

# World Community Day

1974

## FREEDOM AND FULFILLMENT

As the people gather, may they meditate on a series of quotations from God's Word, and other sources -

*'All souls that struggle and aspire  
All hearts of prayer, by Thee are lit;  
And, dim or clear, Thy tongues of fire  
On Dusky tribes and centuries sit.'*

Quoted by Dr. Fosdick.

- Psalm 34:10 They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.
- Psalm 37:4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give Thee the desires of thine heart.
- Psalm 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.
- Isaiah 40:31 They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles.

Psalm 34:4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

John 7:37 If any man thirst, let him come after Me, and drink.

Psalm 145:14 The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

Psalm 145:16 Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Dr. K. Manley - A man is what he is, not what he has.

Rev. John R. Claypool. All that lives beyond our experience in history is our personal spirits.

SPANISH Proverb - There are no pockets in a shroud.

Rev. J. Claypool. We are personal in nature, and thus personal in need. Therefore what we hunger for most are those personal qualities of warmth and tenderness and understanding and mutuality - precisely what no material object can give.

Life is a 'Treasure Hunt' - each of us is reaching out for the kind of treasure that will truly satisfy and genuinely fulfill our needs.

President KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA. - When Man learns, by bitter experience if by no other way, that the only hope for the peace and happiness of the world is to give political and economic expression to love for others we shall have entered not the Kingdom of Man but the Kingdom of God.

THE ENTRANCE OF WORSHIP LEADERS.

Greetings and Welcome.

OPENING DEDICATION. THE LEADER

As we come together as a community of worshippers of God in Jesus Christ, let us remember those qualities that set apart Humanity from the animal kingdom: - the qualities of love and dedication

to a purpose or idea. We remember today those who seek to lift themselves from all that would hold them down. With them we look up, striving to catch a glimpse of Humanity as God first planned it, and of mankind made perfect. We recognise, however, that many people are seemingly held back from reaching their aspirations by things of this world. The problems of daily life compel them to look down instead of up, in spite of the urgent voice from within calling them to raise their sights. As we ponder over these things, let us see in our mind's eye the outstretched hands of people all over the world, as they seek eagerly to improve the lot of themselves and their families. We pray that there may be those who will find fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

LET US SING. THE HYMN: 'FOR MAN'S UNCEASING QUEST FOR GOD'  
Tune: Ashbourne Road  
88.886

For man's unceasing quest for God,  
For God's unceasing quest for man,  
For records of His love and power  
Surrounding life since life began,  
We thank Thee, Lord most high.

For those great laws of long ago  
Whose wisdom still the nations own,  
For early records wise men wrought,  
Engraved on parchment, skin or stone,  
We thank Thee, Lord most high.

For those most precious books of all,  
That show us Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
Seen through the eyes of faithful friends,  
Who gave their lives to spread His word,  
We thank Thee, Lord most high.

That still Thou speakest with mankind,  
O friend of man, O word of God,  
That every place is holy ground,  
Where'er on earth man's foot has trod,  
We thank Thee, Lord most high.

WHO ARE SEEKING FREEDOM AND FULFILLMENT?

*READER 1.* I am the parent of a large family in a small inner suburban house. I am constantly surrounded by noise, dirt, smells and people. I am continuously faced with restrictions due to lack of money, lack of opportunity, and lack of education. Yet, there is surely something more to life.....

*READER 2.* I am an Asian, and have known fear as long as I can remember. I have known hunger, pain, the loss of loved ones, and always fear, and more fear. Is this what life is all about?

*READER 3.* I am coloured, and my community hates me for it. I am torn between hatred of those who despise me, and a compensatory super-view of myself. Why can't I be allowed to live as a person, instead of a symbol of racism?

*READER 4.* My husband is a prosperous executive, but seldom has time for me. My family don't hear me, and I continually fight loneliness and boredom. My time is filled with an apparently meaningless search - for I don't know what!

*READER 5.* I represent the East Caribbean, the Pacific Islands or the African States. I feel within me an ability to rise above my circumstances, but to whom shall I look for strength and encouragement?

## SOLO OR GROUP

THE WORD SPEAKS. The Leader may read the following, take selections from them, or the Congregation may read alternately with the Leader.

