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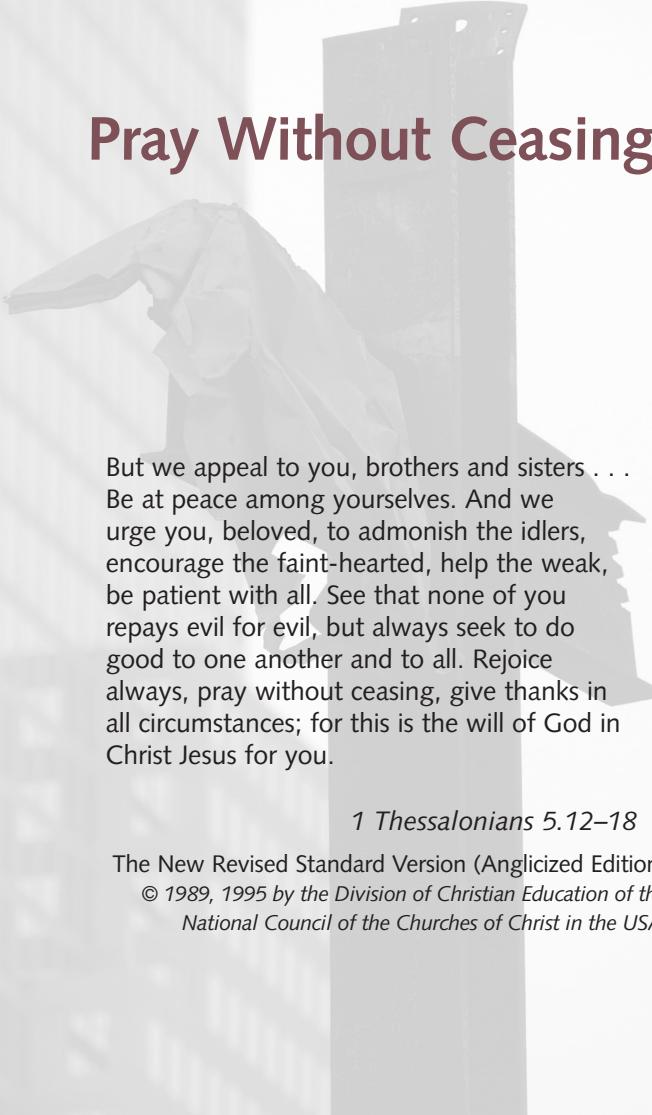
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Week of Prayer, CTBI Publications

4 John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6ZP

Pray Without Ceasing



But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters . . . Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

