

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

## MARCH 2, 2012

### LET JUSTICE PREVAIL.

The Christian women of Malaysia invite us to join them Friday, March 2, for World Day of Prayer 2012. They strive to be neighbors within a multi-religious country and among a Muslim majority, so they open the service with "*Selamat datang*"—"Peace and welcome." This greeting is a reminder that harmony as a people is rooted in peace and welcome. They name fair and just governance as the basis for harmony in the social order. They remind us, however, that the ideal of peace and harmony is undermined by corruption and greed, and it is distorted when voices for truth and justice are silenced.

A hymn of trust serves as a transition to the Gospel reading from Luke. The women of Malaysia contextualize Luke's parable by telling the story of Irene Fernandez, who reported the suffering of migrant workers. She was charged, found guilty of spreading false information and imprisoned for 13 years.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Habakkuk is disturbed by the desperate conditions around him and complains bitterly to God. One needs to read Habakkuk closely to realize that in pain and doubt, God offers an inner strength that is needed for justice to prevail.

The 2012 service encourages worshipers to respond from their own context to the theme, "Let justice prevail." There is an activity for participants in which they name an injustice and identify a first step toward gaining justice. A clear message emerges from this service: It takes courage, compassion, and active engagement for justice to prevail.

WDP's motto, "Informed prayer leads to powerful action," affirms that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence. We encourage you to begin thinking about actions that you can take to further support the 2012 theme, which calls us to work with God and with each other to create world in which each gender, race, culture, religion, and state is honored, nurtured, and empowered.

For more information about the time and place of World Day of Prayer 2012 service in our community please contact **Janet Hill** at **839-3052**.

# ABOUT WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Since the nineteenth century, Christian women in the United States and Canada have initiated cooperative activities in many areas of concern for women and children, the role of prayer in mission work, and the promotion of world peace through involvement in mission work worldwide. The first organized day of prayer held nationally was in Canada on January 9, 1920. In the United States, the first organized day of prayer held nationally was on February 20, 1920.



Now hundreds of thousands of women (and men, youth, and children) from around the world and in every region gather to collectively worship on the first Friday in March. World Day of Prayer is supported by sacrificial and benevolent mission offerings given by individuals through these annual services. Each of the 170 countries celebrating World Day of Prayer has an organized country committee of ecumenical women representing many cultures, races and faith traditions. Each country's committee is responsible for determining the use of the offering as it relates to the theme for each year. Offering grants are made to women's and children's groups in each country.

Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service and other materials.

For additional information, visit the World Day of Prayer USA website at [www.wdp-us.org](http://www.wdp-us.org).

- View WDP 2012 pages, where you will learn about the women of Malaysia, the writer country for the 2012 worship service.
- View grants from WDP 2011.
- Download resources from 2012.

## Contact Information

World Day of Prayer USA Committee  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 800  
New York, NY 10115  
[www.wdp-usa.org](http://www.wdp-usa.org) | [info@wdp-usa.org](mailto:info@wdp-usa.org)  
866.937.8720 | fax 212-870-2456