decisions and overcoming challenges. During the time of sharing and reflection, we were prompted to consider how we, as Christians, can bear witness to our faith beyond our physical places of worship. In our churches, we engaged in social work with women and children, referring those in need to accredited support services. We were reminded to listen to God's voice, trust in the Spirit's guidance, and make Christ's love known to the world.

ROMANIA

We were struck by the overwhelming turnout and vibrant celebrations across churches and parish halls for this year's WDP. The theme "I have heard about your faith" served as a poignant reminder to reconnect with our faith and

find solace and strength in its refuge. The gatherings not only fostered fellowship but also enriched our local ecumenical unity. A highlight was the delightful experience of savoring Taiwanese cuisine. The enthusiasm for children's services was notably higher than usual, fostering a sense of community and spiritual engagement. Gratitude abounds towards our Taiwanese sisters for their unwavering faith and love, bridging cultures and inspiring us all. Our committee's decision to support the Maini dibace Foundation signifies our commitment to positive change. This foundation supports underprivileged children and empowers women through various initiatives. The engagement of children and youth in music, dance, and active roles in the service reflects our dedication to nurturing responsibility and talents. The increasing awareness fostered by the children's service is particularly heartening.

Facebook: @Ziua Mondiala de Rugaciune - Romania #WDP ROMANIA

SCOTLAND

In our commitment to faith, we embrace a collective responsibility to heed God's

guidance, and to support one another. Addressing environmental concerns, we actively engage in recycling and strive to maintain the cleanliness of our beaches and rivers, particularly combatting plastic pollution. Scotland grapples with various societal issues, including food insecurity and gender-based violence. We address these issues through initiatives like food banks, women's centers, and support services for survivors. WDP encourages an ecumenical unity in our country, as we acknowledge our diverse backgrounds and denominations while also celebrating a shared devotion to the one God. Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, we adapt and persevere, organizing services and activities for young people. Through worship, study, and fellowship, we strengthen our connections and learn from one another. Our international bonds remain strong, with preparations and resources distributed through various means, including virtual meetings and social media platforms. We recently convened in person, forging deeper connections and insights that will guide our future endeavors. The spirit of unity and commitment endures, fostering growth and understanding within our community.



Website: wdpscotland.org.uk
 Facebook: @World Day of Prayer Scotland Friends

SERBIA

The theme this year resonated deeply within our community of women, and it holds great relevance in our contemporary world. Our exploration of the Bible passage has allowed us to delve into God's Word and embrace its teachings. We honor the legacy of our ancestors and sisters who displayed unwavering devotion to Christ through the Women's World Day of Prayer. Their stories serve as inspiration of true faith, and we believe it is essential for our younger generations to be acquainted with their remarkable journeys. Through fervent prayer, we have uplifted those who are suffering, especially women and children. Our prayers have moved us to engage in projects to support marginalized communities. The WDP celebration is a unifying force, reminding us of our shared hope and salvation. This ecumenical movement has flourished in our country, exemplified by the main celebration in Novi Sad, Serbia, which



involves various churches and languages. Our enthusiasm for this event and its impact grows stronger, as it strengthens our sense of community and faith, encouraging us to stand alongside those in need.

SLOVAKIA

We were deeply moved by the powerful message conveyed during this year's service. The fact that women didn't write about themselves but were thanked by someone else for their actions reminded us of the importance of listening, supporting, and encouraging each other. The Bible text from Ephesians 1:15-19 empowered us, as we prayed for enlightened eyes of the heart to see God's

immeasurable power. Despite fear and doubt, we must remember that we are children of the Almighty God. This gives us courage for both the present and the future. Engaging in charitable and prayerful activities, we sought to bring comfort to those affected by war or abuse. Amidst the pandemic, we prayed for those who are suffering and those who lost loved ones, including

in Taiwan and Ukraine. The special WDP celebration prepared by Taiwanese women had a profound effect on us, especially learning about how they supported a shelter for Ukrainian mothers and children in our country. This act of solidarity was a truly powerful and moving expression of WDP's spirit.

Facebook: @sdmslovensko

SLOVENIA

Participants were deeply moved by the letters of encouragement received during the preparatory seminar, as well as at the 8 worship service locations. Local organizers went the extra mile,



preparing special envelopes and adding a ceremonial touch by hand-delivering the letters, making them feel more personal and relatable. The stories shared, particularly about the struggle for women's education, resonated with the attendees, reminding them of their grandmothers' similar experiences. This year, children were included in some services, creating a livelier atmosphere. Mothers with children appreciated this approach, as they didn't have to find separate childcare. Presentations by a Taiwanese resident in Ljubljana, and representatives from associations linked to Taiwan, fostered a strong connection to the writer country. The in-person services, despite initial concerns due to the pandemic, saw excellent participation and strengthened the commitment to empowering women and supporting global causes. Our committee looks forward to further growth and involvement in the Women's World Day of Prayer in Slovenia.

Website:

smdslovenija.wixsite.com/smdslovenija

Facebook: SMD (Svetovni molitveni dan - Slovenija)

SPAIN

Our committee is committed to amplifying the voices of women and shedding light on their diverse experiences. We have found that personal testimonies presented in clear and simple formats hold more credibility than fictionalized portrayals. Recently, we participated in the Thursdays in Black initiative, which emphasizes the significance of solidarity and prayer with the marginalized in society. In our society, there is an increasing awareness of gender-based violence, with efforts by the government, NGOs, and churches to combat it. We have chosen to support a project related to domestic violence through our offering this year. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, our small committee has persevered by meeting online, allowing us to maintain a truly national presence. Our mission is to be a source of hope, reminding people that God's love is eternal and relevant. Additionally, we engage in local church activities throughout the year.

SWEDEN

The planning of this year's worship service involved small ecumenical committees. Participants expressed their joy and

commitment to this mission. The WDP service rotates among different churches and is promoted through church magazines and digital platforms. Many gatherings combined the service with a meal, often opting for an Asian-style breakfast or dinner, though coffee with cakes was the usual choice. Notably, women from Taiwan actively joined and shared their personal experiences during the service, enhancing the program as we sang the theme song, I have heard about your faith. Intercessions focused on the challenging social and political situation for women in Taiwan, resonating with similar issues faced in Sweden. Additionally, a touching personal testimony highlighted the significance of WDP scholarships, exemplified by a young lady who now has a job after receiving one. One celebration in Bårslöv, Helsingborg involved participants of all ages, with an introduction to Taiwan, a creative activity session, a modified service for children, and a delicious Taiwanese-style dessert with ice-cream, mango, pineapple, and coconut flakes.

