

STATE UNIT NEWS



Forward Together
in Faith



World
Community
Day

October
1991

SPECIAL PROJECT OFFERING FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES AT
NUNGALINYA COLLEGE, DARWIN.

FELLOWSHIP DAY, 1992 - THEME: "CHRIST, OUR EXAMPLE" -
to be prepared by Western Australian Unit.

FORWARD TOGETHER IN FAITH.

Introductory statement.

LEADER :

We Love By Faith.

Everything about the christian Life is based on faith. We love by faith just as we received Christ by faith; just as we walk by faith; and just as we are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith.

There are many Christians who have loved with God's love and have demonstrated the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, who have not consciously or specifically claimed His love by faith. Yet, without being consciously aware of the fact, they were indeed loving by faith; therefore, they did not find it necessary to claim God's love by faith as a specific act. In Hebrews 11:6 we are reminded that "without faith it is impossible to please Him". Obviously there will be no demonstration of God's Love where there is no faith.

(Ten Basic Steps towards Christian Maturity - c1964)

HYMN :

A.H.B. 531. When we walk with the Lord.

Trust and Obey 669 D and refrain.

LEADER :

MATTHEW 17: 19-20. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?". He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you".

LEADER :

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Father, we have seen you in the evidence of changed lives and in the growth of the Church from eleven men in Jerusalem to a world-wide fellowship which has spread through time and space.

ALL :

But sometimes we still doubt.

LEADER :

We have seen present day missionaries leave all to follow you.

ALL :

but sometimes we still doubt.

LEADER :

We have seen famous sceptics changed into compassionate, caring Christians:

ALL :

but sometimes we still doubt.

LEADER :

We have seen the burning joy of men and women who have undergone great torture and persecution for their faith:

ALL :

but sometimes we still doubt.

LEADER :

Father, each time we doubt, use this experience to build up our faith. You do not offer us a blind faith but one we can prove through the help of your Holy Spirit. May we persevere in looking for answers in the right places and from the right people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

(Dick Williams : Prayers for Today's Church).

READING

Hebrews 11: 1 - 12. Faith defined.

HYMN :

A.H.B. 555. In faith and hope and love.

Araluen 77 and refrain.

READER :

GALATIANS 3: 28. You are all one in union with Christ Jesus.

READER :

K.J.V. MATTHEW 18: 20. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them".

Prayer for Unity.

LEADER :

We thank you Lord that because we are made in your image it is possible to be united in you.

ALL :

We thank you for the special unity enjoyed by those who are new people in your Son.

LEADER :

We ask you to forgive the sin that has destroyed the unity you meant for mankind.

ALL :

We thank you for the growth of understanding between Christians of different outlooks and traditions.

LEADER :

We pray that we may learn from Christians of other traditions and that they may learn from us.

ALL :

May they and we remember that Jesus prayed for us to be sanctified in truth before he prayed for us to be one. Therefore so guide us that we might seek unity through truth.

LEADER :

We thank you for the growth in unity of our local churches that we may grow together in truth and love.

ALL :

We pray for our own church, that we and all its members may be filled with the spirit of faith, hope and love, proclaiming together

the unity which will cause others to acknowledge THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL.
LEADER : We pray for the community of which we are part and for greater understanding and unity between its various sections, interests and age groups.

ALL : *We pray for the unity of our country, for a greater understanding and sympathy between the various age groups and experience, the young and those who are older, between employers and employees, between immigrants and the host community, which make your church such a unique family.*

LEADER : We are grateful for all who come from east and west, north and south, to feast in your Kingdom. Let us pray for the unity of the world, for reconciliation, peace and compassion between rich and poor, white and coloured, capitalist and communist, and those nations which have long been embattled.

LEADER : Lord in your mercy
ALL : *Hear our prayer.*

READING : **EPHESIANS 4 : 1 – 16. Unity of the Spirit.**

Musical voluntary during which the offerings for the FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN will be brought forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION :

ALL : O Lord Jesus Christ, break down the barriers which separate people from each other and from God, for through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use these Least Coin Offerings for your glory and for service in your Kingdom. May Christians learn to love and serve each other across the walls of colour, class and creed. Forgive us too, the excuses we make for our own prejudice and may there be peace on earth, goodwill to all people, for your name's sake.
AMEN.

A Prayer for the People of Australia.

LEADER : Lord God,

Our Holy Spirit has moved over the face of the waters and formed the wide brown land of Australia.

ALL : *In the midst of this varied huddle of humanity you have set your church.*

LEADER : Give to all men, women and children whose lives you have so richly blessed, a commitment to justice and peace for all nations and a vision of righteousness and equality for all people in our country.

ALL : *Your Spirit moves still today, in sprawling, high rise cities, in the vast distances of our outback, and in the ethnic diversity of the Australian people.*

LEADER : May our love and compassion for all people on earth be as wide and varied as our land, and as constant as the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
AMEN

(Uniting in Worship).

HYMN : **AHB. 389. Your hand O God has guided.**
Thornbury 76.76D

ADDRESS : Forward Together in Faith.

Soloist or Liturgical Dance or some dramatic presentation around the theme.

Musical voluntary during which the offerings for World Community Day will be received.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION :

ALL : Almighty God, take and use these gifts to love and serve all people in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

SEPARATE READERS ARE TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES FROM THE BODY OF THE CHURCH.

READER 1 : Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

READER 2 : Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth and the life". (John 14: 6).

READER 3 : I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord", as the prophet Isaiah said. (John 1:23)

READER 4 : And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"
 READER 5 : Then I said, "Here I am! Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

LEADER : Lord, teach us to pray.

ALL : The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

.... AMEN.

A Prayer for Guidance.

READER : Help us, Lord, to think about our life as Jesus thought about his:
 Help us to understand the nature of our calling;
 the nature of the One who calls;
 the nature of the world's needs;
 the nature of our own resources;
 the nature of God's provision.
 (Pause)

READER : Help us not to drift through life but to seek your guidance.
 Save us from making hasty decisions; save us from making no decisions at all.
 Help us to seek not our own glory, but yours.
 Help us to have no ambition but to do good.
 Make us pure in heart.
 (Pause)

READER : Help us not to judge ourselves, and not to judge others but to leave judgement where it belongs with him to whom all power is given, the one who knows all and loves each, Jesus Christ our Saviour our Lord. **AMEN.**
 (Dick Williams - Prayers for Today's Church).

HYMN : **A.H.B. 480. Forth in thy name O Lord I go.**
 Song 34 88.88

LEADER : Benediction.
 Father, at the dawn of our days, give us a living faith, by which we may not only accept what you teach, but also act upon it.
 Jesus, at the noontime of our days, be kind to us and shade us that we may grow in love, understanding and compassion.

. 5 .

. 6 .

Holy Spirit, at the sunset of our days, in your grace, give us faith to surrender ourselves to you in complete trust, as you lead us forward together.
Amen.

ALL :

LEADER : You are the church, now go and be the church in the world, for this is our assurance, that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is with us now and for evermore.

ALL : **In the name of Christ. AMEN.**

A PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA.
 USED BY PERMISSION J.B.C.E. adapted
 The Rev'd Douglas McKenzie.
 Uniting in Worship - People's Book.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

1. In what ways do you think our lives can be lived in love by faith?
2. How do you understand unity?
3. How do you see the Holy Spirit moving in Australia today?