## FROM THE LIVING BIBLE.

John 10:10. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.

Ephesians 2:10. It is God Himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago He planned that we should spend these lives helping others.

Colossians 3:16. Remember what Christ taught, and let His words enrich your lives and make you wise.

Jeremiah 29:13. You will find me when you seek me, if you look for me in earnest.

Psalms 145:14-19. The Lord lifts the fallen and those bent beneath their loads.

The eyes of all mankind look up to You for help; You give them their food as they need it.

You constantly satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. The Lord is fair in everything He does, and full of kindness. He is close to all who call on Him sincerely. He fulfills the desires of those who reverence and trust Him; He hears their cries for help and rescues them.

PRAYER (Read together)

*Lord, we praise You for Your infinite understanding of the human soul. Lord, we praise You for that quality in humanity which gives hope, and inspires us to look up, and reach out for that which will give greater fulfillment, and more meaning to life.*

*We praise You for the thrill we feel when we see the dawn of a new day.*

*We thank you for Your great love which recognises the potential of a man or woman and for Your great power which enables that potential to be reached.*

GUIDED PRAYER. THE LEADER WILL READ THE PRAYER, AND ALLOW TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER ON THE THEME.

Lord, we pray today for all who feel down-trodden-socially, mentally, physically. May they learn to accept what is inevitable, and find courage to change what is unjust, or contrary to Your law of Love.

PAUSE

We pray for all who feel within themselves the power to improve their lot. May they claim Your wisdom in their struggle for a better life.

PAUSE

We pray for those who have decisions to make which will affect others. May Your grace be evident in their deliberations.

PAUSE

RESPONSE. THE CONGREGATION WILL STAND.

*As a group of Christians who have caught a glimpse of that abundant life which is offered by God in Christ Jesus, we stand with those who are seeking meaning in their life. We recognise that growth is often painful, and that new life causes travail. We pledge ourselves to support those selfless seekers after Truth who yearn for a better life for their community. We recognise our responsibility, as Christians with a glorious hope, to offer such aid as is in our power. We would look at all who strive to improve their lot with the loving eyes of Jesus.*

ALL SIT.

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#### THE DISCOVERY

SOLOIST:

THW WORD SPEAKS:

It is suggested that two Readers take part alternately.

Matthew 7:7. Ask, and you will be given what you ask for. Seek, and you will find.

John 1:45. We have found the Messiah! His name is Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:12. I know the One in whom I trust, and I am sure that He is able to safely guard all that I have given Him until the day of His return.

Acts 22:14. The God of our fathers has chosen you to know His will and to see the Messiah and hear Him speak. You are to take His message everywhere, telling what you have seen and heard.

John 8:32. You will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.

John 14:6. Jesus said: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

AFFIRMATION (THE LEADER)

As humanity searches for fulfillment, for a raising of standards, we believe that Truth, Freedom and personal Fulfillment are found ultimately in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

As one finds God's purpose for life, personal identity is realised.

As we understand God's care for the individual, the soul of a person gains in stature, in dignity.

ALL SING. 'I CANNOT TELL WHY HE WHOM ANGELS WORSHIPPED'

(Londonderry)

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,  
 Should set His love upon the sons of men,  
 Or why, as shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,  
 To bring them back, they know not how or when.  
 But this I know, that He was born of Mary,  
 When Bethlehem's manger was His only home,  
 And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
 And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,  
 As with His peace He graced this place of tears,  
 Or how His heart upon the cross was broken,  
 The crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
 But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,  
 And stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,  
 And lifts the burden from the heavy laden,  
 For yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,  
 How He will claim His earthly heritage,  
 How satisfy the needs and aspirations  
 Of east and west, of sinner and of sage.  
 But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,  
 And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,  
 And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour,  
 When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER (The Congregation will be seated)

LEADER: Lord, we acknowledge You to be the Source of all that is True, and Good and Loving.

PEOPLE: *May many searchers for Truth, Righteousness and Kindness find their answer in You.*

LEADER: Lord, we acknowledge that You are the answer to the problems of all who seek betterment of life.

PEOPLE: *May such seekers find you, and recognise Your majesty and power.*

LEADER: Lord, we acknowledge that only in You is a truly abundant life to be found.

