



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(interdenominational)



LET JUSTICE PREVAIL

2nd March 2012

Prepared by Christian Women of Malaysia

MALAYSIA

Capital

Kuala Lumpur



Administrative Capital

Putrajaya



Population

26,160,256



Official Language

Bahasa Malaysia



Currency

Ringgit



Area

127,284 sq miles



Religions

Sunni Muslim,
Buddhism, Hinduism,
Christianity



Ethnic Groups

54% Malay
24% Chinese
7% Indian
11% Indigenous
4% others



Governance

13 States
3 Federal Territories



Malaysia is a country of contrasts – modern yet with traditional ways; with diverse cultures, religions and ethnic backgrounds.

North of the Equator in SE Asia, it consists of two parts: West, or Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia, which is comprised of Sabah and Sarawak.

The tropical climate is hot and humid with two monsoon periods. The rainforests are amongst the most endangered ecosystems in the world. They are home to an astonishing collection of flora and fauna, including both the largest butterfly and the largest flower in the world.

With mountains and islands, lush tropical forest and sandy shores, it attracts both business and tourism. Its strategic trading position has attracted the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British in the past. More recently, migrant workers from China and India have added to the multi-ethnicity of the country as they brought their religions and cultures with them.

The main agricultural products are timber, tea, rubber and palm oil, as well as many fruits. The production of petroleum, cars and electrical and electronic goods are now major contributors to the country's economy.

Since the invasion by the Japanese in WW2, the country has worked hard to recover. It can now take its place among the developing nations.

The theme "Let Justice Prevail" echoes the present-day concerns of the unjust actions endured even today, especially by women who are still discriminated against in the fields of education and employment. Although women are beginning to be accepted into higher education and professional positions, they are still very much in the minority. Voices for truth and justice have been silenced. Corruption and greed are threatening the way of truth. The women of Malaysia ask for mercy, forgiveness and justice as they consider these complex issues.

*(Notes to help in the preparation of this service will be found on p23 of this booklet.
If you are a UK tax payer you may wish to use the Gift Aid envelope provided.)*

LET JUSTICE PREVAIL

Before the service begins people may be invited to join in singing songs of praise and worship on the theme of Justice. Alternatively Malaysian music¹ may be played.

Ethnic drum sounds, followed by a gong or a bell, mark the start of the service.

Leader Welcome to our service written by Christian women of Malaysia. Let us praise God as we sing.

Hymn

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

The heav'ns are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

The Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

George Herbert (1593-1632)

¹Malaysian music is included on the music CD available from the WWDP office.

GREETING

1st Voice of Malaysia

We extend greetings of peace and a very warm welcome to sisters and brothers all over the world in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In Malaysia, we greet one another by placing our palms together with a slight bow as a sign of respect. We then say "Selamat Datang," (pronounced *sir-la-mutt dar-tung*) – peace and welcome.

We invite you to greet one another in this way. Let us place our hands together as in the praying hands. Then we turn to one another with a slight bow and say –

All Selamat Datang (*sir-la-mutt dar-tung*).

INTRODUCTION TO MALAYSIA AND CALL TO WORSHIP

2nd Voice of Malaysia

In Malaysia we cherish peace. We are a diverse population. We are Malays, Chinese, Indians and descendants of the original inhabitants – the Orang Asli, the Dayaks and the Kadazans to name only a few.

Welcome is also important. Throughout our history people have migrated to Malaysia from other parts of Asia and beyond, creating an environment for intermingling and integration. Our country has become a home for migrant workers and for refugees fleeing war-torn or troubled countries.

Peace and welcome are demonstrated when Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and followers of other traditional religions can be found living in the same family and community.

Therefore we are continuously learning to tolerate, understand and accept one another and encouraging everyone to feel comfortable in our multicultural society.

At the same time we are seeking equal opportunities and rights for all.

1st Voice of Malaysia

Bahasa Malaysia is the official language. Islam is the official religion. While most are Muslims there is also a large non-Muslim population and a constitution that guarantees religious freedom.

