

WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER

November 11 to 17, 2018



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
FOR GOOD



WorldYWCA



CONTENTS

Message from the Presidents	2
Day one: Created for Good	4
Day two: Enabled for Good	7
Day three: Challenged for good	10
Day four: Overcoming for good	13
Day five – Transformed for good	17
Day six – Empowered for good	19
Day seven – Celebrate for good	22
Acknowledgement	26

We invite you to be an active participant. Form a group at your YWCA/YMCA as you journey together, delighting and celebrating in the glory of God, during each day's theme. Select a leader each day who will coordinate the session. We suggest that each participant has a journal in which they write their reflections, and in particular record their action points.

Blessed readers

Do you know the story of the man and the butterfly? A man spent hours watching a butterfly struggling to emerge from its cocoon. It managed to make a small hole, but its body was too large to get through it. After a long struggle, it appeared to be exhausted and remained absolutely still. The man decided to help the butterfly and, with a pair of scissors, he cut open the cocoon, thus releasing the butterfly. However, the butterfly's body was very small and wrinkled and its wings were all crumpled.

The man continued to watch, hoping that, at any moment, the butterfly would open its wings and fly away. Nothing happened; in fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its brief life dragging around its shrunken body and shriveled wings, incapable of flight.

What the man – out of kindness and his eagerness to help – had failed to understand was that the tight cocoon and the efforts that the butterfly had to make in order to squeeze out of that tiny hole was Nature's way of training the butterfly and of strengthening its wings.

So too are we encouraged to do good in Jesus Christ's name and not in the way of the world. Doing random acts of kindness when we are not under the cover of our Father and acting in Christ's name, filled with the Holy Spirit... well it is just that. Random. God has a plan for all of us.

The theme of this 2018 Week of Prayer is youth empowerment for good. Yes, we were created for good and for good works. We were also created as humankind from eons ago to the second coming; we are here to stay as servants of our Lord Jesus Christ – for as long as that may be. And thus our kingdom mission is clear: we are loved for good in order that we may do good as we reflect God's goodness.

The daily readings and reflections take you on a journey where we focus on our identity and on being created for good, expressing our purpose of being equipped for good works, being challenged for good and affirming that everyone counts. This understanding of God's goodness shapes our attitude in overcoming our challenges. It enables us to be agents of transformation as we communicate the vision of what it means to live this goodness. Finally we celebrate for good as we inspire action.

The original text of this Week of Prayer was used at the YMCA World Council earlier this year, and the YWCA endorsed this as the focus for this booklet. This is because our key focus for both organisations is on youth empowerment – from civic action to women’s rights.

We encourage you to begin each session with a contextualised prayer on the theme of the day, led by a group member. This is followed by a song and daily readings. After each section, there is a time for discussion, a pause for reflection, and a final prayer. Then follows an action point which is tied into the insights received from the daily message. So please engage, discuss, pause, pray and act!

For we are His creation, created in Jesus Christ for good works that God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.

Eph2:10

May you challenge yourself and your YMCA and YWCA as we are all created for youth empowerment for good!



Ms. Deborah Thomas-Austin
President of
World YWCA

Ms. Patricia Pelton
President
World YMCA

PRAY

Leader: Let us open in prayer as we celebrate this day that the Lord has created for good.

Prayer for the YMCA/YWCA and our youth mission for good to be led by someone in the group.

SING

Leader to select a song or delegate someone to do so. A different group can be assigned each day or a specific person or group can select the songs for the week. Be creative in your worship and you can even sing along to a YouTube version of the song.

READINGS

Leader to assign the readings to be read out loud by group members.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-14

On this first day of the week of prayer, we explore our identity and how we were created for good. Our Christian identity is the core of who we are and so it is important that we know who we are in Christ who has created us for good.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- What is the meaning of my life?

The world can be confusing, unjust and sometimes hostile, especially for young people. But God has a purpose for all of creation, for every young person. Our readings today remind us of the incredible value God places in each human being, and that through Christ, He has a plan for each of our lives, and good works for us to do. In Christ, we are created for good to assist in transforming the world by reflecting God's goodness.

Our scripture readings remind us that our Creator God knows us intimately – even before we were born! Think about that: He knows you individually! And He has a plan and purpose for your life, through Jesus Christ, to do good works.

