

'Go to a land I will show you'

GENESIS 12:1

Ideas for marking Racial Justice Sunday

- **Make racial justice the theme of your worship on 9th September.** Use one or more of the "Signpost" sheets as a basis, plus some of the additional material on the website.
- **Use the biblical reflections** provided, both in preaching and in discussion groups.
- **Recognise and celebrate cultural diversity** in your own congregation.
- **Arrange a joint event with another church** with a focus on cultural diversity
- **Hold a retiring collection or a fundraising event** for the Racial Justice Fund.
- **Invite a guest speaker** with specialist knowledge of racial justice or a particular story to tell.
- **Arrange a fellowship meal** with food from different parts of the world and a discussion about racial justice.
- **Suggest that your local churches join together** for an ecumenical service for Racial Justice Sunday.
- **Involve other faith communities** – use a neutral venue for a meeting to look at racial justice.

How to apply to the Racial Justice Fund

CCRJ's Racial Justice Fund supports a wide range of local faith-based racial justice projects with grants up to a maximum of £5,000. Groups seeking support are linked with other projects in their area and offered capacity building training and advice.

There are two funding rounds each year, with applications closing in July and December.

For more information contact the CCRJ Research and Development Officer Revd. Claudette Douglas on 020 7654 7244 and claudette.douglas@ctbi.org.uk

Further copies of this pack are available from CTBI Publications, 4 John Wesley Road, Peterborough PR4 6ZP
Tel: 01733 325002 email sales@mph.org.uk2

Ideas for raising funds for Racial Justice

- **Hold a retiring collection** at the end of your special service for Racial Justice Sunday.
- **Organise a Gift Day** in aid of Racial Justice.
- **Serve refreshments** after your main service and donate the money raised to the Racial Justice Fund.
- **Encourage your groups of young people to develop a fundraising project for Racial Justice**, preferably involving the whole congregation in raising money.
- **Promote the magazine Racial Justice Today** (available from CCRJ) and invite those members who subscribe to pledge an annual gift to Racial Justice.
- **Invite those in your congregation with creative and artistic skills to sell their work** to friends and family and donate the proceeds to the Racial Justice Fund.

By raising money creatively and with imagination, your church can learn about racial justice, take steps to put its faith into practice, and make an important contribution to the work of God's kingdom.



Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

The Racial Justice Fund is funded by and works closely with:
The Methodist Church
Catholic Association for Racial Justice
Church Urban Fund
Christian Aid
and numerous other churches, projects and individuals

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

9 September 2007

A WORLD ON THE MOVE

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Designed by First Presence.

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Racial Justice Sunday is developed and promoted by the Churches' Commission for Racial Justice, part of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.
CHURCHES' COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

9 September 2007

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People are on the move! People move for all sorts of reasons and under many different circumstances – and the result is that everywhere we look, in town or country, people from all over the world rub shoulders with each other. This is God’s doing!

Racial Justice Sunday 2007 takes this mass-movement of people as its theme and looks at it from different angles. The abolition of

the transatlantic slave trade is commemorated. There are stories of Christians who have migrated to these islands from other parts of the world. We look at the issues facing asylum seekers and refugees, and reflect on what is known as “economic migration.” We ask what kind of welcome we have given to migrants, and trace the “journey” of their integration and involvement in church life.

Ideas sheets on all these topics are enclosed.

Most importantly, we ask for a response from YOUR church. We ask you to: reflect racial justice in your worship and to pray; to take action and to raise money, so that the work of racial justice can move forward; to lift your eyes and strike out for the new land God is showing you!

Revised Common Lectionary readings for 9th September 2007 - Year C

Psalm 89:14

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne”

The Christian concern for racial justice stems from what we know of God. Justice is at the top of God’s agenda and it must also be at the top of ours. All too often our worship makes little mention of justice, especially *racial* justice, and fails to connect with the pressures and conflicts of our world. Racial Justice Sunday gives us an opportunity to correct this imbalance as we – in the words of the song – “ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock; a God of righteousness, and without injustice.”

Plilemon 15-16

“Have him back for good – no longer as a slave.”

Onesimus, the subject of this letter, was a run-away slave. This bicentenary year of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade reminds us that very few slaves managed to run away, and none escaped the brutal impact of slavery. The tragic legacy of this evil, in which Britain was a principal player, continues around the globe today. Paul’s instruction that, on his return, Onesimus should be a slave no longer must inspire us to take an honest look at the inequalities in our own society. Racial Justice Sunday can help us do that.

Luke 14:27

“Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me.”

Would-be disciples have to count the cost: they must also follow. Jesus was fearless in showing no distinction between people of whatever background. He never caved in to the prejudices of his day, but brought a fresh and honest perspective to his culture – the perspective of love. We are challenged to follow that example. The stand Jesus took was costly for him and may also be for us, but the alternative is simply not to be his disciples. Both individually and as whole congregations, Christians urgently need to respond to the challenge of Racial Justice Sunday.

For further material including prayers, song suggestions, background notes and much more visit “Racial Justice Sunday” at ctbi.org.uk/ccrj