In the midst of such diversity, it is our prayer that all religions, races and ethnic groups will work together for tolerance and harmony with fair and just governance for all.

On this Women's World Day of Prayer, we come as one to voice our needs and express our concerns to God. Therefore our call for prayer is Let Justice Prevail.

Leader The Lord loves righteousness and justice; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne; love and faithfulness go before him.

All We turn to God in hope; he is our help and our shield. In God our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us O Lord, as we put our hope in you. Amen.

Song

Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock,
his work is perfect and all his ways are just.
Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock,
his work is perfect and all his ways are just.
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
good and upright is he.
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
good and upright is he.

ASCRIBE GREATNESS

by Mary Kirkbride Barthow & Mary Lou King

*Copyright © 1979 Integrity Music Europe, P.O.Box 39, Westham, BN23 6WA, UK
songs@integrityeurope.com*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader Almighty and gracious God, we proclaim your great and marvellous deeds among all peoples. We thank you Lord that we can gather in your name and in the bond of your love for worship and prayer, for fellowship and encouragement. May your name be exalted and glorified.

1st Voice of Malaysia

We thank you for early traders and migrants to Malaysia who brought with them their Christian faith. We thank you for the first missionaries and for their faithfulness in spreading the gospel message. We thank you for church leaders who obeyed God's call to plant churches – especially in the rural areas – and to pioneer missions, outreach and social ministries. We cherish the gift of faith.

2nd Voice of Malaysia

We thank you for the rich tropical biodiversity you entrusted to us. We thank you for the splendour of colour, costume, song and dance that we inherited, for the fusion of culinary delights, flavours and smells and everything that makes us a vibrant society.

We thank you Lord that Malaysia reflects all of Asia. We are so blessed. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray.

All Amen

Song

O give thanks to the Lord,
all you His people,
O give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.
Let us praise, let us thank,
let us celebrate and dance;
O give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.

Joanne Pond

*Copyright © 1980 Thankyou Music tym@kingsway.co.uk
Used by permission*

VOICES SEEKING JUSTICE IN MALAYSIA

Voice 1 As Malaysians we are very concerned about the state of the nation and as Christians we ask ourselves “Do we engage or stay neutral?”

Voice 2 We have come to understand that God calls us to be righteous citizens of our country. So we *do* have a role to play by speaking out against all forms of injustice. For this reason political affairs become a moral responsibility for Christians.

Voice 3 We are called to speak our conscience when there are cases of corruption, when there is an imbalance in the distribution of public services.

Voice 1 In our multi-religious context, we are tested when there are restrictions imposed on how Christians use our common language to name God. It takes courage to address these restrictions, because doing so might incur the wrath of the authorities.

Voice 2 We are tested when conflicts between religious law and civil law pull families apart. Are we to watch in silence?

Voice 3 As citizens of our country, we believe it is our vital duty to raise our voices.

Voice 1 We believe that a clear, honest and caring attitude in matters that concern all of society is a part of the witness we owe one another.

Commentator

Let us listen now to a reading from Habakkuk, who fiercely questioned God about the injustice he saw.

Reader 1 Habakkuk 1:2-4

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?
Why do you make me see wrong-doing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous –
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

Commentator

Let us reflect on how this reading relates to situations known to us.

Pause for silent reflection

Reader 2 Habakkuk 1:5, 3:2

The Lord's Answer

Look at the nations and see!
Be astonished! Be astounded!
For a work is being done in your days
that you would not believe if you were told.

Reader 1 Habakkuk's prayer

O Lord, I have heard of your renown,
and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work.
In our own time revive it;
in our own time make it known;
in wrath may you remember mercy.

Hymn

Restore, O Lord,
the honour of your name!
In works of sovereign power
come shake the earth again,
that all may see,
and come with reverent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord,
in all the earth your fame,
and in our time revive
the Church that bears your name.
And in your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
where we are hard and cold,
in your refiner's fire:
come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes,
and evil crouches near,
still our living God
is reigning, he is reigning here.