Website: svekumeniskakvinnor.se/varlds-bondagen

Facebook: @svekumeniskakvinnor



SWITZERLAND

In our worship services, we explored the connection between active listening and encouragement using the Taiwanese character for “listen.” During a celebration, we wrote words of encouragement on postcards and distributed them to participants, which received a warm reception. This sparked political interest in

Taiwan among our committee and local participants. Our involvement with this program has deepened our understanding of Taiwan and current headlines in the news relate to this country. The programs we supported in Taiwan through our contributions have been impactful. We also recognized and thanked inspiring women in our circles through letters,

acknowledging their active faith. Introducing Taiwan to children through pictures and activities fostered cultural appreciation. Despite challenges related to COVID-19 and world politics, we prayed for peace in Taiwan, Europe, and the rest of the world.

Website: wgt.ch

“Recently, we participated in the Thursdays in Black initiative, which emphasizes the significance of solidarity and prayer with the marginalized in society. In our society, there is an increasing awareness of gender-based violence, with efforts by the government, NGOs, and churches to combat it.”

—WDP SPAIN

“Pîng-an.”

This phrase in Taiwanese means “May God grant you peace, a peaceful relationship with God and with one another.”

March 3, 2023
 “I Have Heard About Your Faith”
 WDP Taiwan
worlddayofprayer.net

Latin America



ARGENTINA

During in-person services, we experienced immense joy and blessings. The services ran smoothly, and people within our communities actively participated. Despite challenges like intense heat and limited lighting, we successfully celebrated WDP with great coordination and happiness. The message shared during the service proved to be very helpful to many attendees. Our committee diligently works across different churches, focusing on addressing gender-based violence, which sadly sees an increase in victims each year, leaving many children orphaned. Additionally, we have been actively raising awareness about environmental issues, encouraging waste separation, reduced consumption, and river cleaning, particularly led by our youth. Furthermore, our Lutheran churches have initiated a reforestation project in the missionary jungle. We aspire to involve both children and older adults in various activities, including

puzzles, music, and church decorating. As we gathered together, we prayed for an end to wars. We remain deeply concerned about the growing poverty and hopelessness among the young people and children in our country. To reach more regions, our committee has started conducting worship services simultaneously in person and through streaming for the first time.

Website: <http://cedmo.blogspot.com/>
Facebook: DMO Argentina

BOLIVIA

In our preparatory meetings for the WDP celebration, we delved into Bible study and sought to understand the challenges faced by women in Taiwan. This led to self-reflection about our own realities, strengthened ecumenism, and helped us recognize the importance of faith. The Bolivian youth's involvement in the organizing committee has grown, and women's leadership remains integral. The

ecumenical nature of our movement appeals to younger generations. However, organized youth ecclesiastical participation needs growth. The issues faced by Taiwanese women mirror ours in Bolivia, particularly the need for environmental care and the addressing of gender-based violence. We're dedicated to fighting gender and environmental violence. Face-to-face meetings invigorated our team, and we're striving to include even more cities in the movement. Young participants are helping shape strategies for future generations. Financial constraints challenge our efforts, but we're focusing on communication, local strengthening, and youth engagement to bolster the movement. Our journey highlights the importance of faith in overcoming challenges and promoting change.

BRAZIL

We had the privilege of being part of an impressive worship service, where the issues raised in the letters to Taiwanese



women closely mirrored the challenges faced by women in our country. It was a timely and relevant topic that encouraged us to share and strengthen our faith story, promoting unity and ecumenism. The program shed light on the importance of increasing visibility for the WDP, an organization dedicated to aiding vulnerable women and children in various countries, including our own. During a workshop on violence against women, we discussed the pressing issues affecting many women in Brazil today. On a brighter note, we observed a calmer situation concerning COVID-19. Our prayers were directed towards supporting women, youth, and children in Taiwan. We prayed for the political climate in Taiwan and environmental concerns. And we prayed that we might find the courage to practice our faith. The experience was reflective and uplifting, prompting us to re-evaluate our own attitudes and connect with other cultures, emphasizing the commonalities that unite us.



Website: dmoracao.comunidades.net/

CHILE

We want to share how faith has been a source of hope and strength for many worship attendees in Chile. Amidst the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, faith has provided a space of praise and adoration, empowering believers to trust in the God of the impossible. Despite the physical and psychological damage caused by the pandemic, technology has played a

crucial role in helping us stay connected, share prayers, engage in talks, and heal and support one another. Strengthening the foundations of faith within families and congregations has been essential, as we work together to continue seeking the Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer has fostered moments of encouragement and unity, connecting distant places and affirming the faith of those who join in prayer. Despite the challenges, preparing WDP programs for different ages has been a rewarding task, delivering powerful messages and teachings that bless everyone involved.

COSTA RICA

The worship service had a significant and motivating theme this year, impacting children and young adults in a unique manner by instilling the importance of maintaining faith during challenging moments. A strong commitment was established to acknowledge, appreciate, and support actions that promote life and environmental care. This initiative



aimed to address the oversight of undervalued individuals through faith-driven endeavors. Each attendee participated by writing letters expressing gratitude and admiration for the life-affirming actions of someone they personally knew as an exemplary model of faith. The event included Taiwanese cultural experiences and craft activities, made possible by the lifting of pandemic restrictions in our country. Prayers were offered for various needs in Taiwan, along with personal intentions, fostering a sense of unity and inspiration among diverse religious groups. The occasion led to the creation of two new celebratory groups, further reinforcing the motivation to recognize and pray for actions that uphold life through faith-driven hope.

CUBA

In the midst of the complex challenges faced by Cuba, including economic instability, social disparities, and high emigration rates, our WDP Committee has been a source of inspiration and purpose. This committee's mission involves active listening to God and people, fostering faith, hope, and encouragement, especially for those facing adversity. Our recent celebration with Taiwan brought us closer despite

our geographical distance, emphasizing shared values and the power of prayer.

