



6 March

2009

World Day of Prayer



*In
Christ
there are
many
members,
yet one
body.*

**Children's
Service**

About World Day of Prayer 2008

World Day of Prayer brings people of many faith traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. A different country prepares the theme and worship services each year. For 2009, the women of Papua New Guinea developed the theme, *In Christ, there are many members, yet one body.*

About the Writers

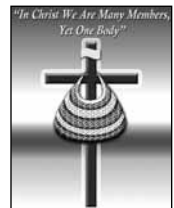
The people of Papua New Guinea welcome you to their country, a land of many languages, traditions and beliefs. Though many villages experience isolation because of the rugged landscape, there is unity in diversity. The people of Papua New Guinea say, “By God’s grace we are united.” Members of many churches got together to plan this World Day of Prayer. They invite us to join them in celebrating their unity in Christ, where good overcomes evil and diverse communities may be of one heart and soul.

About the Worship Service

The 2009 WDP service will begin joyfully at the first sunrise of March 6, in the Pacific where Papua New Guinea is situated. Through the lens of the people of PNG, we deepen our understanding of the true nature of Christian unity, which binds all who have faith in Christ. Come with us to Papua New Guinea. Come with the confidence of Ruth who said to Naomi: “Your people shall be my people and your God my God” (*Ruth 1:16b*).

About the Art

The art for WDP 2009 puts together two symbols to represent a diverse people’s unity in Christ: the cross and the *bilum*. The *bilum*, a string bag made by hand, is found nearly everywhere in PNG. It is used for many things, including carrying heavy loads and babies. Debbie Paris combines the symbolism of the cross and the *bilum* with photography by Diane Harwood to express “many members, one body.”



2009 World Day of Prayer Children’s Service © 2009 World Day of Prayer (U.S.A.)
WDP 2009 art by the women of PNG; photography by Diane Harwood;
graphic design by Debbie Paris; illustrations by Yvonne Hileman
Produced by Presbyterian Women, PC(USA), 100 Witherspoon St.,
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World Day of Prayer 2009

Children's Service

In Christ, there are many members, yet one body.

Prepared by the women of Papua New Guinea

Welcome Song and Opening

Song

God of All the World (*Mi puela i bung*)

(traditional Papua New Guinea hymn)

Eng. trans., Fred Kaan



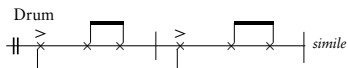
Tok Pisin: Mi pe-la i bung pa-pa God long on-rim yuy na long
English: God of all the world, we have come to give you thanks and be -



ten - kim yu tru. tru. Long dis - pe la
come more like you. you. In wor - ship we



lo tu ol pi - pei i bung wan - taim yu.
long to be one with each oth - er and you.



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Reader 1: Welcome, girls and boys, from Papua New Guinea, the “land of the unexpected” and home of the Bird of Paradise.

We, the children of Papua New Guinea, are excited that we are with you for this World Day of Prayer service. The theme is “In Christ, there are many members, yet one body.” We want you to know that this theme is very special for us. We are happy that we can tell you about our country.

Reader 2: In Papua New Guinea, we love to come together to worship. We pray, and we praise God by singing and dancing. In Papua New Guinea, nearly all the communities are built around the church. Our churches are very active and helpful. They provide many services for remote areas in Papua New Guinea. Please join us as we pray with and for the children of Papua New Guinea.

Learning Activity

For additional activities, see Learning Center, page 15.

We Are Many

Leader: First we’ll play a game to help us appreciate the variety and unity in all creation and to see that in Christ the whole human race is united, as stated in the theme. Everyone is asked to think of as many fruits as they can.

The first person begins: It would have been enough for God to create an apple, but God also created the banana.

The next person continues: It would have been enough for God to create the apple and the banana but God also created the orange.

The next person continues: It would be enough for God to create the apple, the banana and the orange, but God also created the mango.

The game continues until a variety of fruits are named. This simple game is open to many adaptations and can include other things, until the leader calls time.



Tropical fruits and indigenous foods are a blessing and a sustainer of life.

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1–6 (NRSV)

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859

William Batchelder Bradbury, 1861

Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so;
Je - sus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long a - go,

Lit - tle ones to Him be - long; They are weak, but He is strong.
Tak - ing chil - dren on His knee. Say - ing, "Let them come to Me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

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Prayer

O God, we come to you with all the children in Papua New Guinea. Bless everyone at home, at school, in the hospitals, in towns, in villages or wherever children may be. We pray for the parents as they care for and guide their children every day.