*Graham Kendrick & Chris Rollinson
Copyright ©1981 Thankyou Music tym@kingway.co.uk
Used by permission*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader Let us pray in our own time and in our own place.

Righteous and gracious God, we come before you seeking mercy and healing. We are burdened by unjust and unrighteous actions around us.

- Voice 1** We have seen the emergence of violence used to quell differences in both political and religious arenas:
- Elected government has been robbed of its rightful place through unrighteous dealings.
 - Voices for truth and justice are being silenced.
 - Corruption and greed are threatening your way of truth.

- Voice 2** We acknowledge our lack of awareness and concern toward these injustices. Forgive our reluctance to address difficult situations in our society. We know this leads to indifference towards
- victims of unjust systems,
 - people subdued by forces of oppression,
 - people robbed of their rights and dignity,
 - people broken in body, mind or spirit.

Leader Most righteous God, have mercy upon us according to your loving kindness. Be gracious to us and hear our prayer. We thank you for your promise that when we confess our sins you are merciful, faithful and just and we are forgiven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Commentator

We return to Habakkuk and his affirmation of God's presence with us.

Reader 1 Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails,
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold,
and there is no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.

Commentator

Habakkuk shows us that persistence is rooted in our relationship with God and the confidence that we have in him. This confidence is tested and is made stronger by the questions and complaints that we bring to God.

Song

4 No - thing can trou - ble, no thing can fright - en. Those who seek God shall
ne - ver go want - ing. No - thing can troub - ble
6 no - thing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

Nothing can trouble,
nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble,
nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.

© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé.

Reprinted with permission of Calamus. No further copying permitted.

Administered in the UK by Calamus, Oak House, 70 High Street,

Brandon, Suffolk IP27 0AU. Reprinted with permission

Commentator

God's justice, righteousness and mercy are inseparable. In the New Testament, Jesus encourages us to seek and live out God's justice with these words:

All Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled. (Matthew 5:6)

Commentator

In St Luke's Gospel, Jesus gives us an example of a relentless advocate for justice in the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge.

Reader 2 Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

(The parable may be dramatized)

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

All Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Commentator

We do not know why the widow comes to the judge. We are only told that she was relentless in her pleading. In her example each of us is encouraged to see the injustice that is around us and to advocate for change. The parable shows us that each action can make an impact on entrenched systems that can feel so overpowering. Many small actions have a cumulative effect.

All Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Hymn

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, allelu, alleluia.*

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Alleluia.....

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and ye shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened up to you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Alleluia.....

Words & Music Karen Lafferty

© Copyright 1972 Universal Music Brentwood Benson Publishing/CCCM Music.
Universal Music Publishing MGB Limited. All Rights Reserved.
International Copyright Secured. Reproduced by permission of Music Sales Ltd.

LIFE EXPERIENCES

A woman who fought for the cause of justice in Malaysia

Irene Fernandez

My name is Irene Fernandez. I am a social worker. In 1991, I helped establish Tenaganita – Women's Force – a non-profit organisation which promotes the rights of migrant workers and other oppressed and poor people in Malaysia.

In August 1995 I published a report based on over 300 interviews with former detainees who described the terrible living conditions in immigration detention camps. The report was entitled 'Abuse, Torture and Dehumanised Treatment of Migrant Workers at the Detention Camps'.

I was arrested for "maliciously publishing false news". I was on trial for 7 years, after which I was found guilty and was

sentenced to a year in prison. I appealed to the High Court and my court battle took another 6 years. Finally the High Court overturned my earlier conviction and acquitted me on December 31st 2008.

Leader In 2005 Irene received an award for her outstanding and courageous work to stop violence against women and the abuse of migrant and poor workers.

Worker from Tenaganita

Tenaganita was born out of the struggles of women in the plantations and in industry. Today it has become bigger and stronger, working with those in the most marginalised sectors, such as women workers; single mothers; domestic workers; trafficked women; sex workers; migrant workers and people living with HIV and AIDS. We seek to work with the government to help to bring about the changes which will enable these women to reach their full potential in society.

All Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Stories from our society

A suffragette

I was at the very first meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903. Women had been pressing for the right to vote for over 50 years to no avail so we decided that we had to do more to publicise our cause. Many of us ended up in prison, where the conditions were very harsh. At its height our campaign was one of the few political movements in our country to cut across all social classes. It was the First World War which gave women the opportunity to prove that they were indispensable. In 1918 the Government could no longer resist and the vote was given to women over 30. 10 years later the right to vote was extended to women over 21.

The campaign for equal rights in the workplace

A woman worker

I was a worker at the Ford factory in Dagenham in 1968 when the women machinists there downed tools to protest that

they were treated as unskilled workers, while male workers doing the same level of work were classed as semi-skilled and paid much more. Our strike, which lasted for three weeks, brought production at the factory to a standstill. The dispute was only resolved when Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity, was brought in to negotiate a settlement. We went back to work after agreeing to be paid 92% of the male machinists' wages. The strike speeded up the introduction of the Equal Pay Act of 1970, which made it illegal to have different pay scales for men and women doing the same job.

OUR RESPONSE

Leader We have reflected on situations of injustice among us. Let us now think creatively. Is there an injustice about which you are deeply concerned? What small step can you take to advocate for change in this situation? Please take some time to think.

Pause for silent reflection

PRAYER

Leader We all need courage to stand up for justice; together let us pray the words of Alan Paton²:

All O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others,
open my ears that I may hear their cries.
Open my heart so that they need not be without succour.
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the
 anger of the strong,
Not afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of
 the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
and use me to bring them to those places.
And so open my eyes and my ears that
I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace
 for you.
Amen.

² Alan Paton was an anti-apartheid activist and author of several novels including *Cry, the Beloved Country* (1948).

Hymn

1. Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering,
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset
your kingdom increase.
2. Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.
3. Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing fields,
scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.
4. Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned,
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

*God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray,
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

God of the poor.....

5. Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame,
until your justice
burns brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

God of the poor.....

Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music.
www.grahamkendrick.co.uk

REFLECTION OR MEDITATION³ ON THE THEME

(10 minutes)

Leader The offering will now be taken for the work of Women's World Day of Prayer and for Christian projects around the world.

(While the offering is being taken up music from Malaysia or other quiet music may be played)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader Lord, all that we have comes from you and we only give you what is yours already. Bless these gifts and all who will benefit from them.

All Amen.

Hymn

God's Spirit is in my heart,
He has called me and set me apart.
This is what I have to do,
what I have to do.

*He sent me to give
the Good News to the poor,
tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,
tell blind people that they can see,
and set the downtrodden free,
and go tell everyone the news
that the kingdom of God has come,
and go tell everyone the news
that God's kingdom has come.*

Just as the Father sent me,
so I'm sending you out to be
my witnesses throughout the world,
the whole of the world.

He sent.....

³ A Meditation with accompanying photos of Malaysia is included on the CD rom available from the WWDP office.

Don't carry a load in your pack,
you don't need two shirts on your back.
A workman can earn his own keep,
can earn his own keep.

He sent.....

Don't worry what you have to say,
don't worry because on that day
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,
will speak in your heart.

He sent.....

Hubert J Richards (1921-)

Reproduced by permission of Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Licence nr. 111062/1

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader Almighty God, we thank you that through Jesus Christ you have opened a new and living way whereby we can come with confidence in prayer.

Voice 1 Lord, we pray for the leaders of our countries. Grant them wisdom, compassion and the determination to do your will. Fill them with a love for truth and righteousness and a strong desire to work for the justice of all people.

All Hear our prayer and let justice prevail.

Voice 2 O Lord, we thank you for creating us in your image, uniquely gifted to contribute positively to home, society and church. While many of us are comfortable in our setting, there are many who are not. We pray for those who are voiceless victims of oppression and violence; victims of inequalities and abuse; victims of unjust and biased cultural, religious and legal practices.