Environmental care, gender equality, and the emotional toll of the post-COVID era are pressing issues in Cuba. We are determined to address these concerns by promoting awareness and early education. Our committee serves as a bridge between various churches and ecumenical organizations, facilitating communication, exchange of experiences, and specialized training. Through the study of Cuban women's faith journeys and stories of resilience, we find strength and hope to support families dealing with separation, loss, poverty, violence, and uncertainty. Our work is guided by the principles of hope, faith, solidarity, unity, and love, aiming to sow positive transformation in individuals and communities.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

We had a deeply participatory service where we all recognized the profound significance of faith in God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in today's increasingly challenging world. Drawing inspiration from the Prophet Habacuc, "The righteous will live by faith," we praised the Lord for granting us the gift

of faith, which provides us with peace, joy, and purpose in life. This message resonated especially during post-Covid times. We were reminded that women worldwide face similar struggles, including abuse and mistreatment. In our context, being a third-world country, this issue is an everyday reality. However, our commitment to providing educational guidance and training for women, coupled with the Word of God, empowers them to improve their lives and those of their families. We firmly believe that faith, a gift from God, motivates and sustains us, and we must spread this message within our families, communities, and spheres of influence. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, our celebration managed to bring together both familiar and new churches, fulfilling Jesus' desire for unity among believers worldwide. Our prayers extend to women in Taiwan, our continent, and the world, and we hope to see a future free from such crises.

GUATEMALA

The celebration carried out online by the women of Guatemala was a significant and motivating experience. We had the opportunity to connect with a couple



from the Presbyterian Church of the United States who enlightened us about the situation of women in the government and the church. We also made contact with a couple living and working in Taiwan, who provided us with statistics on women's situations there. We learned about the impressive progress in Taiwan, such as having a female president and the significant representation of women in church committees. Despite facing similar challenges globally, we celebrated the God of life and aimed to participate more actively in different positions of power. The celebration showcased cultural elements, food, and costumes from different churches and denominations. We focused on raising awareness about gender stereotypes, violence against women, and caring for the environment. As a committee, we recognize the importance of providing relevant tools to empower women and continue this WDP celebration in various spaces.

Facebook: Dia Mundial de Oración - Guatemala

HONDURAS

We enjoyed celebrating the 2023 WDP Taiwan service in Honduras this year.

This event brought together various denominations, including the Methodist, Baptist, and Church of God Universal congregations. One of the highlights of the service was the overwhelming sense of Christ's love uniting everyone. Additionally, we took the opportunity to delve into Taiwan's educational system, finding intriguing similarities with our own. In Honduras, our circuit is divided into two, each comprising of numerous churches, with the Bay Islands housing 10, 9 of which are active. Our collective focus was on deepening our commitment to the work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, particularly through workshops aimed at guiding our youth to choose faith in their challenging surroundings. We constantly pray for the well-being of our youth, especially young women facing various forms of abuse. This year, Utila, an island near Roatán and La Ceiba, held a separate service with its 2 churches, while the coast saw a single service at the Zion Methodist congregation in La Ceiba.



MEXICO

The theme of this year's event was motivating and inspiring, instilling hope in those who are suffering. The gathering was marked by an uplifting presence of faithful and courageous women. In our country's context, we actively promote environmental awareness through recycling efforts and advocate for the care of creation. Our voices speak against gender-based violence as a sin, emphasizing Christ as the embodiment of justice. Our commitment to educating children in the Word of God extends to marginalized areas, universities, migrant communities, and homes. Notably, the WDP celebration included teenagers engaging in praise and prayer. A diverse range

NICARAGUA



of topics were prayed for, including fairness for women, spreading Christ's love, uplifting the health sector, and empowering the resilient women of Taiwan. The event successfully reached over 1,400 women in Mexico, promoting awareness and unity. We distributed Taiwanese dolls as a poignant reminder for year-long prayers. The meticulous preparation of worship elements, including stickers inspired by the art from Taiwan, further enriched the experience.

NICARAGUA

We wholeheartedly embraced the essence of active listening and its role as the cornerstone of our prayers, underscored by the material provided by Taiwan. Our awareness grew of Taiwan's predicament, particularly around China's pressures to sever global ties with the island. In light of these circumstances, our prayers took on a special significance, directed towards the women and families impacted by these realities. The resonance was powerful as we related to Taiwan's isolation due to closed borders and the breaking of diplomatic relations, even from our own nation in December 2021. Our worship service, inspired by WDP Taiwan situation, magnified our fervent prayers for the island's

well-being. The solidarity we felt towards the shared struggles of women globally, along with the proactive stance of certain churches in addressing sensitive issues, was heartening. As we celebrated fewer pandemic constraints, our collective faith buoyed our hope for transformative change, fostering a sense of liberation and enthusiasm. Newcomers to the festivities expressed their joy, and camaraderie blossomed through post-celebration gatherings.

PANAMA

The program from our sisters in Taiwan provided us with highly effective analysis and information. It conveyed the message that trusting in God allows us to overcome obstacles and difficulties. The video presentation from Taiwan captivated attendees, and we found it attractive and interesting. The program inspired us to improve our work performance and face challenges with courage. The issues raised by Taiwanese women resonated with our own country's problems, and we hope to bring about positive change for women, children, and the whole community. The main biblical text reminded us that faith must be accompanied by love and mercy, guiding us to be supportive and

PANAMA



hopeful in the places we find ourselves in. The children engaged in activities about environmental care, using recyclable materials creatively. We felt supported by the dedicated group of women behind the program, and our prayers focused on migrants and seeking strength to grow in faith amidst difficulties. Overall, the program strengthened our faith and commitment to serve the vulnerable in our community.