PEOPLE: *May all those who seek to be leaders in their community find their stimulus in Your love.*

LEADER: Lord, there are women in the world who are finding new status, new freedom - new responsibilities.

PEOPLE: *May such women realise the recognition of the individual which Jesus offers, and in this find true freedom.*

A DISCOVERER SPEAKS. (Read by another person.)

I was searching for a cause to live for, my feet were weary of the eternal pavements, and my ears were sated with the raucous sounds of the city. So I stood on a grass-covered cliff in the evening, conscious of the birds settling for their rest in the low bushes nearby; I waited for - I knew not what. The stars appeared and gradually my spirit lifted. I saw the rising moon make its silvered path across the waters - felt my soul reach out to the Infinite. The world and its cares fell away; I stood alone with the One who created me; I felt more alive than ever before. Then I made a great discovery! The One whom I had been seeking, had been seeking me. He had a plan for my life. He knew my limitations, yet saw what I could be, with all His riches available for my sake. My soul cried out in ecstasy - My Lord, and My God!

ALL SING: 'HOW GREAT THOU ART'

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r through out the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee;  
How great Thou art, - how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee;  
How great Thou art, - How great Thou art!

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain:

#### THE RESPONSIBILITY

THE WORD SPEAKS: Luke 12: 42-48  
Luke 21: 1-4

What are our Responsibilities?

LEADER: Lord, we see brothers and sisters in Christ who lack the  
basic needs - food, clothing, shelter, love.

PEOPLE: *Lord, we recognise our responsibility. Give us the strength  
to desist from gorging ourselves on cream cakes, or from  
overspending on clothes or entertainment. Give us a desire  
to share the goods you have entrusted to us with those in  
need.*

LEADER: Lord, we see members of Your family who yearn for more  
knowledge.

PEOPLE: *Lord, we recognise our responsibility. Help us to provide  
books, schools, teachers for those who aspire to greater  
understanding of the world about them. Help us to take  
every opportunity for further study or learning, in order  
to have more to share. Give us a desire to be well infomed,  
so that we may be more aware of the needs of the world.*

LEADER: Lord, we see those who struggle to find their own identity, both in our own community, and in the developing countries.

PEOPLE: *Lord, we recognise our responsibility. We know that each individual is of infinite worth to You, and that with Your life within, each person is able to develop into a powerful force for Your kingdom. May we do nothing to injure a developing personality, by thoughtless word or an unkind suggestion. Rather may we give support to the one who is endeavouring to find meaning in life, for Your sake.*

LEADER: Lord, we remember women in the world who have arrived at the decision-making level of Church, government, business and industry.

PEOPLE: *Lord, we recognise our responsibility. We know that by our loving support we do much to uphold those in power, where we criticise, may we be constructive. Where we give advice, may we be thoughtful.*

LEADER: Lord, there are people in positions of responsibility who are reacting against tasks which seems to big for them.

PEOPLE: *Lord, may such people find their strength in Thee. May they, and us, learn that when a task is beyond our own powers, then a Greater Power has a chance to work.*

ALL: Lord, may Your Loving Spirit rule in the hearts of all such people.

THE WORD SPEAKS.

Psalm 145:3-5.

LEADER: Recognising our Responsibility, we present to God our gifts to be used to encourage women who have a Vision for their Community.

PRESENT OFFERINGS AND LEAST COIN CONTRIBUTIONS.

SING: 'BE THOU MY VISION' (Slane 10.11.11.12)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
 Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;  
 Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
 Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word;  
 Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;  
 Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;  
 Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
 Be Thou mine inheritance now and always;  
 Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart;  
 O sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

SERMON OR DISCUSSION: 'FREEDOM AND FULFILLMENT'

ING: 'CHRIST OF THE UPWARD WAY' (Adsum)

Christ of the upward way,  
 My guide divine,  
 Where Thou hast set Thy feet  
 May I place mine:  
 And move and march wherever Thou hast trod,  
 Keeping face forward up the hill of God.

(Cont'd)

Give me the heart to hear  
Thy voice and will,  
That without fault or fear  
I may fulfill  
Thy purpose with a glad and holy zest,  
Like one who would not bring less than his best.

Give me the eye to see  
Each chance to serve,  
Then send me strength to rise  
With steady nerve,  
And leap at once with kind and helpful deed  
To the sure succour of a soul in need.