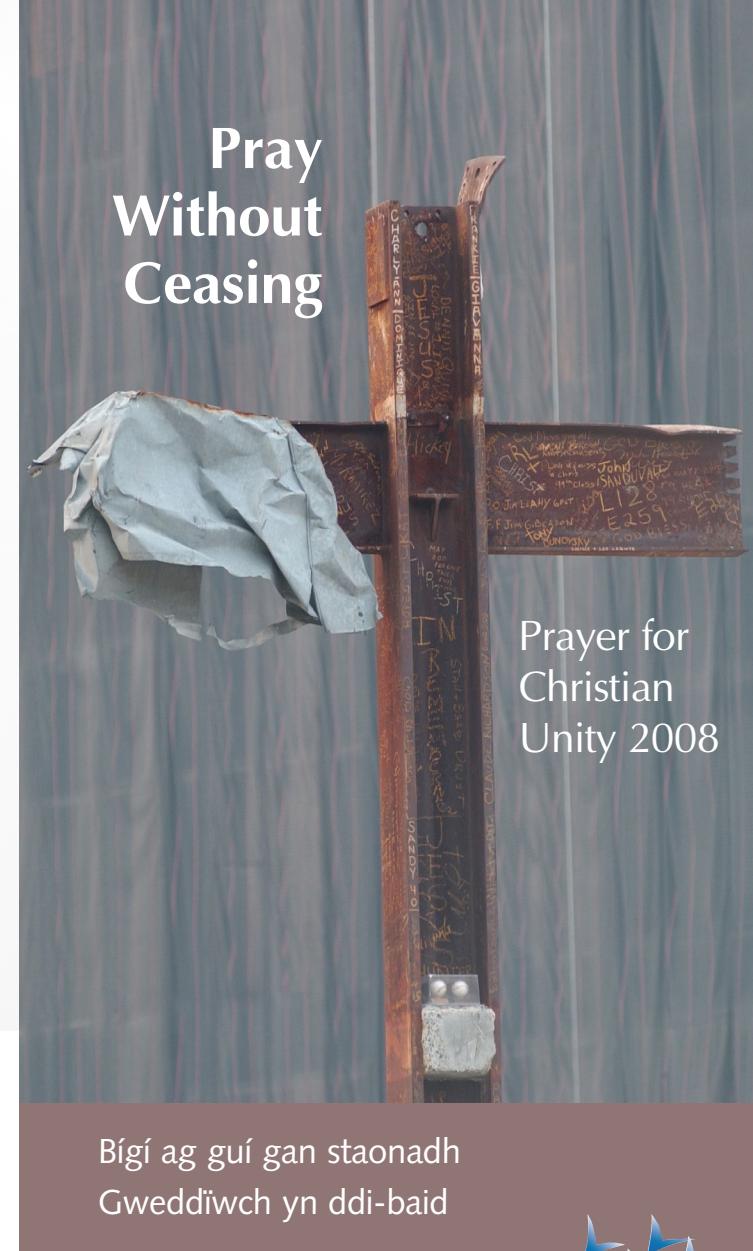
1 Thessalonians 5.12–18

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition)

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Bígi ag guí gan staonadh
Gweddiwch yn ddi-baid

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churches together
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND®

We are organizing a Week of Prayer service.

How should we use the resources?

If you are the preacher or worship leader, you will probably need extra copies of some items – enough pamphlets for those who will attend the ecumenical service and those who may pray at home or in church during the 'eight days' of the Week of Prayer. You may want to view additional resources that are available on the CTBI website, in the section marked Week of Prayer Materials, for the worship organizers and the preacher.

How may we encourage church members to pray for unity during the eight days of the Week of Prayer?

You need to order pamphlets and prayer cards for the congregation to use during the main ecumenical service, at home, in church or in prayer groups on other days. Pamphlets contain:

- Outlines for eight days of daily prayer and Bible readings
- A single ecumenical order of service which you may hold during the week – on Sunday or on a weekday or evening during the Week. This may be adapted to local use

In addition, the prayer cards are a perfect size to keep in a Bible or prayer book.

Are there any new ideas for observing the Week of Prayer?

There are interesting activity ideas in the worship service this year and these might be applied in different contexts, for example, in a school or with a youth group. The environment and migration are two of the themes worked into the worship material and associated activities this year. In many places, a pilgrimage around the churches is organized, one for each day of the eight days in a different church or denomination, following the daily Bible readings. This permits each church to worship in its own style and to offer hospitality to

others. Some people organize daily prayers in their place of work. Church schools may hold services and events. Good advance planning will make for enjoyable and stimulating events.

What is the reason for this year's design?

2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer. The Week of Prayer was first marked by Father Paul Wattson, an Episcopalian Franciscan priest in the USA. The resources have therefore been produced in this centenary year from within the United States of America. The image is from Ground Zero and symbolizes the sense of praying for peace and reconciliation, both within the Church and the world.

Who is responsible for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?

The material was developed by the International Committee for the Week of Prayer, and adapted into its present form by writers from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

How do we adapt it for local use?

The material for the service can be adapted in any way that suits local custom. The materials may be downloaded from the web site and a congregation or Churches Together group can produce their own leaflet. We advise early local ecumenical planning of the event, preferably in the autumn of 2007.

What are the aims of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?

- To pray as Christ prayed 'That they may be one'.
- To pray for the unity of all Christian people as we share in Christ's ministry.

The Week of Prayer offers opportunities to meet and pray with fellow Christians of different denominations in your locality. Often new local initiatives emerge out of such meeting and praying together.

Is there all-age material for the Week of Prayer?

Yes, there are ideas for worship, songs, visual aids and activities on the CTBI web site. The 2008 service is suitable for teenagers and adults, but also for children. Other materials suitable for children will be available from ROOTS, the worship and learning resource.

How do we advertise the Week of Prayer locally?

An A3 size poster is available and local details can be attached to the bottom or side – order plenty and display them in your churches and local area. Also, you could buy additional bookmarks to be made available at the library or post office.

Do we have to follow the January dates?

Some places observe the 'Week' 18-25 January (the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul), others at Pentecost. Locally, you may make your own decision. To allow for variation, the material only has the year on it, and days are denoted by number – one to eight. The resource material may be used at any time in the year.

What is on the web site?

From October 2007, the Churches Together web site will have many exciting ideas and resources to help you mark the Week of Prayer and lead worship during it.

For the first time this year, there will be an Irish translation of the service and meditations available online to allow even more flexibility for organizing the Week of Prayer in your local area.

www.ctbi.org.uk