PARAGUAY

We found the service to be deeply inspiring and emotional, as it resonated with our shared experiences. It helped us to see and understand vulnerabilities and support our fellow women. Our unity through faith in God and the belief in God's constant presence amidst life's challenges is a powerful connection that transcends borders. We discussed common themes, especially the complexities faced by Latin American women. While we tackle environmental issues, our priority remains addressing gender discrimination and violence. Reflection, dialogue, and Bible studies led us to realize the importance of sowing seeds of change in vulnerable spaces, including our families and neighborhoods. Even children joined us in worship, fostering a



sense of togetherness. The pandemic forced our meetings to be virtual, but our empathy persisted, accommodating programs and discussions around urgent matters like the current chikungunya outbreak. Notably, the participation of representatives from the Taiwanese embassy added a special touch to our emotional gathering, fostering cross-cultural understanding and connection.

VENEZUELA

Celebrations took place in various cities across Venezuela, from Caracas to

Barquisimeto and Puerto La Cruz, spanning Central, West, and Eastern regions. The festivities were a poignant reminder of the connections between Taiwan and Venezuela, as each testimony mirrored the shared challenges faced by both communities. It was especially touching to witness the genuine identification and commitment of each participant to support the most vulnerable and sow seeds of hope. The event marked a significant milestone as it was the first in-person gathering after the pandemic, allowing us to meet, see, and embrace

each other, which served as a tremendous source of encouragement for the entire committee and the community. We look forward to the possibility of hosting this event again in 2024, as it strengthens bonds within our community. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the International Committee and our sisters from the WDP Taiwan Committee for their dedicated efforts in crafting this beautiful liturgy. Your support and encouragement are deeply appreciated.

“Our worship service, inspired by WDP Taiwan situation, magnified our fervent prayers for the island’s well-being. The solidarity we felt towards the shared struggles of women globally, along with the proactive stance of certain churches in addressing sensitive issues, was heartening.”

—WDP NICARAGUA

“How are you encouraged by the testimonies of the saints?”

Our sisters in Taiwan have invited the world to reflect on this question as part of the 2023 World Day of Prayer.

“I Have Heard About Your Faith”
Ephesians 1:15-19
WDP Taiwan 2023

worlddayofprayer.net

Middle East



EGYPT

We were truly inspired and deeply moved by the theme and the program highlighting the importance of faith in our lives, especially during these challenging times. Our hearts were touched as we recognized the need to approach life with faith, praying and seeking spiritual growth with unwavering trust. Despite economic stresses, we found encouragement in the greatness of our God, who bestows blessings generously. Our efforts within the council of women have led us to villages and cities, where we passionately share the message of gender equality and women's rights. In the face of distractions from social media and restlessness, we humbly request your prayers for women to embrace discipleship. Our time together in



fellowship, whether in gardens or other gatherings, has reinforced our connection with God and reminds us of God's constant presence. We are grateful for life and acknowledge its brevity, urging us to use our time wisely.

LEBANON

The Taiwanese women's message of maintaining faith despite challenges resonates strongly in Lebanon, a country grappling with corrupt leadership, scarcity of essentials, and financial crisis. Amidst despair, the message emphasized having an unwavering trust in God's presence and promises. This year's worship service, held both in-person and online due to the dire circumstances, received positive feedback, offering encouragement and enrichment to attendees and viewers. The theme of solid faith is apt for a nation where poverty affects the majority and hope is vital. Despite adversity, the Armenian

Evangelical Sunday schools united to celebrate and learn from Taiwan, highlighting the importance of faith and unity. The Lebanon National WDP Committee made a charitable contribution to a struggling psychiatric hospital, reflecting a commitment to aid the less fortunate. The challenges in our country persist, but the spirit of worship, faith, and outreach endures across languages and generations.

Facebook: World Day of Prayer National Committee of Lebanon

PALESTINE

The program was exceptionally well-written and organized, providing us with valuable guidance. Many women dedicated significant efforts to engage in the activities outlined, with a special emphasis on the enriching musical components. The program enlightened us about diverse challenges faced by



women globally, fostering a sense of solidarity even in our current situation in Palestine. Our aspiration is to enhance community awareness and support by involving more individuals from our towns and cities, recognizing that our modest committee's capacity to contribute is limited. Our optimism is rooted in the resiliency of women. Women's unwavering determination further fuels our anticipation for next year's event, aiming to replicate the spirit of sharing seen in this year's service. Although our group is small, our voices resonate strongly, echoing a broader theme of unity experienced worldwide. Despite the difficulties, we found common ground between Taiwan and Palestine in our shared global struggles. The event successfully combined different denominations, and a photo gallery showed poignant images.

Facebook: @ World Day of Prayer - Palestine

TUNISIA

We distributed the WDP materials this year to various communities throughout Tunisia. Unfortunately, we have struggled since the onset of COVID-19 to generate interest in people getting involved with the services. We have gotten requests for the materials, and acknowledgement and a word of thanks for providing the documents, though we were not given any specific reports of whether any worship services occurred. Our committee over the years has been composed of representatives from the Catholic, Anglican, French Reform, Russian and Greek Orthodox churches.

TURKEY

Despite facing difficult circumstances this year, including an earthquake in February, we managed to organize a small group for the worship service. We listened to the stories of strong Taiwanese women who shared their hopes,

fears, sorrows, and joys. These stories reinforced the significance of faith in God and the importance of sharing that faith within our communities. The earthquake exacerbated existing problems such as economic crises, migration, sexual abuse, grief, and poverty. Despite being a small group, we actively provided help and encouragement within our personal communities. The cooperation and assistance from faithful individuals within Turkish society (including both Christians and Muslims) were sources of encouragement, fostering hope for peaceful coexistence. In our worship services, efforts were made to integrate children by involving them in reading, playing music, giving presentations, and performing various duties. The celebration served as motivation for women to take a more active role within the church. What keeps us all together is our shared prayer and common faith in spite of our different denominations.

“Our optimism is rooted in the resiliency of women. Women's unwavering determination further fuels our anticipation for next year's event, aiming to replicate the spirit of sharing seen in this year's service.”

—WDP PALESTINE

Pacific



AMERICAN SAMOA

We united in worship and prayer alongside the women of Taiwan, empathizing with their daily fears and struggles, particularly around looming wars and battles. Our prayers were heartfelt, extending not only to Taiwan, but to the entire world. The impactful engagement with Taiwanese customs and cultural expressions, including dancing and recitations, celebrated their resilience and prompted us to step out of our comfort zones to support others facing challenges. Our own context also grapples with gender inequality, abuse, and climate change, which we address through initiatives like the All Girls' Camps, Women's Retreats, and Staycations. Our services were enriched by young women's participation, reminding us of God's constant presence. Despite the pandemic, we joyfully convened gatherings across our 25 Districts in the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCAS), reinforcing the belief that God is faithful and always with us.



AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

We thoroughly enjoyed the well-crafted service and the opportunity it provided to delve deeper into Taiwan's history and culture. The worship service left a positive impression on our National Committee, garnering deep admiration. The workshop held in January offered a dynamic experience, with a live stream option that enabled various groups to partake in the service virtually. Many individuals were still nervous about hosting in-person gatherings, so this provided a nice alternative. Our thoughts and prayers were dedicated to the recovery of all those impacted by the pandemic.

Website: worlddayofprayer.org.nz

AUSTRALIA

The worship service received positive feedback from many congregations, as people praised the uplifting material and the creativity of the program. Emphasizing the ecumenical spirit of our gathering, and our shared love for Christ, hosts felt the presence of the Holy Spirit during the services. The program provided an opportunity for global Christian communities to learn about the challenges facing Taiwanese women, especially immigrant brides. Despite challenges caused by the pandemic, many local services were held successfully, with some involving schoolchildren and young people. Aging coordinators and attendees in some states posed challenges for continuing the WDP program, but the commitment and creativity shown by participants highlighted its value and importance. Prayers were offered for the protection and well-being of the Taiwanese people amidst political tensions and natural disasters. Overall, the WDP service provided an opportunity to strengthen



faith, love, and unity among Christians worldwide through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Website:
worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

COOK ISLANDS

In 2022, we encountered challenges with hosting our WDP event due to pandemic-related restrictions, leading to a reduced attendance. This year, however, our WDP service returned to normal. It is the tradition in Rarotonga to have different denominations take turns each year, and this year's worship service was hosted by the Seventh Day Adventist church. WDP has been a vital movement for Cook Islands women, transcending denominations, and fostering unity to support women worldwide, especially those in Taiwan. Our country was fortunate to escape the worst of the pandemic, and we maintained our close-knit family-oriented lifestyle. We embrace harmony and focus on nurturing our youth and children within safe environments. We attribute our success to faith and prayer, as we rally support for the WDP movement. We are thankful this year for our faith, the receding of COVID-19, and the



support from the Seventh Day Adventist committee. We look forward to maintaining the spirit of unity and hope in upcoming WDP events.

FIJI

We express our gratitude and congratulations to the WDP committee of Taiwan for their program in 2023. The WDP committee in our country was revived in 2021 and has been committed to prayer initiatives since then. In 2022, we held 20 weeks of prayer and later 10 weeks in partnership with the Fiji Council of Churches, all leading up to our general election in December 2022. The theme was "Spirit of God Unite Us." The 2023 worship services took place in various churches, with the main ecumenical service held at the Holy Trinity Anglican

Cathedral in Suva. The theme prompted reflection on gender inequality and other issues faced by our women, echoing the experiences of our Taiwanese sisters. Despite challenges, we advocate for issues around violence against women through church programs and policies. Our high exposure to natural disasters and the economic impacts of COVID-19 disproportionately affect women. To all of our sisters worldwide, we say: Do not lose hope and trust in God. Things will change.

KIRIBATI

Thankfully, our country is back to normal after the pandemic, and everything was running smoothly for us to organize our in-person worship services. The Kiribati Uniting Church, along with other churches participating, found the theme of "faith" to be a powerful and transformative aspect of our community. The program highlighted contemporary issues faced by the Pacific and Kiribati contexts. Despite cultural challenges, the Kiribati women resonated with the struggles faced by Taiwanese women, particularly around environmental concerns. We aim to tackle the patriarchal system dominating our traditions and



SAMOA

customs, emphasizing women’s roles in protecting the environment. The successful implementation of the WDP Taiwan program and the use of technology brought appreciation and hope for addressing these pressing issues.

SAMOA

During the pandemic, our National Committee faced restrictions in hosting activities due to government and health department regulations. Our WDP service was held with limited attendance,

adhering to safety measures like mask-wearing, vaccination proof, sanitizers, and social distancing. Some participated remotely, accessing materials through church leaders. The service, hosted by the Congregational Christian Church, was broadcasted on TV and the radio. Distinguished guests attended, including Samoa’s first woman Prime Minister and Head of State. We engaged in skits, songs, prayers, and a sermon reflecting the experiences of women in Taiwan. An interactive session followed, encouraging

reflection and action on issues like gender inequality and the environment. This highlighted shared challenges and ways to stand with women in Taiwan. As Covid-19 restrictions eased this year, attendance grew, reinforcing the message of unity, prayer, and resiliency across borders. The Women’s Council of Churches appreciates the WDP’s global impact in strengthening faith journeys and advocating for a common purpose.

“The theme prompted reflection on gender inequality and other issues faced by our women, echoing the experiences of our Taiwanese sisters. Despite challenges, we advocate for issues around violence against women through church programs and policies.”

—WDP FIJI

How to Pronounce the Names in the Worship Service

- Woman 1 - Pao-Chu 寶珠 "bao-zhu"
- Woman 2 - Fen-Jiau 鳳嬌 "fong-jiao"
- Woman 3 - Jojo 喬喬 "ciao-ciao"
- Woman 4 - Pearl 珍珠 "zhen-zhu"
- Woman 5 - Daiken 岱懇 "dai-ken"

"I Have Heard About Your Faith" Ephesians 1:15-19 WDP Taiwan 2023 worlddayofprayer.net

Simple Offerings

BY KATIE REIMER

*“Thank you for your love and grace
with all my heart and soul.
Bring you a simple offering,
may it please you, Lord.”*
— Song by Yin-Ting Lai
(WDP Taiwan)

There are so many women who bring “simple offerings” to God through our World Day of Prayer movement. Simple offerings like saying yes to reading part of the liturgy in a worship service. Simple offerings like organizing a WDP celebration that brings people together in prayer across different denominations. Simple offerings like creating an arrangement of the theme song that can be engaged by local musicians to lead a community in singing. All of these simple offerings make our WDP movement vibrant, creative and life giving. Each time a woman gives a simple offering, our collective prayer to God becomes stronger, and our world becomes more energized and alive.