In being created in Christ for good, our identity is pivotal. It provides God-given meaning in our lives, on which we build our purpose. With identity, we are able to develop integrity, ethics and wisdom. These are the tools we need when we are created to do good works. These are the tools of those who are associated with the YMCA and YWCA.



|| **Today's Inspirational Art**

NEST, Indonesia. An underwater sculpture by Jason deCaires Taylor.

DISCUSS

As a group in your YMCA/YWCA hold a discussion on the image:

- What is the image about?
- What does it suggest to you?
- What is the link to the theme and scripture of the day?

Our identity is bound up in our divine purpose, but we also have a choice. Through Christ we have our Christian identity and are created for good works.

PAUSE

- What is my identity in Christ?
- What are the good works I can do, that are on my heart?
- What is the identity of my YMCA/YWCA?
- How is my YMCA/YWCA impacting the world around us for good?

PRAY

Creator God, we thank you for all you have made.
You knew each one of us, even before we were born.
We are perfectly formed for your purpose.

Help us, to know you more,
and to understand the good works
which you have planned for us to do.

So that, together in unity we can say,
We are created for Good.

Help us dear God, our creator.
We ask this, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

ACT

Discuss with someone today: what does created for good mean to you?
Journal during the day or evening about your reflections and your interaction for your daily action.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord who created the universe in perfect harmony, pour blessings upon you all.
May the blessing of light be on you – light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm themselves at it.
And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.
May the blessing of the rain be on you; may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there a shining pool where the blue of heaven shines, and sometimes a star.
And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.
May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God. And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

Today's Inspirational artwork is an underwater sculpture from Indonesia called NEST, by Jason deCaires Taylor. The artwork contains 48 life-size figures installed on the ocean bed in a circle, symbolising the 'Circle of Life'.

Over time, NEST will help to bring forth new life, as it forms a new coral reef, creating a bio-diverse ecosystem. But with 40% of worldwide coral reefs destroyed by humankind, NEST is also a reminder that our human impact, for good – or for evil – is a choice.

PRAY

Leader: Let us open in prayer as we celebrate this day that the Lord has enabled us for good.

Prayer for the YMCA/YWCA and our youth mission for good to be led by someone in the group.

SING

Selected song is sung.

READINGS

Leader to assign the readings to be read out loud by group members.

Ephesians 2: 4-10

1 Timothy 4: 4-5, 7-12

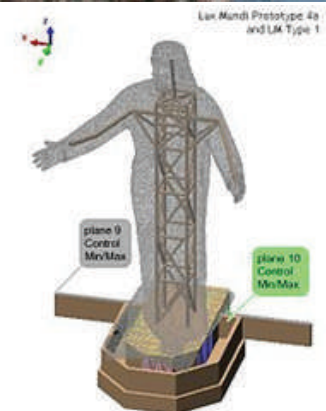
Yesterday we focused on being created for good and our identity in Christ, our saviour. Building on this, we are also enabled to do good – we are enabled to carry out our purpose. The Holy Spirit enables us to find this purpose and to go the extra mile.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Do you know your purpose in Christ?
- How do you feel enabled to do good?
- What does this all mean to you?

In our scripture reading, St. Paul encourages young Timothy to be an example, to be a leader who others could emulate, and that his youth should be no barrier. Paul's advice is to prepare yourself, be enabled, so that you can serve others.

When we align our purpose and allow our skills and our knowledge to be used for God's purposes... Paul says, we can do all things, through Christ's work within us. This is even more important for youth. Young people, find your purpose, enable yourselves for God's purpose and lead the way that all may follow. Lead the YMCA and YWCA into the future with your innovation. Do this in what you think, what you feel, how you behave and do this through faith and in purity.



!! Today's Inspirational Art

Lux Mundi, Ohio, USA by Tom Tsuchiya

DISCUSS

As a group in your YMCA/YWCA hold a discussion on the image:

- What is the image about?
- What does it suggest to you?
- What is the link to the theme and scripture of the day?

What necessary 'structures' are needed within us? We need to look into ourselves and ask if we are continually developing and maintaining a healthy spirit, mind and body. This is essential to our purpose and to enable us to fulfil God's purpose so we are enabled for good. So too must we look into our YMCAs and YWCAs... what structures exist that enable us to do good? Can we do more?

