

# World Day of Prayer USA

September 15, 2019

Dear Friends on the Path of Justice,

“Do you want to be made well?” Jesus asked in John 5:6. That is probably the strangest, yet most life changing question asked by Jesus. Of course, the lame man whom Jesus encountered at Bethzatha, a pool in Jerusalem, wanted to be made well; otherwise he would have not been at the pool, which was known for its healing powers. What stopped him from being well before meeting Jesus? What stops us from being well? World Day of Prayer 2020, written by our sisters in Zimbabwe, answers this question with a call to action from John 5:2-9a, “Rise! Take your mat and walk.”

Like the Apostle Paul, the women of Zimbabwe write an epistle to us. The letter briefly describes their history as well as their current political, social, and economic struggles. Instead of staying on their mats, our Zimbabwean sisters are acting on Jesus’ called to action, “Rise! Take your mat and walk,” which for them is a call to love, peace, and reconciliation. Our sisters write, “The action verbs suggest that we should not be afraid to act on the word of God. God is offering us the steps for personal and social transformation.” Jesus invites us to participate in the miracle of healing.

We have much to learn from the women who have written the 2020 WDP service. The women of Zimbabwe challenge us to take up our mats, “whatever they may be for us, and walk.”

The World Day of Prayer USA Committee is excited to share the materials for WDP 2020–Zimbabwe. We encourage you to start planning now for a meaningful event on March 6, 2020. (Remember, although the first Friday in March is the traditional day of the annual World Day of Prayer, the material can be used on any day that fits the needs of your group.)

Thank you to the many groups who designated the offering from their service to the work of WDP-USA. The contributions allow us to continue to produce high-quality materials and to address critical social and economic issues through grants to organizations in the United States and around the world. See our website for the list of 2019 grant recipients. Thank you, also, for your evaluations and feedback on the materials for WDP 2019–Slovenia.

There are many ways to make the World Day of Prayer a year-long experience. We hope you will stay connected through our email newsletter, Twitter, and Facebook, and by frequent visits to our website. Share with your friends so that the movement will continue to grow.

The WDP-USA committee and staff are grateful for your engagement and partnership as we continue to work for justice, equality, and equity through prayer, partnership, service and celebration.

Fanya Burford-Berry



Chair, World Day of Prayer USA

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World Day of Prayer USA

475 Riverside Dr., 15th Floor • New York, NY 10115

212.870.2466 • Orders: 888.937.8720 • [info@wdp-usa.org](mailto:info@wdp-usa.org) • [www.wdp-usa.org](http://www.wdp-usa.org)

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