There is so much to be thankful for this year. The stories below give a few glimpses into all that God is doing among us. Praise be to God, from whom all these blessings flow!

TAIWAN 2023

It is a powerful gift when someone takes the time to listen deeply to us. We all

*“Our Taiwanese sisters
gave the world a precious
gift this year, inviting us
all to give and receive
words of encouragement
through all the joys and
pains of living.”*

need people to bear witness to our lives. We need people to see our struggles. And we need people to name how they have seen us overcome those struggles. When others take the time to affirm our faithfulness and resiliency, we are often encouraged and strengthened by their words.

Our Taiwanese sisters gave the world a precious gift this year, inviting us all to give and receive words of encouragement through all the joys and pains of living. Based on the letter to the Ephesians, the worship service invited us to hear and affirm the faithfulness of women in Taiwan. As we heard their stories, we were inspired to notice and name those in our own communities who have been faithful and wise, kind and resilient. We express our heartfelt

thanks to WDP Taiwan for the gift of this program!

PALESTINE 2024

“The 2023 theme was a message not only to Taiwanese women, but to all people around the globe. It called us to LIVE our faith in actions and attitudes based on the love and will of God. A similar theme follows in 2024, when WDP Palestine urges us all to live in unity and love.”
—Nora Carmi (WDP Palestine)

The world received a program this year written by our Palestinian sisters for the 2024 celebration. Many committees have already started preparing the program by translating and distributing the materials. We are all delving deeply into the theme “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love,” which calls us to stay in community with each other, despite difficulties and differences.

In February, 2023, many WDP women from Palestine and the international community gathered in Jerusalem for the ordination of Sally Azar. Sally became the first Palestinian woman to be ordained as a pastor in the Holy Land, and the fifth ordained female clergy person in the Middle East. Rev. Sally has been a leader in our movement, serving as WDP Palestine's voting delegate in the 2017 and 2022 WDPIC International



Meetings. She was involved in developing the 2024 program, and is currently serving as the WDP liaison. We celebrate this historic ordination, as it advances women's equality in the church.

In August, 2023, WDP Palestine organized a Strengthening National Committee (SNC) workshop to develop plans for the upcoming WDP Young Women's Pilgrimage, and to prepare for local celebrations of WDP in Palestine.

Approximately 20 women gathered at Abraham's Herbage in Beit Jala from Aug 24-26, coming from the Armenian Apostolic, Evangelical Lutheran (ELCJHL), Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Emmanuel Evangelical Episcopal (EEEP) churches. This workshop was particularly important for WDP Palestine, because the COVID-19 pandemic had prevented them from doing the usual in-person workshops in 2020 and 2021 to launch the writing process.

"My dream is for hope and justice, and that the WDP will flourish, spreading profoundly not in numbers, but in depth and witness."—Workshop Participant (WDP Palestine)

COOK ISLANDS 2025

Our sisters from WDP Cook Islands have been editing the 2025 program this year.

The theme, "I Made You Wonderful," is based on Psalm 139:1-18. Members of the WDPIC Executive Committee received and read through the first draft in early 2023. They provided comments and feedback for WDP Cook Islands, which has informed the editing process. WDP Cook Islands created this intention statement, which summarizes the upcoming 2025 program:

"This program invites us to recognize that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. God knows us intimately, and we are special to God in our uniqueness. When we open the doors of our hearts to this truth, everything in our life changes. We glow from within, and we begin treating others as beloved children of God. Through this program, we hope people will be spiritually uplifted as they come to trust the great love of God."—WDP Cook Islands Intention Statement

Our movement looks forward to receiving the final version of this powerful program!

NIGERIA 2026

WDP Nigeria organized a Writer Workshop this spring to launch the writing process for the 2026 program. Their theme is "I Will Give You Rest: Come," based on Matthew 11:28-30. Evangelist Nneoma Florence Uche did much of the

organizing, bringing together 30 women at the Bible Guest House in Lagos from April 30-May 5, 2023. These women came from Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist Church of Nigeria, Salvation Army, Pentecostal, ESOCS, the First African Church, the United Evangelical Church, the Evangelical Church of West Africa, Ayo Ni O, Lutheran, and United Methodist churches. Queen Bridget Chisha (Africa Regional Representative, WDP Zambia) and Katie Reimer (Executive Director, WDPIC) also traveled to Nigeria to help facilitate the workshop.

The time together helped build trust and solidarity among this group of women, called to become one body through this ecumenical writing process. The workshop included theological and personal reflection on the theme, and helped women become more familiar with the WDP movement and resources. Working groups were formed to create a first draft of the materials by the end of 2023. *The Sun Nigeria* newspaper wrote an article about this workshop on Wednesday, May 17, titled "Praying for the nation."

"God has taught me many things here. He has opened my eyes. God is really a burden lifter, that if one could come to Him in faith, one would have rest."—Funke Salako, (WDP Nigeria)



“This week has been interesting. What I enjoyed most was the teamwork, commitment, and inclusivity. The workshop strengthened our sense of self-esteem, harnessing our potential. Before now, we didn’t know that we had these beautiful talents among us, but coming together as one body has made us discover ourselves. It has given us the opportunity to be more committed in our work and service of God and, of course, human beings.”
 —Dr. Patience Osunkwo, (WDP Nigeria)

WDP CENTENNIAL 2027

Planning is underway for our WDP Centennial in 2027, celebrating 100 years of uninterrupted global ecumenical prayer. The theme for our Centennial is “United in Prayer for Justice and Peace!” and we are engaging women of all ages and from all regions to help inspire and shape this landmark year. Our hope is to celebrate the past, while also looking forward to the future. We stand on the legacy of love of so many women worldwide who have built up our prayer movement over the last century. And the Spirit is certainly moving us into a bright and creative future. Let us all come together in prayer as this



and faith is inspiring to us all.

“The Global Conversation was well carried out, fruitful and meaningful. We, the WDP Taiwan members, enjoyed every minute of it. It is our great honor to serve the wider WDP community. We look forward very much to celebrating the 2023 WDP service with the rest of the world.”
 —Nancy Lin (WDP Taiwan)

#THURSDAYSINBLACK

wondrous process unfolds in months and years to come!