PAUSE

- How is my purpose in life aligned to God's purpose?
- In what ways am I enabling myself to do good?
- How is my YMCA/YWCA enabling itself to do good?
- What YMCA/YWCA initiatives do we have that enable all inclusively?

PRAY

Enabling God, thank you that you equip us.
When the rains falls and the sun shines you equip us.
When storms rage around, you equip us.

Help us to stand strong and confident for you.
In how we live, how we love, how we speak.
In our thoughts, in our faith.

So that we may nurture faith and leadership, in those around us.
Through your power, enable us for good.

Help us dear God, our creator.
We ask this, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

ACT

Decide on one enabling action you will engage in as a result of your above reflection.
Write this action in your journal and list all the enabling factors that will assist you to act.

BENEDICTION

We have been enabled for good.
By sending us to the world to make all people His disciples, the Lord has enabled us to do 'good' like Him.
Now that you are enabled, may you have walls for the wind, and a roof for the rain.
May you drink beside the fire, with laughter to cheer you and with those you love near you.
And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

*Today's Inspirational Art is
Lux Mundi – Light of the World
created by Tom Tsuchiya. It stands as a
52-foot, towering landmark alongside Interstate
75. The inclusive welcoming posture of Christ,
inspired by the gospels, has earned it the nickname of
'Hug Me Jesus'.*

*Yet, a passing observer may fail to understand the
enabling preparation that helped to form this iconic
figure. The attention to its inner core, the choice of fire
resistant materials and the lightning suppression
system, all work together to protect it against such
storms which in 2010 destroyed an earlier iconic
artwork on the same site.*

DAY THREE: CHALLENGED FOR GOOD

PRAY

Leader: Let us open in prayer as we celebrate this day that the Lord has challenged us for good.

Prayer for the YMCA/YWCA and our youth mission for good to be led by someone in the group.

SING

Selected song is sung.

Readings

Leader to assign the readings to be read out loud by group members.

Matthew 25:31-39

Matthew 25: 40-46

Our previous days' messages have challenged you to find identity and purpose to be enabled for good and to do good work. This comes with responsibilities and often we are confronted with challenges.

POINTS TO PONDER?

- What are my responsibilities in doing good?
- What challenges does this create for me?
- Do I feel that I really count? That I too am worthy of good?

The YMCA and YWCA were established in a long ago era, but with the purpose of reaching out to youth who are facing challenges, to embrace them and tell them quite simply and powerfully: you count. Through successive generations and in different contexts, the YMCA and YWCA have continued to do this.

It is indeed a challenge to express our Christian faith and identity in a diverse and polarised world. Even more so, in the face of religious extremism and radicalisation. What should be our response? What can the YMCA and YWCA offer in an inclusive way? Jesus taught His disciples that every marginalised person counts equally. That is our challenge today as well: to ensure that everyone we engage feels like they count and that they matter. There is something so compelling in telling someone with their own challenges: I see you, and you count! God has promised good for you too!

Jesus' parable in our reading today was intended to shake the religious out of piety, and into engagement with the needs of humanity which surrounded them. This was not a message of complacency, but one which shook the governing powers of the day to the core; who saw the poor and the infirm as a sign of God's lack of blessing, rather than as a cause for compassionate action.

That call and challenge is no less powerful today – let us as YMCA and YWCA agents for change take up this challenge now.



|| **Today's Inspirational Art**

Homeless Jesus, Dublin, Ireland. Timothy Schmulz

DISCUSS

As a group in your YMCA/YWCA hold a discussion on the image:

- What is the image about?
- What does it suggest to you?
- What is the link to the theme and scripture of the day?

As we look again at the words of Jesus, the challenge is more than a call to join a charitable cause. It is a challenge to change our hearts. A lifestyle challenge, a spiritual challenge. To be transformed from the inside-out and to be continually challenged for good.

PAUSE

- How do I live the compassionate lifestyle that Jesus asks of His followers?
- How do I meet the challenge of showing people that they count?
- How does my YMCA/YWCA challenge itself for good?
- What does my YMCA/YWCA do to show young people in particular: you count?

