

*Can churches in
your neighborhood
come together to*
PRAY FOR PEACE?

- Each year, as part of the the International Day of Prayer for Peace, more individuals, groups, churches and communities throughout the world are recognizing the significance of committing to One Day of Peace through prayer, meditation and other forms of spiritual observance.
- The International Day of Prayer for Peace offers an opportunity for church communities in all places to pray and act together to nurture lasting peace in the hearts of people, their families, communities and societies.

Churches worldwide are once more invited to pray for peace – possibly using the same prayers – on September 21, 2007, or the closest Sunday.

WILL YOUR CHURCH PARTICIPATE?

Will you volunteer to organize an event in your community?

Will you:

Call other churches in town and see if they have heard of International Day of Prayer for Peace?

Find at least one person, from another church, to join you in planning?

Organize a vigil or other event in your community? (see reverse)



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

September 21, 2007

Background

- The idea was conceived in 2004 during a meeting between WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, and it coincides with the United Nations International Day of Peace. An ever-expanding number of people worldwide, representing a wide variety of religious and spiritual traditions, have committed to an annual effort to work with other like-minded individuals and groups for an International Day of Peace Vigil.
- The objective of the International Day of Peace Vigil is “to encourage worldwide, 24-hour spiritual observations for peace and nonviolence on the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2007, in every house of worship and place of spiritual practice, by all religious and spiritually based groups and individuals, and by all men, women and children who seek peace in the world.”

Resources

- Register your commitment and find ecumenical & interfaith inspiration at the International Day of Peace Vigil website, <http://www.idpvigil.com/>
- Use prayer and liturgical resources developed by the World Council of Churches’ office of the Decade to Overcome Violence, on the theme, “Make me an instrument of your peace.” www.overcomingviolence.org

Organizing Ideas

- Have volunteers from the church commissioned to work for peace that entire week
- Sponsor a prayer breakfast about violence and peace in your town
- Hold a prayer vigil about overcoming violence in a public park, sponsored with members of at least one other church
- Meet a member from another church and go together to pray with your congressional representative about both problems of violence and God’s vision of shalom

Contact your church’s peace representatives for more ideas and support!