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

Leading up to our celebration of the 2023 prayer service, we held a Global Conversation on December 12, 2022, called “Let’s Talk with WDP Taiwan.” This was a chance for the world to hear from the Taiwanese women who wrote the 2023 program. There were 8 women representing WDP Taiwan who spoke on the panel. The conversation was live streamed on our WDPIC Facebook page and was shared later on YouTube. The 2023 program really came alive through this opportunity to hear directly from our sisters in Taiwan. Their commitment

Thursdays in Black is an initiative of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The initiative grew out of the WCC’s “Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998),” in which stories of rape as a weapon of war, and other forms of gender-based violence became more visible. The World Day of Prayer movement has actively supported and joined this initiative over the years. And we renewed our commitment to Thursdays in Black at the 2022 WDPIC International Meeting (IM). At that IM meeting, delegates noted that violence against women has been a recurring theme in many WDP worship services over the years. We recognize our responsibility to speak out against gender-based violence by



wearing black on Thursdays as a sign of resistance and resiliency.

THE HYMN SOCIETY 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MONTRÉAL, CANADA

WDP submitted a proposal, which was accepted, to present a sectional at the Hymn Society of North America's 2023 Annual Conference. We sent 3 representatives to give a presentation on the songs that have come out of our WDP movement - Katie Reimer (WDPIC Executive Director), Edith Toth (WDPIC European Regional Representative, WDP Romania) and Yin-Ting Lai (composer of several songs for the 2023 WDP Taiwan worship service). The sectional was held on July 17 in Montréal, Canada. We were deeply moved to have 2 special guests in the audience — Helga Hiller (WDP Germany) and Eileen King (Executive Director, WDPIC, from 1987–2012). Many new connections were made with music directors, pastors, and people who love to sing. We were grateful for the opportunity to bring the WDP songs and spirit to this gathering.

“Eileen and I are deeply grateful for being able to share in this event at the Hymn



Society. The concept and performances were excellent and moving. The flawless and smooth working together of three extraordinary musicians was a true expression of the WDP spirit of women working well together.”

—Helga Hiller (WDP Germany)

YOUNG WOMEN'S PILGRIMAGE 2023

WDPIC is collaborating with WDP Palestine to organize a Young Women's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Nov 19–26, 2023. We accepted applications in the spring of 2023, and selected 14 young women (ages 21–35) from each of the 7 regions in our movement. The interest in this trip was high, and we had to put quite a few young women on a waiting

list. This pilgrimage will follow in the footsteps of Jesus, leading us both to important historical sites. And, we will also visit the “living stones,” taking time to connect and hear the stories of our Palestinian Christian sisters. Each participant will bring a reflection back to the whole WDP movement following the pilgrimage. We trust that God will guide us on this powerful journey.

“The involvement of young women is essential to ensure the marking of 200 years and beyond of continuous prayer through WDP. In my acceptance speech as the Chairperson of this movement, I made a commitment to be intentional about involving young women. This pilgrimage is the beginning of such wonderful activities to come.”—Joyce Larko Steiner (Chairperson, WDPIC)

OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Welcome, Maselina Tuioti!

Each woman on our Executive Committee was elected to her position at the last WDPIC International Meeting in 2022, and each woman will serve through the next International Meeting in 2027. One of the Pacific Regional Representatives elected by her region last year needed to step down from her role. Since there were no other women who ran for election in the Pacific, our Executive Committee decided to extend an invitation to a replacement to serve as a Pacific Regional Representative during this term. We received a letter of recommendation from WDP Samoa in support of Maselina Tuioti serving as a Pacific Regional Representative. Since Maselina was invited, and not elected, she will have voice but not vote on the Executive Committee. Let us extend a warm welcome to Maselina, with gratitude that she is willing to serve for such a time as this!



WDPIC Executive Committee welcomes Maselina



Maselina Tuioti,
Pacific Regional Rep.



Maselina with WDP leaders at the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, 2022

Encouraging Each Other

BY KATIE REIMER

The World Day of Prayer is brimming over with faithful women who make the time every year to connect with God and with each other. We are a movement of women who actively listen to each other's stories. As we pay attention to each other, we encourage each other to remain strong, kind and compassionate through the struggles we face. Encouraging each other is a form of prayer, as we grow to see and feel God's constant presence in our lives.

There are many ways that women encourage each other in our prayer movement. Women reach out to the Writer Committee from places near and far to ask questions or build a relationship. Women offer a word of gratitude to those carrying leadership roles among us. Women contact new individuals and communities and encourage them to join a worship service. Each gesture of encouragement builds us all up together as the body of Christ. As we grow together, the immeasurable love of God becomes more visible in the world.



Katie Reimer, Executive Director, World Day of Prayer International

I want to offer a special word of thanks to one woman who has encouraged me constantly through this first year in my position as the Executive Director of WDPIC. Joyce Larko Steiner, the Chairperson of our movement, has uplifted and motivated me many times, through text messages, emails and phone calls. I am stronger because of her, and I know she is a source of encouragement to so

many among us. Another source of encouragement for me has been my co-worker, Samantha Figueroa, who always approaches our work together with a kind and patient spirit. Finally, I would like to mention that the entire Executive Committee has regularly met by Zoom this year, sharing their thoughts and experiences, and listening to each other. I see each Executive Committee member encouraging and supporting each other, and the WDP Committees in her region.

I am convinced that the Spirit is moving among us in this WDP movement. I know that as each of us feels seen and understood within our prayer movement, we are able to extend that love and encouragement to others in our families and communities. Our collective prayers are nourishing us, even as they bless the entire world. To God be the glory.

“We are a movement of women who actively listen to each other’s stories. As we pay attention to each other, we encourage each other to remain strong, kind and compassionate through the struggles we face.”

WDP at a Glance



The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. The common day of observance is the first Friday of March, but WDP activities are held all year long.

The 2023 Journal is based on 87 reports out of the 146 countries that received the WDP worship service materials. The COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing and has had various effects around the world. Most countries reported on how they continue dealing with the impact of the pandemic. Many countries have resumed in-person worship services, though most continue to utilize technology that was developed during the pandemic.