PRAY

Challenging God, keep us from lives of distraction or comfort,
Where we cannot hear your voice.
Teach us the precious value,
of each human person we encounter.
Fill our hearts full of compassion.
That we may be challenged for good... and ready to respond.
Help us dear God, our creator.
We ask this, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

ACT

Go out today and tell someone: you count! And tell them why they count, no matter the challenges they may face. Journal your experience of telling someone they are valued and that they count. Write also why YOU count.

BENEDICTION

We are challenged for our mission.
May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deeply from within your heart.
May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.
May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.
And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

*Today's inspirational
artwork is from Dublin, Ireland, by
Timothy Schmulz.*

*Originally inspired by an encounter with a
homeless man, Homeless Jesus has been
installed outside churches all over the world,
personifying the message of our scripture reading.
The loving heart of Jesus, so identifies with the
poor, that when we are stirred to actions of
compassion, it is as if we are serving Christ
Himself. As if Jesus were Himself the homeless
person, the stranger, the person who is
poor, hungry and alone.*

DAY FOUR: OVERCOMING FOR GOOD

PRAY

Leader: Let us open in prayer as we celebrate this day that the Lord has ensured we can overcome for good.

Prayer for the YMCA/YWCA and our youth mission for good to be led by someone in the group

SING

Selected song is sung.

Readings

Leader to assign the readings to be read out loud by group members.

Daniel 3:13-20

Luke 4:1-12

Yesterday, we reflected on being challenged for good. Now when we are challenged, the only option is to overcome if we are to do good for the kingdom of God.

POINTS TO PONDER

- How do we stand up for good?
- What attitude do we need to be able to overcome?
- How do we let God guide us to overcome?

As Christians, when we are challenged we have the power of God on our side to help us overcome. But we need to do our part too. We need to step up and stand up. In a nutshell, we need to have the attitude to overcome, in the knowledge that God is guiding us and is on our side. This is equally important for the YMCA and YWCA in that we need to be constantly aware and willing of the role we need to play in overcoming challenges both internally and within the communities we serve.

Our scripture reading reminds us of an Old Testament story where three young men stood firm in what was right. Their attitude was to lean on and trust in the Lord, even when they faced hardship, and in doing so, they overcame for good. And from the Gospel of St Luke, Jesus overcame the temptation of the devil who tried to divert Him from His kingdom mission – but Jesus was firm in His attitude and trust in His Father to see Him through.



|| **Today's Inspirational Art**

Christ of the Deep, Grenada, Caribbean

DISCUSS

As a group in your YMCA/YWCA hold a discussion on the image:

- What is the image about?
- What does it suggest to you?
- What is the link to the theme and scripture of the day?

At the centre of the Christian gospel is a saviour who suffered persecution and death... but who overcame, resurrecting to new life, defeating death, sin and evil. Through the power of Christ, you are part of this story. With His strength within us, and our attitude to do His good works, we will overcome for good.

PAUSE

- How do I overcome challenges in God's name?
- How have I experienced God's overcoming presence during life's difficult moments?
- How is my YMCA/YWCA overcoming challenges?
- What is my YMCA/YWCA doing for those who are overwhelmed with challenges?

PRAYER

Our Overcoming God, when we encounter life's deep moments,
be with us so that we fear no evil.
Be our guide, light our way.

When oppression, injustice, temptation, surround us,
feed us, fill us.
Anoint us with your plenty.

And together... side by side,
we overcome for good.

Help us dear God, our creator.
We ask this, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

ACT

Reach out to someone who needs assistance to overcome a challenge and empathise and pray with them.
In your journal, write about challenges you are facing and pray to God to assist you in overcoming them.

BENEDICTION

May the Father's hand keep you from stumbling,
May the footprints of Jesus give you confidence to follow
May the fire of the Spirit keep you warm and safe in your walk with God this day.
And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

Today's inspirational art is Christ of the Deep, by Troy Lewis, installed off the coast of Granada. Comissioned to commemorate the anniversary of the sinking of the Bianca C, it symbolises the hospitality and selflessness displayed by the many Grenadians who saved over 600 passengers and crew from certain death.