Bible Reading

Exodus 2:1–10

Exodus 2:1–10 is either read or told, as is appropriate for the age group. If there is an opportunity for the children to prepare the dramatization ahead of time, it can accompany the reading or it can be an activity that follows the reading. (See Learning Center, page 15.)

Reflection on Reading

Leader: In this story from *Exodus*, we see that Moses' mother, his sister, Pharaoh's daughter and the girls who attended her all had important roles. Together, they protected Moses. Later, when he was an adult, Moses became a great leader, a prophet and a lawgiver. God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

This story from *Exodus* brings us closer to our theme, "In Christ, there are many members, yet one body." We can remember this story whenever we feel afraid or downhearted, or when conditions feel like those described in *Exodus*. We have a God, the God of Moses, who takes care of us and will be with us through our troubles. God will show us his purpose for each of our lives. God inspires other people to play a part in bringing us out of the deep waters. These women worked together even though they were from very different social classes and from different cultures. Together they were able to raise Moses, who would later fulfill God's plan for bringing his people out of bondage.

Pharaoh’s daughter named him *Moses*, which means “drawn out of water.” Moses had found safety in the water. Later, God will save his people. Moses will lead them through the water to the other side of the river. The river brings hope, salvation and deliverance to the Hebrew people. Moses was the hope of the Hebrews, just as Jesus is the hope of the whole world.

Song

As Your Children, Lord

Words: anon
 Russian trans. Lubmila Garbuzova, Russia

Music: African American melody
 Arr. Carlton R. Young

- 2. At your table, Lord, we are fed, (3x)
 O Lord, feed us here.
- 3. Fill our spirits, Lord, with your love, (3x)
 O Lord, give your love.
- 4. Make us faithful, Lord, to your will (3x)
 O Lord, to your will.
- 2. Tiydayosh nom khleb, O Gospod; (3x)
 na kami, O Gospod.
- 3. Dai lyubov svaiyou, O Gospod; (3x)
 na polni, dushi nam.
- 4. Budyem muiy verniy, O Gospod; (3x)
 ubye, O Gospod.

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Stories

Leader: Let us listen to the stories of children in Papua New Guinea and offer a prayer for each of them.

Story 1: Hello! My name is Ravu. I am a 12-year-old boy from a village in the Central Province, just a few miles away from the city. I am the sixth child in a family of ten. After school I like to help my mother by cutting firewood and collecting dry coconut for the home. We live near the sea, and fishing is my hobby. I enjoy fishing with my uncles. Our main income is from selling fish at the local market. With the money we earn, we support our family. We can buy food and clothes, and pay for our school fees and other things.

Prayer

God, our Father, we thank you for our beautiful country and for blessing us with so many resources in the sea, on the land and in the air. Open our eyes so that we are able to see all the resources in and around us and be satisfied with them. Teach us to follow your ways, and give us understanding and wisdom to preserve your nature. Help us to keep your commandments and obey them with all our hearts. For this we pray to the Lord.

Story 2: My name is Aua. I am a young boy from a small village in the southern region of Papua New Guinea. My family decided to leave the village to settle in the city. We live in a settlement in Port Moresby, the capital city of Papua New Guinea. Our life in the city is very difficult. My parents are not employed, and I do not go to school because there is no money to pay for school fees. I wish that I could go to school. I want to learn to read and to write. There are boys who live on the streets and who steal from other people. Sometimes I ask myself, do I join these boys? Is this the only way to survive? Please pray for me.