All Hear our prayer and let justice prevail.

Voice 3 Gracious Lord, we pray for migrant workers, the weak, the poor and the marginalised. May those who have power over them hear their cries for help, free them from discrimination, treat them with dignity and honour their rights.

All Hear our prayer and let justice prevail.

Voice 4 O God, we pray that you will strengthen your church with wisdom and understanding. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith. Let us be rooted and established in love. Grant us the boldness to reach out to the community in a holistic way.

All Hear our prayer and let justice prevail.

Voice 5 O God, we ask for a vision of your justice and for the strength of the persistent widow to work for it. You have called us to be instruments of justice in a troubled and unjust world. We pray that you will make our hands strong and our voices clear. Give us humility with firmness and insight with passion, that we may fight not to conquer, but to release.

All Hear our prayer and let justice prevail.

Silent or spontaneous prayer for the needs of the local community

Leader Gracious Lord, empower us to work for justice and peace.

All Hear our prayer and let justice prevail.

Leader We pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Hymn

The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at Thy behest;
to Thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
our friends beneath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

John Ellerton (1826-1893)

BENEDICTION

Leader The blessing of God from whom all justice flows,
the blessing of the Son who suffered injustice for us,
and the blessing of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to
work for justice and peace

All Be with us always. Amen.

Hymn Tune Sources

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing

Found in most hymn books.

Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock

Complete Mission Praise 40
Hymns Old & New 42
Songs of Fellowship 26
The Source 25

O give thanks to the Lord

Baptist Praise & Worship 61
Complete Mission Praise 497
Songs of Fellowship 413

Restore O Lord

Baptist Praise & Worship 324
Complete Mission Praise 579
Hymns Old & New 434
Songs of Fellowship 483
The Source 439

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Baptist Praise & Worship 357
Celebration Hymnal 633
Complete Mission Praise 590
Hymns & Psalms 138
Hymns Old & New 442
Rejoice & Sing 511
Songs of Fellowship 493
The Source 447

Beauty for Brokenness

Complete Mission Praise 806
Songs of Fellowship 664
The Source 37
Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New 60

God's Spirit is in my heart

Baptist Praise & Worship 574
Celebration Hymnal 227
Hymns & Psalms 315
Hymns Old & New 180
Rejoice & Sing 576

The Day Thou Gavest

Found in most hymn books

Note:

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

NOTES TO HELP IN THE PREPARATION OF THE SERVICE

The following ideas are offered as creative ways of enhancing the service and drawing out the theme. Branch committees are encouraged to consider using one or more of them. They also offer opportunities for schools or youth groups to take part in the service. This is an excellent way to introduce the young people of our nation to the 'Mexican Wave' of prayer that is Women's World Day of Prayer.

Preparing the church

Displays of pictures of Malaysia, baskets of fruit and floral arrangements brighten the church and set the scene for Malaysia. If you have suitable equipment the CD rom (available from the WWDP office) containing photos of Malaysia could be shown as people arrive.

Large chains (either real or made of card or paper) may be hung at the front of the church with words such as INTOLERANCE, INJUSTICE, OPPRESSION, PERSECUTION, etc hanging from them. At the end of the service the leader may cut the chains to symbolise that our prayers are powerful in releasing people from their 'chains', whatever they may be.

As people arrive

Prepare mini placards using lolly sticks with small cards attached with the words 'Let Justice Prevail' written on them to distribute to the people as they arrive.

Before the service begins

A school band/choir/youth group/worship group could be invited to sing songs of praise and worship leading into the sounding of the drums, gong and bell.

Introduction to Malaysia and Call to Worship

As the second voice of Malaysia starts to speak a procession (possibly in costume) walks down the aisle carrying different coloured candles that represent the diversity of Malaysia. They are placed on a table at the front covered with a colourful cloth which has a simple peace lily flower or plant in the centre. The candles should be placed in a circle around the lily and then lit, to symbolise that we are all equal in God's eyes.