The psalmist (Psalm 139:7-12) reminds us that God is with us when our life experience is heavenly, but also, when it feels like we are in the depths of hell.

DAY FIVE – TRANSFORMED FOR GOOD

PRAY

Leader: Let us open in prayer as we celebrate this day that the Lord has transformed us for good.

Prayer for the YMCA/YWCA and our youth mission for good to be led by someone in the group

SING

Selected song to be sung.

READINGS

Leader to assign the readings to be read out loud by group members.

Luke 4 14-21

John 10: 10-16

Now that we are able to overcome when challenged, it is time for us to be transformed and transform for good. It is time for us to be the change! Transformation is an absolute and once transformed, there is no turning back. It is about being changed to be the change we want to see in our communities and world.

POINTS TO PONDER

- How does my faith contribute for me to transform?
- How can I be the change?
- What does Christian transformation mean to me?

Faith is the foundation on which we are compelled to act as Christians. What unites the YMCA and YWCA movements is our desire to be the change – to be transformed and to transform others.

Jesus proclaimed a gospel where the oppressed are free, where there is good news for the poor, and where life can be had in all its fullness. What is our role in this transformation? It is an active process that requires constant work on our behalf. And it requires radical change in the context of our work and the state of the world.

When Jesus stood up and spoke the words of our first reading, He knew what He was doing. These words, first spoken by Isaiah the prophet 700 years before, were those believed to herald the coming of the long awaited Jewish Messiah. A contentious claim at best! This characterised Jesus' mission. Proclaiming the Good News of reconciliation with the Father God, healing the sick, reaching out to the poor and oppressed, transforming the lives of those who would follow Him. So that they may be the change and so transform others.



|| **Today's Inspirational Art**

African Renaissance Monument, Dakar, Senegal

DISCUSS

As a group in your YMCA/YWCA hold a discussion on the image:

- What is the image about?
- What does it suggest to you?
- What is the link to the theme and scripture of the day?

Today's inspirational artwork is the African Renaissance Monument. A 164-foot tall bronze statue, in Dakar, Senegal, designed by Pierre Goudiaby.

A man, woman and child emerge from a volcano, representing Africa of the 21st Century – a transformed Africa, standing tall and more ready than ever to take its common destiny into its hands. Its imagery reaches out, projecting transformation for all Africans.

Jesus' transformation also reaches out to every man, woman, youth and child. Through Jesus we are transformed for good. The only way to improve the world is by improving oneself, and the only way to improve oneself is by improving the world.

With Christ's help, be transformed for good, and be the change that transforms the world. Let us ensure that YMCAs and YWCAs are safe places to transform young people to be the change so needed in today's society.

PAUSE

- In what way has my faith transformed me?
- How am I using my God-given skills and talents to bring positive transformation in the world, to benefit the lives of others?
- How is my YMCA/YWCA a safe space for youth transformation?
- What is my YMCA/YWCA doing to transform youth for good?

PRAY

Transforming God, thank you for you are the great life-changer.

You forgive our sin, you fill us with your peace.

You transform our lives... from the inside-out.

Show us how we can be bearers of justice,
of freedom and of healing.

Transformed for good.

To have life in all its fullness.

Help us dear God, our creator.

We ask this, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

ACT

Share with someone how you have contributed to transforming the lives of others, through your faith.

Journal about how you have given your time, talent and treasure to transform the lives of others and how this makes you feel – blessed to be a blessing.

BENEDICTION

Because you have been transformed for good;

Don't merely expect to find or to believe that life is worthwhile; make it worthwhile.

Don't merely see life whole; make it whole.

Not knowing which should come first, to improve one's self, or to improve the world, we end up doing neither.

Actually, the only way to improve the world is by improving one's self, and the only way to improve one's self is by improving the world.

So with Christ's help, be transformed for good, and go and transform the world.

And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

DAY SIX – EMPOWERED FOR GOOD

PRAY

Leader: Let us open in prayer as we celebrate this day that the Lord has empowered us for good.

Prayer for the YMCA/YWCA and our youth mission for good to be led by someone in the group

SING

Selected song is sung.

READING

Leader to assign the readings to be read out loud by group members.

