



## From Liz Stone – Associate Interim General Secretary

Each year on 21 September the World Council of Churches calls churches and parishes to observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace. 21 September is also the United Nations-sponsored International Day of Peace.

As it approaches, the World Council of Churches invites people to offer prayers for peace.

Observances of the peace prayer day began in 2004 as part of the ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010) after an agreement between the heads of the WCC and the UN.

### Praying for Peace in the Middle East

(from Act for Peace Resources for International Day of Peace 2014)



Lord Jesus Christ,  
you were born into the chaos of human history,  
and you lived and died with violence, oppression,  
and the shadow of war.  
Send your Spirit of peace to all who live in this moment of history,  
and breathe new hope for the whole human race.  
Turn fear and hatred to trust and understanding.  
Change greed and selfishness to generosity and care.  
Teach us to love you in every person created in God's image,  
and to spread the peace you died and rose again to bring. Amen.  
May the Lord bless us and keep us;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon us,  
and be gracious to us;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon us,  
and give us peace. Amen.  
Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



[http://www.actforpeace.org.au/www\\_AFP/media/act-for-peace/get-involved/campaigns/ipd-2014/Praying-for-Peace-in-the-Middle-East.pdf](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/www_AFP/media/act-for-peace/get-involved/campaigns/ipd-2014/Praying-for-Peace-in-the-Middle-East.pdf)

### World Week of Prayer with the WCC for Palestine and Israel – 21-27 Sep 2014

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the WCC invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organizations to observe a [World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel](#), starting on 21 September 2014. The theme of the week is: "**Let my people go!**"

The scope of the PIEF is worldwide because the crisis in the Middle East and its solutions are increasingly global in scope.

The PIEF works towards increasing solidarity between and among churches committed to peace and justice for communities living under occupation. Its inter-faith dimension invites people of other religions in the Middle East and elsewhere to join the search and struggle for a just and comprehensive peace.

## **WCC FEATURE: Displaced Iraqis appeal for security and tolerance**

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/displaced-iraqis-appeal-for-security-and-tolerance>

## **Peace is the future: Religions and Cultures in Dialogue -100 Years after World War I - Extract from Proclamation of Appeal for Peace 2014, 9 September 2014, Antwerp:**

"Today we assume responsibility for peace, in a time when few people dream of peace.

The world religions affirm, stronger than before, that no war is ever holy, that the elimination of the other in God's name is always blasphemy. The elimination of the other exploiting God's name is only horror and terror. It sets people outside authentic religion, blinded by hatred, and destroys the religion they claim to defend.

In difficult times, we commit ourselves to defending the lives of those brothers and sisters of religions different from our own who are endangered.

Let us work together for the future of the world, aware that war is a great foolishness and peace is something too serious to make it the affair of a few. Dialogue is the cure for conflicts; it heals wounds and makes the future possible. "

<http://www.santegidio.org/pagelD/5373/langID/en/text/1159/APPEAL FOR PEACE 2014.html>

## **Events, Seminars & Forums**

**Interfaith Prayer Service** on Sunday 21 September 2014 at **2 pm at the Fellowship Centre, Parramatta Mission, (next to the historic Leigh Memorial Uniting Church), 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta**. Representatives from cultural and faith Communities will offer prayers for peace, and there will be time for silent reflection. Peace doves will be released after the service. For further information contact Rev Dr Manas Ghosh on (02) 98912277 or [Manas.Ghosh@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:Manas.Ghosh@parramattamission.org.au)

**40th Australian Religious Press Association Awards (ARPA)** in Canberra. Act for Peace were the **GOLD MEDAL WINNERS** for **BEST WEBSITE** at the **ARPA** awards. A big congrats to the entire Act for Peace team on this award, especially Wendy for the hard work, creativity and extremely long hours on pulling together such a great platform to engage with Act for Peace's work.

## **SA Council of Churches – Longing, Listening, Learning & Loving in the Way of Christ**

The promise and potential of Receptive Ecumenism – a Mini-Conference

**Friday 17 October 2014, 7.30pm-9pm & Saturday 18 October 2014, 9.15am-12.45pm**

**Located at Room S1, Adelaide College of Divinity, 34 Lipsett Tce, Brooklyn Park**

**Guest Presenters** include:

- **Professor Catherine Clifford**, St Paul University, Ottawa, Canada
- **The Rt Rev'd John Stead**, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Willochra
- **Rev Professor Denis Edwards**, Australian Catholic University
- **Rev David Smith**, Immediate Past President of Baptist Churches of SA, & Pastor at West Beach Baptist Church

We will consider and explore the promise and potential of Receptive Ecumenism in our various settings, in ways that are positive and possible. For more information, see [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au) or contact Geraldine Hawkes [sacc1@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc1@picknowl.com.au) or phone: 08 8215 0300. **Registrations essential**

## **Global Church groups agree to confront Christian discrimination, persecution and martyrdom together**

A meeting convened by the [Global Christian Forum](http://www.globalchristianforum.org) in Strasbourg, France, including representatives from the [Vatican](http://www.vatican.va), the [World Council of Churches](http://www.wcc-council.org), the [World Evangelical Alliance](http://www.wecw.org) and the [Pentecostal World Fellowship](http://www.pentecostalfellowship.org), agreed on 9 September to press ahead with a global gathering on the issue of 'Christian discrimination, persecution and martyrdom' for late 2015. ....

Rev Dr. Hielke Wolters, Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Churches said, "It is a strong sign of hope that churches and ecumenical organisations with such a diverse background are ready to work together to support Christians that go through difficult times. Religious freedom is important for all of us, whether Christian, Muslim or adherent of any other religion.

"This joint initiative is very much in line with the WCC's efforts to accompany Christians and churches in countries like Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Nigeria. We are grateful that we can strengthen this important work in cooperation with churches and organisations from the Catholic, Pentecostal and Evangelical traditions."  
([www.globalchristianforum.org](http://www.globalchristianforum.org) )

## **Current Recruitment**

NCCA - Safe Church Training Agreement

### **National Coordinator**

Part-time, permanent position (3 days per week) – Located Sydney CBD or Melbourne CBD

For more information please go to: <http://www.ncca.org.au/home/employment>