

# International Day of Prayer for Peace

21 September 2006

an initiative of the World Council of Churches

## Prayer for Peace

God of all goodness,  
You have been our refuge from generation to generation.  
Your will is that peace should shine on all people everywhere.

With your spirit, guide the efforts of humankind to bring peace and justice to the nations of the earth, and give strength to rulers and all who work to establish peace and justice in the world.

Inspire those who come together in search of ways to bring about peace, and through your word, change the hearts of all people so that we shall strive for:

Peace, and not war,

The Common Good, rather than individual wellbeing,

Your Justice, instead of our own glory.

You have given us your peace. Enable us to share that peace with those around us, so that love and harmony may be always present in our lives, that all the world may know happiness, that we may live with dignity as brothers and sisters, and that all may rejoice in your presence. United in diversity, we call upon your infinite grace, humbly asking you to receive our prayer and make us instruments of your peace.

Amen.



# 21 September 2006

## Observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace

There are many ways in which church communities and individuals can support the International Day of Prayer for Peace.

**Be creative!** Some communities have used the day for public events, art contests, educational and cultural programmes. Church bells have tolled at noon and school children have written stories and letters. Other ideas for action include:

- Organize a time of prayer and reflection on peace in your community, workplace, school or home
- Share information about the Day of Prayer with others. Distribute copies of this brochure
- Prepare a 24-hour prayer vigil for peace with other faith communities (see: [www.idpvigil.com](http://www.idpvigil.com))
- Arrange a meeting with representatives of other church and religious communities to discuss how faith groups can build a culture of peace.

Visit the DOV website to find out what others are doing and to share additional resources.

## An Invitation from the World Council of Churches

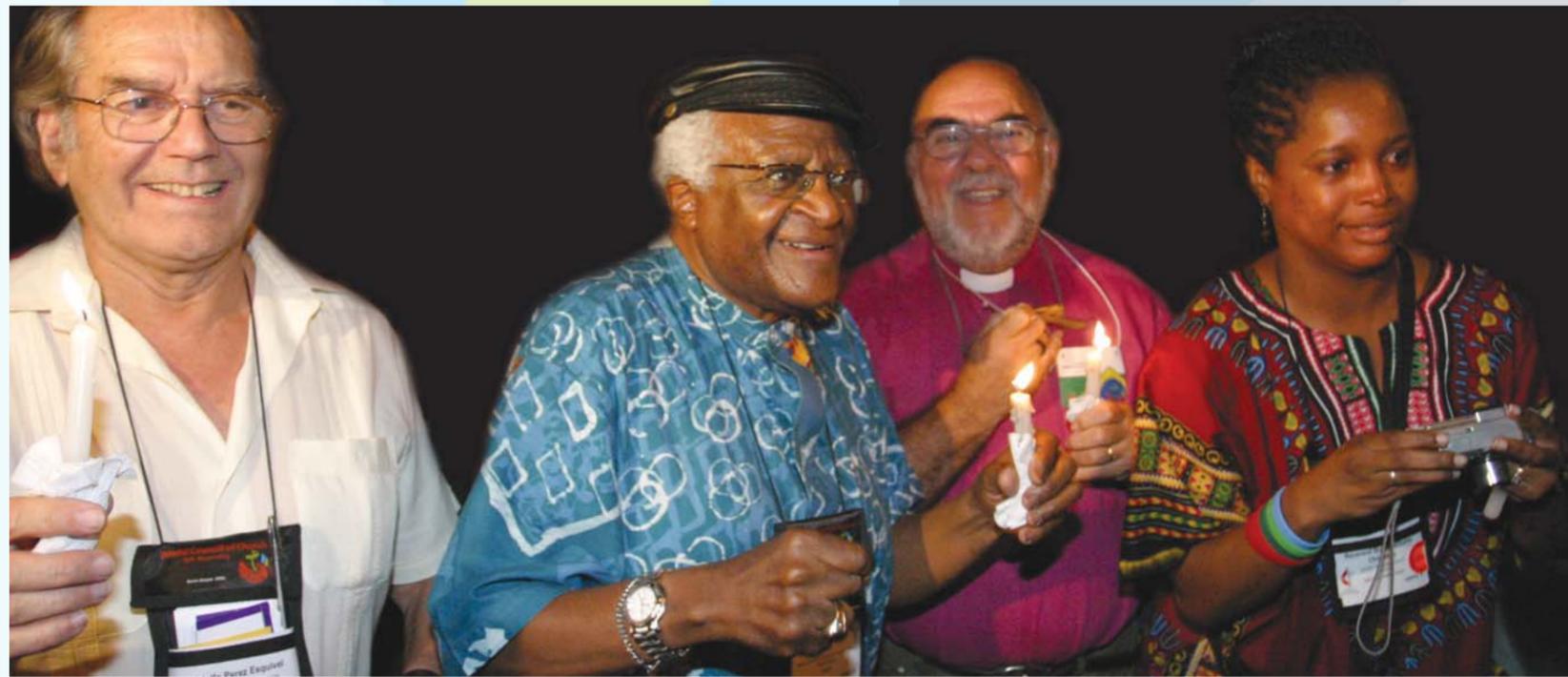
When the world is at war in so many places and the forces of violence, war and oppression seem to be increasing, praying for peace may seem to be a futile exercise. But we Christians believe both in the power and in the promise of peace, and we also believe in the power of prayer. That is why, in the framework of the Decade to Overcome Violence, the World Council of Churches has called on its member churches to observe an International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21 September. On that day, we want to lift up people in all nations who are working together for a peaceful world. Let us encourage them and walk in solidarity with them. Let us intercede for them and give thanks to God for them.

Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia  
General Secretary, World Council of Churches

## The International Day of Prayer for Peace

In 2006, the World Council of Churches joins the United Nations for the International Day of Peace by inviting churches worldwide to pray for peace on 21 September, the preceding Sunday, or the following Sunday. The theme for this year is "**...and still we seek peace**" chosen by churches from Latin America, the region of this year's DOV Annual Focus.

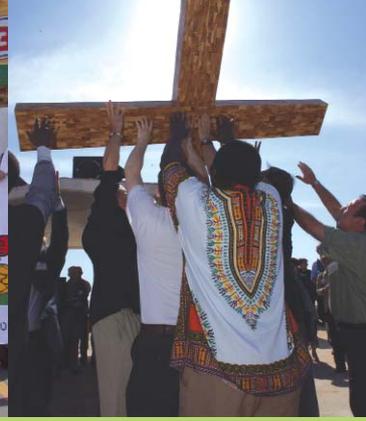
...and still we seek peace.



## The International Day of Peace

In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (55/282) designating 21 September of each year as a day for the entire world to observe a day of peace and nonviolence. In 2004, UN secretary general Kofi Annan supported the proposal of the WCC to establish an International Day of Prayer for Peace.

◀ Peace March lead by Adolfo Esquivel and Desmond Tutu at the WCC 9th Assembly, Porto Alegre, Brazil. Photo by Paulino Menezes/WCC



## The World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, today the WCC brings together over 340 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing more than 550 million Christians, and works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church.

<http://www.wcc-coe.org/>

## The Decade to Overcome Violence

The Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010): *Churches seeking reconciliation and peace* calls churches, ecumenical organizations and all people of goodwill – to work together at all levels (local, regional, global) with communities, secular movements and people of all living faiths for peace, justice and reconciliation.

It calls us to walk with those oppressed by violence, and to act in solidarity with those struggling for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

It calls us to repent for our complicity in violence, and to engage in theological reflection to overcome the spirit, logic and practice of violence.

As an initiative of the World Council of Churches, the Decade is a global movement. It attempts to strengthen existing peace networks as well as inspire the creation of new ones.

<http://www.overcomingviolence.org/>

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Copies of this brochure, in several languages, may be downloaded from the DOV web site. We encourage you to reproduce and distribute this brochure in consultation with your local church or ecumenical network. Additional prayers and resources are available at: <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/>



**Prayer:** Produced by an inter-religious group of young people. (CLAI Latin American Liturgy Network) **Photos:** WCC Cover Illustration: Logo of the Latin America Council of Churches 5th Assembly **Design:** Aplin Clark