John 17: 20b-21

John 17: 22-23

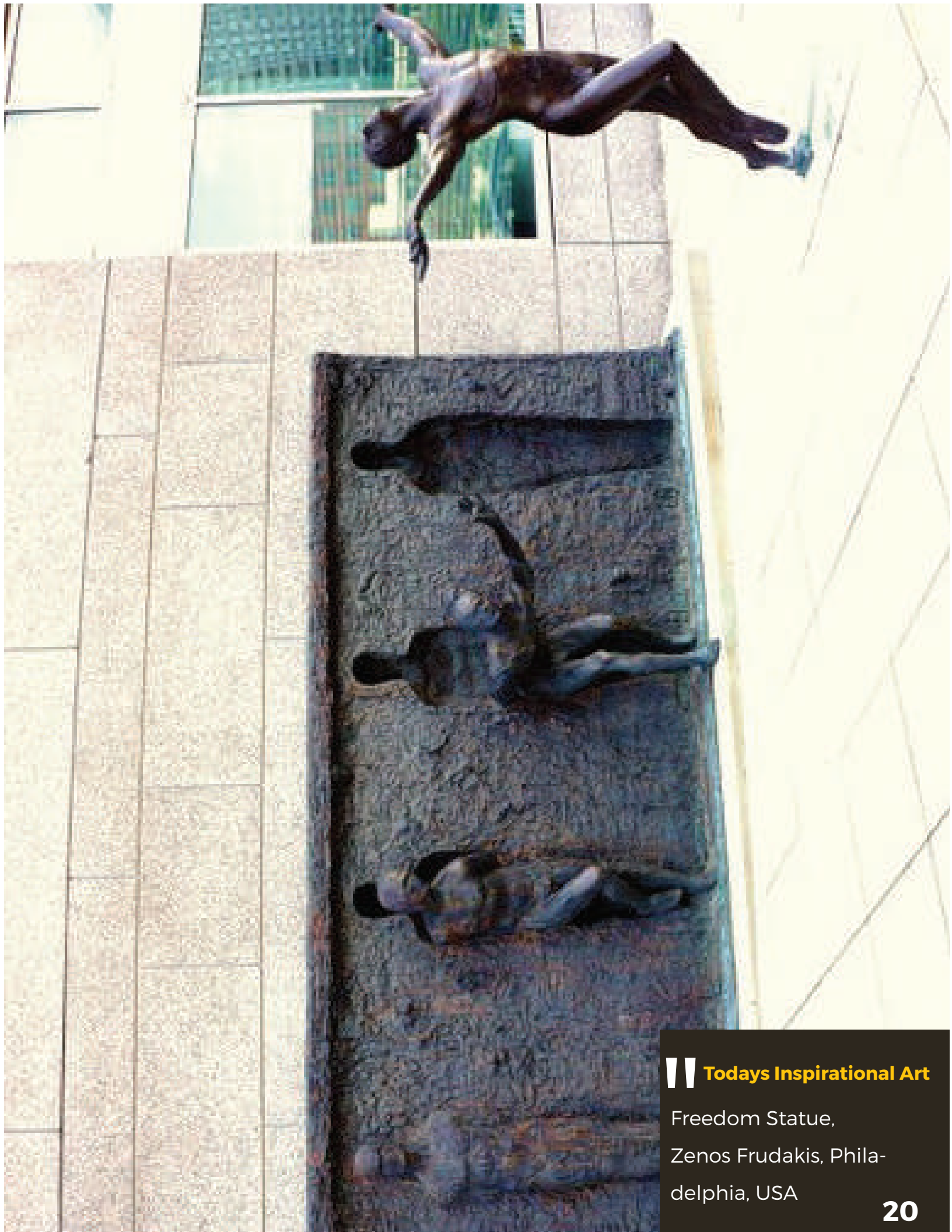
Now that we have been transformed for good and that we understand that we are the change, to transform others, it is time to be empowered for good. In all that we are and say and do, we need to communicate the vision through living our lives in Christ's image. For us to be truly empowered, we need to be confident, claim our rights in Christ Jesus' name and move with and in His power and authority.

POINTS TO PONDER

- What does empowerment mean for me?
- Am I truly empowered for good?
- How do we communicate the vision?