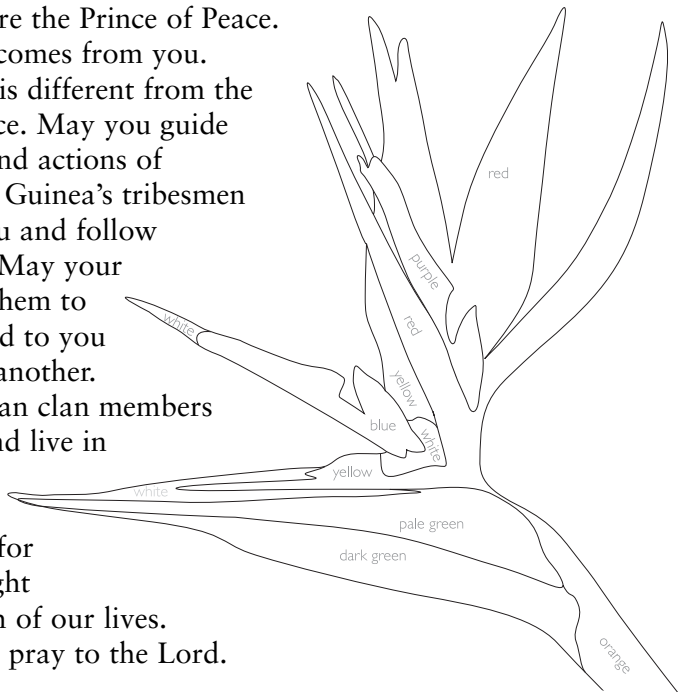
Prayer

Almighty God, we ask for your wisdom. Help our parents who are suffering because of not being able to work. They love and care for us and teach us the right way to live. Help us to listen to them and to do what they ask. May your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. For this, we pray to the Lord.

Story 3: Hello! My name is Agobe. I am a 9-year-old girl from the Highlands region of Papua New Guinea. I have three brothers and two sisters. Both my parents died during a tribal fight that broke out between two clans. The clans are still not reconciled and we are afraid that one day we might be killed, too. Life is very hard for me. I am unable to go to school, and both my elder brother and sister are unemployed.

Prayer

Lord, you are the Prince of Peace.
True peace comes from you.
Your peace is different from the world's peace. May you guide the minds and actions of Papua New Guinea's tribesmen to know you and follow your ways. May your peace lead them to be reconciled to you and to one another. Only then can clan members be happy and live in peace with each other. Thank you for being the light and strength of our lives. For this, we pray to the Lord.



Bird of Paradise flower

Song

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Words and Music: Al Carmines

C G C F G C

1. God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
2. God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
3. Fresh - ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,

E Am D7 G

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
you are still cre - at - ing, end - less love and light.

G7 C F C G7 C G7 C

In the midst of chang - ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

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Story 4: Hello, I am a 12-year-old girl. My name is Karin. I come from another province in the Highlands region. There is a big oil and gas mining operation in my area. Our customary land has been destroyed. Our village has been relocated and we are now on other people's land. Our relocation is causing a lot of land disputes, while the mining operation is causing a lot of environmental changes. My father works in the mine because he is a landowner. He gets a lot of money but he does not come to the village anymore. Instead, he flies to the capital city of Port Moresby and spends his money in the night clubs there. I cannot go to school anymore. There is limited money for school fees. My mother has to make a choice between my brother and me. A priority is given to boys. So I miss out on going to school. I really want to go to school so that I can get a job. Then I can support my mother. Please pray for so many girls like me who cannot get an education because we are girls.

Prayer

God, our heavenly Father, you are the Creator of the universe. You gave us gold mines and oil fields. We thank you for the rich country you have given us. When the benefits from these natural resources are seen as a gift from God and they are shared with all the people of Papua New Guinea, then our families can be strengthened. We pray that we can live in harmony with nature and with one another. We pray for the many fathers and mothers who work at the mines, that they remain faithful to their spouses and family members.

Lord, we pray also for the many girls who miss out on education because of their gender. Lord, we know we are all equal in your eyes, both girls and boys. Each tear dropped by a girl is precious in your eyes. Lord, forgive our parents when they make wrong choices. Lord, give our parents wisdom, especially when they face difficulties. For this, we pray to the Lord.

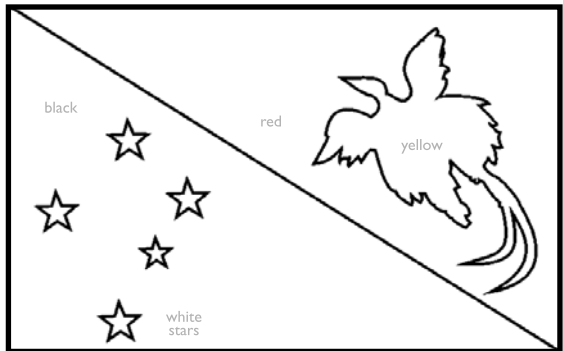
Story 5: Anna is my name and I come from the Momase region, which is very beautiful. There are long winding rivers and flat

lands suitable for large scale farming. Our people are very happy and friendly. We also are proud of our cultural heritage. I enjoy dressing in my traditional costume, which is made from coconut or sago leaves slit very finely and made into a grass skirt. I carry a *bilum* hung from my neck to cover my chest. Lots of beads made from local seeds are woven together as decorations. This also is placed on me to cover the bilum. My headband is made from seashells or dog’s teeth sewn together like beads. The final touch—the traditional colors of red, black and gold—are painted on my face. Then bright colored leaves are tucked into my armbands and the waist of my grass skirt.