The Journal is downloadable from the WDPIC website and a PDF copy is emailed to National Committees and ecumenical partners. The materials prepared each year by the Writer Committees are accessible from a password protected Members section on the WDPIC website. These are available to the liaison of each National Committee.

How will WDP offering make a difference in Taiwan and around the world?

The World Day of Prayer Guiding Principles acknowledge that all people have something to give and to receive. Local groups receive the materials from the Writer Committee and respond with giving. Each National Committee decides how to use offerings collected each year. Through this WDP offering, financial resources are shared with women and children around the world. The exchange of stories and gifts is one way that our motto of “Informed prayer, Prayerful action” is lived out.

WDP Taiwan has indicated a few projects and organizations to support as a sign of our global solidarity. The projects and organizations aim to assist immigrant families, help single mothers or underprivileged woman become financially independent, help children of incarcerated parents, and help children and teenagers from disadvantaged families receive trauma-informed care.

The National Committees reported that this year’s offering will be given to their local community and abroad for the following purposes:



Supporting women, youth and children through education, mentoring, shelter, seedbank and food distribution programs, clean water, and empower the victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.



Providing assistance for the elderly, refugees, migrants, victims of regional and political conflicts, the homeless and vulnerable, children with disabilities and terminal illnesses.



Aiding for those affected by natural disasters such as the victims of the earthquake in Turkey this year;



Promote Christian education for children and youth, grant scholarship for women's theological formation and sponsor ecumenical initiatives;



Organize WDP locally and nationally, support the regional and international WDP coordination, and contribute to WDPIC leadership by donating to the Fund for Tomorrow.

WDP 1927–2031 THEME TIMELINE

Our latest WDP poster showcases 104 years of World Day of Prayer worship services. The timeline poster lists the writers who have lent their voices to the movement, and the themes that motivated their prayers since 1927. Our movement of “Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action” has grown and expanded over the years and, in 2027, our movement will have reached the incredible milestone of 100 years of uninterrupted prayer!



This poster includes the themes and countries selected at our 2022 WDPIC International Meeting:

WDPIC - 2027 - “United in Prayer for Justice and Peace!”

WDP Costa Rica - 2028 - “Leading the Way in Grace”

WDP Italy - 2029 - “Compassion Brings Healing”

WDP Nepal - 2030 - “As the Earth Rests, People Can Eat”

WDP Jamaica - 2031 - “A Sign of Faith”

And finally, the artwork selected for this poster was created by the former Chairperson for WDP Cuba, Ruth Mariet Trueba Castro, who unexpectedly and sadly passed away in 2021. Ruth worked closely with WDPIC ever since creating the artwork for the WDP Cuba program in 2016. We are grateful for the talent, kindness and passion she shared with us over the years. May she rest in eternal peace.

There are two ways that you can order the poster. You can order a printed copy from the WDPIC office (email—admin@worlddayofprayer.net) or you can order the art design and print the poster in your country.

The updated prices are:

1 to 10 printed posters = \$ 5.00 each poster plus shipping;

11 to 99 printed posters = \$ 4.00 each poster plus shipping;

Over 100 printed posters = \$ 3.00 each poster plus shipping;

Digital Art Design = Free of charge

EDITORIAL TEAM

The WDP Journal is an annual publication of the World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC). It is based on the Annual Reports written by the WDP National/Regional Committees. It offers an overview of the global movement from its local context, and includes expressions of prayer and action based on the annual theme. WDPIC promotes the sharing of information, therefore the Journal can be freely downloaded from the WDPIC website, and it can be reproduced provided acknowledgment is given to the source of information. All photos were originally sent from WDP Committees with the understanding that they might be published.

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Pacific:

Vicki Marney, Australia

Maselina Tuioti, Samoa

PALESTINE

“I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love”

March 1, 2024

The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement inspired by the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.” We follow the example of Jesus Christ, who prayed from a place of knowledge and care for the world, and who acted from a place of prayer and connection to God.

An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 program. Their theme is “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love,” based on Ephesians 4:1-7. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

The Worship Service shares stories of three Palestinian Christian women, who witness to the power of bearing together in love. Their stories illuminate the experiences of Palestinian women from three different generations. The symbol of an olive tree is used throughout the worship service. This represents the three generations through the trunk, branches, and leaves of the olive tree.

The Palestinian Christian women who wrote this worship service have invited the world to pray for peace, justice and freedom of religion and freedom of movement. Their prayers specifically call us to pray with women, refugees, persons experiencing homelessness, and all who are sick, dying and grieving. They also call us to confess to our collective role in causing the climate crisis, and to commit to repairing what we have destroyed. Finally, they call us, the global church, to be united in treating all with justice and love.

This program was developed entirely in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking on the responsibility of being a writer country is always a rigorous journey, but it was particularly difficult given the changed realities of a world suffering under a global pandemic. We are grateful to our Palestinian Christian sisters for navigating this process with grace and patience.



COOK ISLANDS

“I Made You Wonderful”

March 7, 2025

Our sisters from WDP Cook Islands have spent the last few years deepening into the theme, “I Made You Wonderful,” based on Psalm 139:1-18. Their program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we have the capacity to receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within.

Our first Guiding Principle in the World Day of Prayer articulates that our starting point is Christian women. This has been an essential conviction of our movement over the last century. Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this upcoming theme from WDP Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that we as women and girls are “fearfully and wonderfully” made in the image of God reinforces our movement’s support of women “express[ing] their faith and speak[ing] about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.”

The Worship Service invites us to notice aspects of our divinely created bodies that we often take for granted. Following this grounding opening liturgy, we are then invited to hear the scripture from Psalms 139:1-18, woven together with stories of three women from the Cook Islands. We come to understand that God knows us, is always with us, and made us unique and special.

Our sisters from Cook Islands have invited us to offer prayers of adoration and thanksgiving to our Creator, followed by prayers of confession and longing. The prayers of intercession guide us to ask God for wisdom, courage and healing, so that all people would be treated as fearfully and wonderfully made.

Praise God for the dedication and love of our sisters in Cook Islands as they prepared these materials. May they bless us.



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