

A report of the WDP celebrations in Philadelphia

World day of Prayer 2013 was celebrated at St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church in Philadelphia. The women's forum of Ecumenical Fellowship of Indian churches in Philadelphia provided the platform for the women in Philadelphia area to stand in solidarity with the lives of their sisters worldwide. Being an immigrant community, the celebration of this year's theme served as a reflection on our renewed relationship with Christ and our surrounding communities.

Our program for World Day of Prayer began with a Worship service .After an overview of WDP, the Ecumenical Malayalam Choir provided the music for the worship service. The women of the 19 participating Ecumenical churches led the worship.

Following the Worship service was the second part of the WDP celebration. After a brief welcome to all those in attendance, Nupura Dance Academy performed a liturgical dance, using the music of France. This was followed by an introduction into the country of France with the aid of a brief video. We had two musical programs, which highlighted the World Day of Prayer theme music. The first was the Youth band, 'Christos Sound of Music.' The second was the English Choir. The songs and music are the same worldwide, which provided unity and conformity in the WDP program.

Our main speaker was Dr. Mrs. Anita Daniel gave an insightful look into the theme and encouraged future generations of women to take their stand in this world. She was able to draw from personal experiences, as well as touch on the importance of sharing our love in a dark world. Following the sermon, we had four monologues, each highlighting the life of a French woman. Young women from the participating churches, dressed in traditional garments presented the monologues, which allowed us to place ourselves in someone else's shoes and consider the trials in their walk of life. The Theme Skit: 'Aparichithanallatha Yeshu" (I am no longer a stranger) was very well organized and related to every person in attendance.

The World Day of Prayer is naturally centered around PRAYER. Prayer and Action are inseparable. Therefore, we had some time for intercession and reflection. The offertory collected was sent in its entirety to WDP committee to be utilized for the underprivileged immigrant women and children of France. Following these programs, everyone enjoyed lunch together. The clergy, office bearers of Ecumenical Fellowship of Indian churches in Philadelphia and a core group of women from different churches in Philadelphia organized and led this event. A group of 100 participants consisting of women and youth participated in the various programs. This program was well attended by more than 400 people from different churches in Philadelphia.

We are blessed to have the WDP become such a fruitful Ecumenical Event. The leaders of this event come from various churches, and each one deserves recognition for their hard work and dedication to the body of Christ and all its events. The World Day of Prayer is a great way to come together and truly reflect on our place in the world. Furthermore, WDP is an avenue in which the women of the church can come together, take leadership, and instill these values on to the next generation.