



# The Prayer Room

Brought to you by the Good News Bearers  
Issue No. 16 - January 18-25, 2009

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**The eight days from January 18 through January 25 are celebrated as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.**

January 18 commemorates the confession of the Apostle, Peter, and the 25<sup>th</sup> the conversion of the Apostle, Paul. This is a fitting time to pray for unity. Luke tells us in the Book of Acts that these two apostles had their differences, but they were one in Christ and did not let those differences stand in the way of sharing the good news and healing power of God in Jesus Christ with all within their reach.

2009 is the 101<sup>st</sup> year for this week of prayer. The emphasis this year - Unity among Christians is for the sake of humanity! We live in a world torn by dissension and violence, nowhere more so than in the very land where Jesus walked. All those who confess Christ as Lord should seek to fulfil his prayer "that all may be one so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17.21)

**Begin these eight days with reflection on the unity of Christians.**

Read and re-read Ezekiel's vision of the "dry bones". Imagine how our divisions render us "lifeless", keep us from life together in Christ. Reflect on the many divisions among 'Christians' that keep us apart and give us a history full of separation, and sometimes hatred.

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### Let these be our earnest prayers

On each of the eight days, we are invited to pray for situations in the world where reconciliation is needed, and the role that the unity of Christians will play in bringing about this reconciliation.

**DAY 1 - Pray that God, who breathes the Spirit of life into dry bones, and who can overcome our differences, will breathe life and reconciliation on our dryness and division today.**

**DAY 2 - Pray for the overcoming and an end to war and violence. Pray that, as disciples of the Prince of Peace, Christians can bring about a reconciliation rooted in hope.**

**DAY 3 - Pray about the growing gap between the rich and poor, & about our attitude toward money and the poor, how Jesus would see us. Pray that our attitudes will grow to reflect His.**

Day 4 - Pray that we will wake up to the reality that it is only together that we can protect the gifts that God gives us in creation, the earth with its air and water and all things living.

DAY 5 - Pray for an end to the prejudices and hostility that marks our societies, and how we are witnesses to the unity of God who has created us all to live together in harmony.

DAY 6 - Remember and pray for all who suffer and all who serve them. Together, Christians can make a difference.

DAY 7 - Remember that we live in a world of many religions. Without unity it is hard to build a kingdom of peace with all men and women of good will.

DAY 8 - Pray that the spirit of the Beatitudes may be ours and that it will overcome the spirit of this world, Unified Christians can be bearers of hope and builders of reconciliation in this world of chaos.

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