

WCC Assembly Sunday

12 February 2006

God, in your grace, transform the world
Deus, em tua graça, transforma o mundo
In deiner Gnade, Gott, verwandle die Welt
Dios, en tu gracia, transforma el mundo
Transforme le monde, Dieu, dans ta grâce

World Council of Churches,
9th Assembly, Porto Alegre, 2006
www.wcc-assembly.info





World Council of Churches

WCC Assembly Sunday

12 February 2006

Pray and celebrate with the churches of the world!

“God, in your grace, transform the world”

In February 2006, the churches of the world will gather in Porto Alegre, Brazil for the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches. The Assembly will bring together thousands of Christians from diverse traditions and all regions of the world to celebrate, study and pray together.

“God, in your grace, transform the world” is the theme of the Assembly and the prayer and the vision of the Christians from all corners of the earth who will gather at that time. The theme will lead us in prayer as well as inform our deliberations on issues such as the future of the ecumenical movement, our commitment to economic justice, our witness to overcoming violence and the challenges we face in the midst of religious plurality.

Assemblies are often turning points in the life of the World Council and this Assembly will surely leave its mark on ecumenical history. The Assembly participants will together discuss, discern and envision the challenges and priorities for the World Council of Churches in the coming seven years.

I would like to invite churches, communities and Christians in all places to pray together on Sunday 12 February and during the days of the Assembly which will follow, united in a common faith and common vision, that the Spirit of God will come upon us and guide our work during that time, and to offer solidarity and support for the event and the proposals and vision which will emerge from the gathering.



May the grace of God transform our world!

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



A prayer of transformation

Lord, our God Almighty
Transformer and Creator
God of fatherly peace and motherly love
We gather before you with our pleas of despair
From our hearts filled with hope.

Gracious God, your church has experienced
the pangs of birth and its infancy
on the shores of the Mediterranean.
Be with your church as it continues its growth
across the world into adulthood and full unity.

With the church still in its adolescence
We pray for your gift of transformation.
Revive in us a spirit of community
Mould our thoughts into ones of love.
Instill in us a sense of your peace.

Give us the courage and resilience to accept transformation
For ourselves and for others
For the ones who suffer and the ones who execute it
For the victims and the perpetrators
And for all your people.

In a world filled with violence and hatred
Give us the courage to sow love and harmony.
In a world rampant with discrimination and inequity,
Nurture in us the seeds of unity and grant us the foresight to see
and resolve our divisions.

Prepare our hearts, minds and hands to reap your harvest. Amen.

Prayer prepared for WCC
Assembly Sunday by the group
of youth interns in the World
Council of Churches.
Additional ideas for prayer,
worship and Bible study are
available on the WCC 9th
Assembly website:
www.wcc-assembly.info

Facts & Figures

WCC 9th Assembly, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 14-23 February 2006

- The most diverse Assembly in WCC history
- 3,000 participants from virtually every Christian tradition and world faith community
- Over 700 delegates from 347 member churches of the WCC
- Fifth anniversary of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence
- Hundreds of workshops, presentations, stands and exhibits
- Major themes: Economic justice; Youth overcoming violence; Church unity; Christian identity and religious plurality; Latin America
- Election of the WCC leadership and 150-member central committee

Join us! How you can participate in WCC Assembly Sunday

There are many ways in which church communities and individuals can be involved and support the WCC Assembly, even if they cannot be present in Porto Alegre. Be creative! Use the time for public events, prayer and worship, educational and cultural programmes. Other ideas for action include:

- Pray for the WCC and the churches of the world on WCC Assembly Sunday, 12 February 2006
- Follow the Assembly and its work on the Assembly website and watch the daily video clips and webcasts (www.wcc-assembly.info) every day starting 15 February
- Organize a meeting or discussion on the Assembly theme: “God, in your grace, transform the world”
- Share information about WCC Assembly Sunday with others. Distribute copies of this brochure
- Support the work of the WCC with a collection or a financial donation using our website or in consultation with your church or National Council of Churches





The blessing

Que Deus Pai, nos conceda a graça transformadora.
Que Deus Filho, nos conceda a graça salvadora.
Que o Espírito da vida, nos conceda a graça libertadora.
E em nossos caminhos seja celebrada a paz.

(© Antonio Carlos Soares dos Santos,
Faculdade de Teologia da Igreja Metodista, Brazil)

Help WCC continue its work for transformation!

The WCC needs your support to continue its work. Please consider making a financial contribution to the WCC. Take a few minutes and make an online donation, or send your gift to the WCC (check with your church or National Council of Churches to coordinate transfers).

Donate online using our website:

<http://www.wcc-assembly.info/en/right-side-menu/donate.html>

Alternatively, donate directly to the WCC bank account mentioning “WCC 9th Assembly appeal”.

UBS

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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 closely with the Roman Catholic Church.



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WCC news: www.wcc-coe.org/e-news

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