Alone, you can be transformed and live for good. But together, this catalyses into a movement such as that of the YMCA and YWCA. Our scripture reading from the Gospel of John records Jesus's prayer for His disciples in the hours before His crucifixion. But this prayer was not just for those who knew Him personally; He also prayed for those who would follow Him in the future – that's you and me!

As the readings say, let us be one. There is much diversity in our movements, but the world sees us as one – because we carry the identity of our movements. In our diversity and massiveness, we are unique in this way. This gives us the basis in which to be empowered for good.



Today's Inspirational Art

Freedom Statue,
Zenos Frudakis, Phila-
delphia, USA

DISCUSS

As a group in your YMCA/YWCA hold a discussion on the image:

- What is the image about?
- What does it suggest to you?
- What is the link to the theme and scripture of the day?

We need to feel the confidence to reach out to others to share with them our journey of empowerment so they may begin their own journey in the glory of God.

PAUSE

- How can I communicate the vision of Christ?
- How do I use my empowerment for good?
- How does my YMCA/YWCA create an empowering place for youth?
- What is my YMCA/YWCA doing to empower youth locally?

PRAYER

God, Jesus prayed some 2000 years ago
that your followers would be one.

As we love you with all our heart, soul and mind
we love too those who are amongst us,
our neighbours.

Let your Holy Spirit reside in us
that we may live as you intended.

To be free
in order to live for good.
To do your works,
and to spread your gospel
The world over.

Strengthen us Lord for the journey ahead,
So that all who know us,
May know you.

Help us dear God, our creator.
We ask this, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

ACT

Share the vision of youth empowerment with someone outside the YMCA/YWCA.
Journal about the vision of youth empowerment and how you contribute to this.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord direct our hearts, this day and forever,
In the love of God and in the patience of waiting for Christ.
May the Lord bless us and empower us,
As disciples of Jesus
To share God's love with everyone we meet.
To share our journey of empowerment,
That they may begin their own journey in the glory of Christ Jesus.
And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

Today's inspirational artwork, the Freedom Statue, comes from Philadelphia, USA, by Zenos Frudakis. It is as if the artwork completely portrays the empowering process that God has worked within our lives. Gradually transforming us from creation, enabling, being challenged, and finally overcoming – empowered to live in the power of the Lord.

The artwork shows us that as we are then empowered, it is our turn to step out and empower others. We feel the authority and freedom to communicate the vision of our Lord as we spread the Good News.

DAY SEVEN – CELEBRATE FOR GOOD

PRAY

Leader: Let us open in prayer as we praise the Lord and celebrate for good.

Prayer for the YMCA/YWCA and our youth mission for good to be led by someone in the group

SING

Selected song is sung.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this special worship ceremony, let us acknowledge that we are called to worship together. Please Stand.

Please say the words **IN BOLD** at the appropriate point.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

ALL: **And also with you.**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord

ALL: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: Come, let us bow down and worship, and kneel before the Lord, our maker.

ALL: **For the Lord is our God, our shepherd, we are the flock led with care.**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

ALL: **For the Lord has done marvelous things; God's steadfast love endures forever to all generations.**

READINGS

Leader to assign the readings to be read out loud by group members.

Jeremiah 29: 11-13

Psalms 16: 5-11

Over the last week, we have focused on our identity and being created for good, our purpose and being enabled for good, being challenged for good and affirming that everyone counts, our attitude in overcoming our challenges, being transformed for good to be the change, and empowered for good through communicating the vision. It is time to celebrate for good. It is time to celebrate and inspire action.

The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as an energising power that lives within Christians, helping us to carry out the mission of Christ, to extend the kingdom of God. This is how we communicate the vision – through celebrating for good. By living an empowered, transformed, enabled life as we do good works with joy in our hearts.

We do this in a celebratory way – both as an individual and a collective within the YMCA and YWCA movements – as we are burning with the power of the Spirit that is liberating, life-giving, game-changing and freedom bringing.



!! Today's Inspirational Art

From the past six inspirational days we merged all the art and together we formed **The Cross**. While the cross was a torture instrument for Jesus, He was sent to die for our sins so that we may be washed clean and have eternal life as believers. So for Christians, the cross is a symbol of liberation.