Christ of the upward way,  
My guide divine,  
Where Thou hast set Thy feet,  
May I place mine;  
And when Thy last call comes serene and clear,  
Calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."

BENEDICTION.

This Order of Service has been prepared by Officer Members of the  
Girls' Brigade of Australia for Australian Church Women.

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WOMEN SEEK OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Changes in the approach for Community Day Programmes are possible and stimulating.

... seek to help you try new ways! These are our suggestions to increase interest  
... the gathering of women in a common cause, for your local action.

- a) A pattern has been given for the Service we suggest your group may like to try one of the other ideas which incorporate the theme.
- b) DISCUSSION GROUPS could be introduced within the time used for the Service. You would need to prepare for these by arrangement of seating and group leaders.

Using the Service - Discussion Group Time

- i) Following "Freedom and Fulfillment" and "The Discovery".

DISCUSSION TOPICS

As we think of the problems presented by each of the Readers, ponder on possible solutions to their questions.

1. What is ahead for the weary, hopeless victim of the inner-suburban syndrome? Is there any hope for her? Can we as Christian women help in any way? What challenge for us is there to care enough to help? Prayer is not enough.
2. The Asian is surrounded by fear, pain and mistrust. What would be her attitude to us - condemnatory, incredulous or envious? Do we have a responsibility to those who have suffered because of war or pestilence? If so, what responsible action can be taken by our group? Now and in our local community.
3. The coloured speaker reveals an honest spirit in this case - are we equally frank about our relations with the coloured world? Have we shown superior attitudes to any representative of a different culture? How can we, in our suburb, extend our acceptance?
4. Is there a task facing the local church in meeting the needs of frustrated house-wives? In what ways can Christ-orientated women show His love to those who are surrounded by unhappiness, real or imaginary?
5. As men and women of the developing countries discover in themselves a longing to extend their horizons, can a group of Christians in this land offer any practical help?

ii) Following "The presentation of Offerings"

DISCUSSION TOPICS

LEADER - We recognise that there are other needs in the world for which we have some responsibility. We feel inspired to give of ourselves sacrificially in order to help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

RESPONSE - We pledge ourselves to support the Christmas Bowl Appeal in gratitude for the blessings we have received, and in acknowledgement of our membership of Christ's world-wide family.

(Information on the Project which will be supported by the Christmas Bowl Appeal should be given here.)

If a Discussion Period is planned instead of the Sermon on the topic - Freedom and Fulfillment - the following questions could be used.

1. Are there many people who do not hope for something better than their present life?
2. The statement by Rev. John R. Claypool - All that lives beyond our experience in history, is our personal spirit. Do you think this would be meaningful to a fearful Asian, a down-trodden Negro or a poverty-stricken Nicaraguan?
3. In many countries, extreme wealth lives almost side by side with abject poverty. What can be done about this lack of concern?

c) PANEL DISCUSSION OR INTERVIEWS

Using people who have been working or studying the situations mentioned in the Reader sections -

- A Community Social Worker - or Policewoman,
- A Community Nurse or Doctor dealing with frustrated women,
- A Social Demographer or T.V. interviewer, who has been in Asia on special work,
- Missionary or Teacher or Expatriate Aussie from Papua - New Guinea, African Country, or Southern American Countries.

d) USE OF BOOKS, PAPER CUTTINGS, FILMS, SLIDES OR TAPES

Look into the issues involved arrange for several members to prepare for Discussion Introduction with articles from any of the suggested sources giving details currently relevant of the conditions.

Include here, also list of positions vacant on Mission field and as our daily papers also include ads 'vacant positions' these could lead to the 'our thoughts into how we can act positively.'

We suggest handout similar to those put out by World Christian Action Resource Material, in particular, 'The Challenge, and Not Enough' will help prepare people for action.

Added note re Printed Order of Service

Suggested songs for Solos:-

- Solo I "Is there an Answer to it all" Youth Praise 233 (The Kinsmen)
- Solo II "I've discovered the way of Gladness" Floyd W. Hawkins,  
Singing Joy.

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This programme of involvement and pointers to action has been prepared by Officer Members of The Girls' Brigade of Australia.