Voices of Malaysia 1 and 2

The readers may dress in Malaysian costume. When looking for information on national dress, put 'national dress of Malaysia' into Google and information is plentiful. Pictures of Malaysia could be shown on a screen during the introduction to Malaysia. To add real authenticity you could film a Malaysian woman reading the voices and show the film on the screen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The second voice of Malaysia speaks of the tropical biodiversity that makes Malaysia the country it is. Have children/young people/adults in costume walking down the aisle giving out food, carrying spices and even dancing. As an alternative the food could be placed on the table with the candles (if used) and shared at the end of the service. Malaysian food appears to be a fusion of Chinese, Indian and Thai flavours to name a few so suggestions would be prawn crackers, spring rolls and sesame toasts. If you want more ideas put 'Malaysian food' into Google and lots of ideas will be at your finger tips.

Another option is to distribute flowers (real, paper or artificial) or paper butterflies. The paper flowers and butterflies could be prepared in advance by children. Alternatively this activity could be carried out after singing the song 'O give thanks'.

Both the Call to Worship and the Prayers of Thanksgiving are activities in which you may invite your local school, youth group or perhaps even a pre-school to participate.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

This well-known hymn is a great opportunity to get local children involved.

The parable of the widow and the unjust judge

The children's activity sheet available from the WWDP office contains a short drama which may be used here.

Life Experiences

This will take some preparation but will be a powerful and amazing visual aid. If you have always wanted to march with a placard now's your chance! Prepare 4 placards on sticks/wood so they can be held high.

Placard 1

This has the words **Let Justice Prevail** written on it and an image of Irene Fernandez. A useful website is www.word.world-citizenship.org. Choose a picture that is not subject to copyright and print it.

Placard 2

This placard contains the words **Empower the Women Workers** and shows images of women workers. It could just be their faces.

Placard 3

This placard contains the words **Votes for Women** and an image of Emmeline Pankhurst. A useful website is www.bbc.co.uk/history followed by her name.

Placard 4

This placard contains the words **Equal Pay for Women** and the images should include as many different currency signs as can be found such as £, \$, euro, the Yen, the rand, the krona and the ruble and any others that one can think of.

The idea is that whilst the voices are speaking the placards are held up for all to see from four different places in the church. When the voices have finished and the leader is speaking, the 4 voices walk to the front of the church with the placards and face the congregation. Alternatively each placard could be carried to the front as the matching Life Experience is being read.

Those reading the Life Experiences and those carrying the banners may dress appropriately – eg an Edwardian costume for the suffragette, overall for the Dagenham worker etc.

Our response

During the time of silent reflection the leader may invite the congregation to write on a piece of paper which aspect of women's lives we can pray for. Collect the prayers up and randomly pick out half a dozen and read them out.

An alternative idea for this section would be to show a PowerPoint presentation of ideas for reflection on a screen, using single words (see suggestions for words on the chains in the section on **Preparing the Church**) or showing relevant pictures.

(The WWDP National Committee is indebted to Ruth Magee and Elizabeth Bruce and friends for these fresh and exciting suggestions. We thank them for their creativity and hope that you will use some of their ideas.)

Music

A few tracks of music from Malaysia are provided on the music CD, available from the WWDP office. The rest of the CD contains the hymns and songs from the service, both with a choir accompaniment and with a simple organ or piano/flute/clarinet accompaniment.

Refreshments after the service

Most local groups serve refreshments after the service, although some do it before the service starts. Why not serve something typically Malaysian? You could use some of the ideas mentioned in the section on the Prayer of Thanksgiving or there are a few recipes in Together in Prayer that you might like to try.