Together with the other children and elders from our village, we gather and sing songs in our local languages. While we are dancing to the words of the songs, we are accompanied by the beat of the kundu drums. We, the younger generations, are encouraged not to lose our culture and traditional moral values, because they enrich our lives. We are encouraged to strengthen them and to keep them for the future generations. The only customs that we must do away with are those that suppress life.

Prayer

God, our Father, you have blessed us with many different traditions and cultures that make our country unique. Your words remind us to be thankful and joyful. When we worship and praise you, we use our cultures to express our faith and love. Help us to keep the good traditions and to break away from the customs that are harmful or hurt people. For this, we pray to the Lord.



Papua New Guinea flag

Story 6: Rabbie is my name and I come from the New Guinea Island region of Papua New Guinea. I am a 12-year-old girl and I am an orphan. My father died four years ago and my mother died a year later. Both died from the virus called HIV, which leads to AIDS. This virus is spreading very fast in my country and many people are dying from lack of treatment. There are other children like me who also have lost their parents. Our relatives are encouraged to take us into their families. However, my friends avoid me. When I want to play with them, they move away from me and make fun of me. I feel ashamed. When I grow up, I want to be a doctor.

HIV/AIDS is a global concern. Papua New Guinea has the highest rate of HIV infection and AIDS cases in the Pacific Region. It has already affected many people's lives, but children are the most affected. Because of discrimination and stigma, I and children like me have stopped going to school. We are asking ourselves, How will I survive? Do I have a future?"

Prayer

O mighty God, giver of life and love, we the children of Papua New Guinea bring before you our brothers and sisters who are living with discrimination and stigma. We ask you to take away the spirit of disgrace and replace it with your love and compassion in our hearts and the hearts of our family members. May you give us your strength to live each day as one family. For this, we pray to the Lord.

Story 7: My name is Ethel and I am 14 years old. I come from a family of five. During the night, the nearby rivers broke their banks and spread to the whole village. Our family was asleep and did not realise what was happening. The whole family was awakened; we each climbed up different coconut trees to save ourselves. The floods swept away our house and everything in the village, even the trees we were clinging to. I lost my mother and my baby sister.

Prayer

God, we pray that you will comfort the surviving members of Ethel's family and others who have lost loved ones during the flood. We thank you for the response of all the churches and communities, nationwide and abroad, who gave relief supplies to the people who lost so much. Father, continue to watch over them, protect them, strengthen their faith, unite them in your love. Fill them with confidence that they may see your goodness in this time of suffering.
For this, we pray to the Lord.

Loving Father, we thank you for showing us your love in times of suffering. Thank you for healing us both physically and spiritually and allowing us to enjoy life once again. The people who have helped and are still helping today have shown the truth of the theme of this World Day of Prayer, "In Christ, there are many members, yet one body." For this, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Learning Activity

For additional activities, see Learning Center, page 15.

We Are One

Make a circle and put a map of the world in the middle. Place a flower on the country of Papua New Guinea and another flower on your own country. Place a ribbon between the two flowers to show that you are linked to Papua New Guinea and they are linked to you. You may want to place a flower and link to a few other countries as well.

Reflection on Learning Activities

Have children each share their learning or an item from the learning center activities.

Song

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Based on *John 13:35*

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spi - it, we are one in the Lord, We are
We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, We will
We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side, We will
All___ praise to the Fa - ther, from___ whom all things come, And all

one in the Spi - rit, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to - geth - er we'll
work with each oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll guard each man's
praise to Christ Je - sus, His___ on - ly___ Son, And all praise to the

REFRAIN

u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
spread the news that God is in our land: And they'll know we are Christ - tians
dig - ni - ty and save___ each man's pride:
Spir - it, who___ makes___ us___ one:

by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know___ we are Christ - ians by our love._____

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Benediction/Blessing

May the Lord bless and watch over us.
May the Lord make His face to shine on us
and be gracious to us.
May the Lord look kindly on us,
the children of the whole world,
and especially the children of Papua New Guinea,
with favor, and give us peace. Amen!

Learning Center

Additional Learning Activities

1. Food

Have children make fruit salad in a large bowl. For younger children, have fruit already cut. Place all fruit in bowl, stir in coconut. Serve with a shortbread cookie.

Ingredients

Mango

Banana

Papaya

Pineapple

Coconut

2. Drama

a. Dramatize the story of Moses (*Exodus 2:1–10*).

Divide the children into four groups.

Each group can act out part of the story.

Group 1 Cutting the reeds and making the basket

Group 2 Finding a place to hide the cradle
and watching the baby

Group 3 The princess and her attendants finding
the baby and talking to Moses' sister

Group 4 The two encounters between the Princess
and Moses' mother.

b. Dramatize the stories of children from Papua New Guinea (pages 7–12).

Include props, write a short script, make
traditional dress or simply read the stories aloud.

3. Learning about Papua New Guinea

Have the children look up Papua New Guinea on the internet and print out maps and information about each region.

Leader: Every year on World Day of Prayer we learn about a different country. Do you remember the country that we prayed with last year? And the years before?

Now let's search for Papua New Guinea on the map. Here are some hints. Follow the equator to the Pacific Ocean. Papua New Guinea lies just below the equator in the eastern part of the Pacific. See its neighbour to the west, Indonesia; see its neighbor to the east, the Solomon Islands; to the south, Australia; and to the north, Micronesia. Can you identify the regions of Papua New Guinea? Can you find the cities of each region?

Papua New Guinea is a very colorful country with a wide variety of landscapes: towering mountains, plateaus and valleys, savannahs, tropical rainforests and mangrove swamps. There are plantations and lots of wildlife. There are many islands surrounded by deep blue seas. Papua New Guinea is made up of more than 600 islands. There are coral reefs and superb marine life. And there are abundant natural resources.

Since Papua New Guinea is so close to the equator, the climate is very warm, except for the Highlands. In this region there are high mountains, and the climate is cool. The largest part of the population lives in the Highlands. There have been farmers in the Highlands for the last ten thousand years. However, the outside world only came to know the islands and their peoples in the 1930s. The Highlands Region is home to myriad flora and fauna, including many varieties of orchids and many species of the Bird of Paradise. The Bird of Paradise is pictured in gold on the national flag, against the traditional red and black background colors.

Papua New Guinea has 5.8 million people. They are mostly Melanesian and hold strong ties with other Melanesian countries in the Pacific including Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands. In spite of multimillion dollar developments taking place in the country, 85 percent of the people still live in rural areas as subsistence farmers.

Papua New Guinea has the highest number of native languages in the world. There are over 800 languages spoken there. Villages only a few miles from one another have different languages and cultures, but the people are proud to be Papua New Guineans, and think of themselves as “one people, one country, one nation.” The three official languages are English, Pidgin and Motu. English is taught in schools and used widely in government and business circles. Pidgin is used for communicating among New Guineans. Motu is used mainly in the southern region.

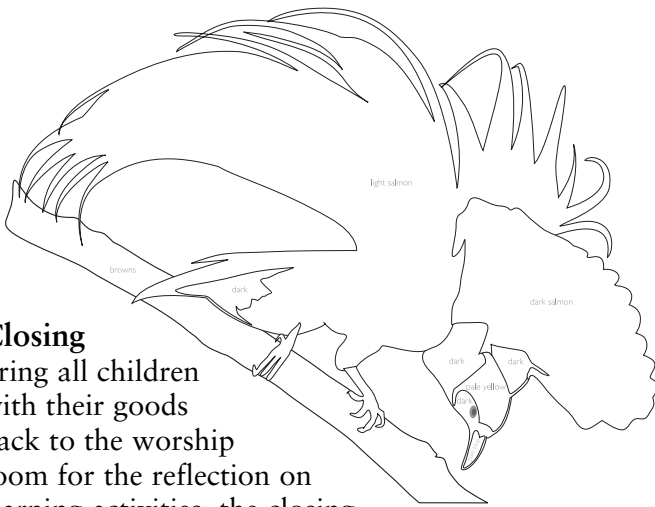
This is the way we say this year’s theme, *Yumi planti manmeri tasol long Kraist yumi stap wanpela bodi tasol.*

4. Art

a. Make a boat for baby Moses.

Material: grass and reeds or any supplies you may have on hand. Construction paper cut into strips works well also.

a. Color the art found on these pages.



5. Closing

Bring all children with their goods back to the worship room for the reflection on learning activities, the closing song and the benediction.

Bird of Paradise bird

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Liz Calvin, executive director

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