Grants

Annual Grants

	£
Bible Reading Fellowship	7,500
Bible Society	18,000
Bible Society in Northern Ireland	1,500
Cafod	4,000
Feed the Minds	18,000
International Bible Reading association	7,500
Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen (Scripture Scheme)	1,000
Royal National Institute for the Blind	4,000
St John's Guild for the Blind	2,000
Lifewords (Formerly Scripture Gift Mission)	10,000
Scripture Union	4,000
Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge	4,000
The Leprosy Mission	2,000
The Salvation Army – The Missionary Literature Fund	3,000
United Christian Broadcasters	2,000
United Society for Christian Literature	18,000
Wycliffe UK Ltd	10,000

One-off Grants

	£
B.A.R.W.O.D.A.	1,700
Christian Solidarity Worldwide	1,000
M.E.C.O.	7,500
Starfish Asia	3,600
Union of Bafut Women, Cameroon	8,000
World in Need	10,000
Public Welfare Foundatrion	3,000
R.C.L.W.A.	4,500
S.U.R.E.S.H.	3,500
W.O.R.L.D.	6,000
Mission Resources Foundation	7,000
Christian Aid – Pakistan Flood Relief Fund	10,000
The Red Cross – Chile Earthquake Appeal	5,000
WDP Chile – gift to help with earthquake relief	1,000

International Donations

World Day of Prayer European Committee	2,000
World Day of Prayer International Committee	23,557
WDP National Committee of Cameroon	10,000

Grants Allocated by the Committee for Welsh Speaking Churches

Bible Society (Wales)	300
Cafod	300
Christian Aid (Wales)	300
Christians Against Torture (Wales)	400
Churches Together in Wales	300
Society of Reconciliation	400
Society for the Blind in Wales	400
Wales Sunday Schools Council	600
Wales Sunday Schools Council – Publishing Arm	600
Wales Council on Alcohol and Drugs	500
Chilean Churches Women	500

Membership of the National Committee for England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2011-2012

President:	Jean Hackett	Chairperson:	Kathleen Skinner
Vice-President:	Mimi Barton	Vice-Chairperson:	Anthea Allan
		Vice-Chairperson:	Nola McCormick

Appointed Representatives

Baptist Union	Jacqui Keenan
Christian Brethren	Anthea Allen
Church of England	Canon Stella Vernon
Congregational Federation	Nola McCormick
English Speaking Churches in Wales	Mary Williams
Independent Methodist Churches	(to be appointed)
Lutheran Church	Margaret Pickford
Methodist Church	(to be appointed)
Moravian Church	Wendy Hopcroft
Northern Ireland	Margie Savage
Pentecostal Churches UK	Revd June Freudenberg
Religious Society of Friends	Annie Foster
Roman Catholic Church	Joan Cheetham
The Church of God of Prophecy	Hyacinth O'Gilvie
The Salvation Army	(to be appointed)
United Reformed Church	Eileen Rhodes
Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches	Muriel Stonehewer
Welsh Speaking Churches	Sandra Storch

Regional Conference Co-ordinators:

Northern Region:	Canon Stella Vernon
South Eastern Region:	Nola McCormick
Western Region:	Mary Williams

Office: Commercial Road, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent TN1 2RR
 Telephone: 01892 541411 Fax: 01892 541745
 Email: office@wwdp-natcomm.org Website: www.wwdp-natcomm.org

Registered Charity No. 233242

Administrator: Mary Judd

FUTURE THEMES

2013	France	I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me
2014	Egypt	Streams in the Desert
2015	The Bahamas	Jesus Said to Them: Do You Know What I Have Done to You?

Order Form for **TOGETHER IN PRAYER**

To: Women's World Day of Prayer, Commercial Road, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent TN1 2RR

Please send me copy(ies) of *Together in Prayer* No. 30 2013 at £2.00 each (including post and packing) **NB: Not available until September 2012**

Amount enclosed £

(Cheques to be made payable to Women's World Day of Prayer. We are unable to accept card payments)

NAME

ADDRESS

Postcode Phone No

Office: Commercial Road, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent TN1 2RR
Telephone: 01892 541411 Fax: 01892 541745
Email: office@wwdp-natcomm.org www.wwdp-natcomm.org
Registered Charity No. 233242