DISCUSS

As a group in your YMCA/YWCA hold a discussion on the image:

- What does the image of the cross suggest to you?
- What is the link to the themes of the week?
- How does the symbol of the cross liberate you?

TESTIMONY

Think of times when the YMCA/YWCA achieved well in God's name and for God's mission... times of celebration. Make time for two testimonies to the glory of God's work in our YMCA/YWCA.

PAUSE

- How do I celebrate Christ in my life?
- How do I with joy share my testimony with others?
- How does my YMCA/YWCA celebrate the works of God within our organisations?
- What does my YMCA/YWCA do to celebrate Christianity to share the vision with others?

PRAYER

God, we celebrate your mighty name.
We celebrate that we are empowered for good.

Strengthen me oh Lord,
That I may be empowered by your Spirit
And share and celebrate your kingdom.

Strengthen our YMCA and YWCA movements oh Lord,
That we shall be radical agents of change for you on earth

Give us all the wisdom to lead a movement,
Empowered by your Spirit,
In faith, in purpose, in our resolve and in unity
together.

Help us dear God, our creator.
We ask this, in the name of the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

ACT

Celebrate your faith today in a creative way so all may know the Spirit lives and moves in you.
Journal how you celebrated your faith and how the experience was for you.

BENEDICTION

Leader: Take the hand of the person next to you in a sign of unity.

All: We are renewed by our time meeting with the Lord, and are free to serve God. The things that may have controlled our lives before are things of the past.

Leader: Turn to the next person and ask: How are you empowered for good?
(wait for responses)

All: We end this week of prayer with God's strength and power, free to live in God's world in God's way, to love and serve the Lord with all our heart, mind and strength, and hence to fulfil God's greatest commandments.

Leader: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

All: May the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

READING PLAN

November 2018

1. *Revelation 9:1-12*
2. *Revelation 9:13-21*
3. *Revelation 10:1-11*
4. *Psalms 39*
5. *Revelation 11:1-2*
6. *Revelation 11:3-14*
7. *Revelation 11:15-19*
8. *Revelation 20:1-6*
9. *Revelation 20:7-10*
10. *Revelation 20:11-15*
11. *Psalms 52*
12. *Revelation 21:1-8*
13. *Revelation 21:9-14*
14. *Revelation 21:15-27*
15. *Revelation 22:1-5*
16. *Revelation 22:6-15*
17. *Revelation 22:16-21*
18. *Psalms 50*
19. *Isaiah 1:1-9*
20. *Isaiah 1:10-20*
21. *Isaiah 1:21-31*
22. *Isaiah 2:1-5*
23. *Isaiah 2:6-22*
24. *Isaiah 3:1-15*
25. *Psalms 90*
26. *Isaiah 4:2-6*
27. *Isaiah 5:1-7*
28. *Isaiah 5:8-24*
29. *Isaiah 6:1-13*
30. *Isaiah 7:1-9*

December 2018

1. *Isaiah 7:10-17*
2. *Psalms 24*
3. *Isaiah 8:1-15*
4. *Isaiah 8:16-23*
5. *Isaiah 9:1-6*
6. *Isaiah 9:7-10:4*
7. *Isaiah 11:1-10*
8. *Isaiah 12:1-6*
9. *Psalms 1*
10. *Isaiah 14:1-23*
11. *Isaiah 19:16-25*
12. *Isaiah 25:1-12*
13. *Isaiah 26:1-6*
14. *Isaiah 26:7-21*
15. *Isaiah 28:14-22*
16. *Psalms 33*
17. *Isaiah 29:1-8*
18. *Isaiah 29:9-16*
19. *Isaiah 29:17-24*
20. *Isaiah 32:1-8*
21. *Isaiah 33:17-24*
22. *Isaiah 35:1-10*
23. *Psalms 130*
24. *Matthew 1:1-17*
25. *Matthew 1:18-25*
26. *Matthew 2:1-12*
27. *Matthew 2:13-23*
28. *Matthew 3:1-12*
29. *Matthew 3:13-17*
30. *Matthew 4:1-11*
31. *Matthew 4:12-17*

January 2019

1. *Psalms 8*
2. *Genesis 1:1-13*
3. *Genesis 1:14-25*
4. *Genesis 1:26-2:4a*
5. *Genesis 2:4b-17*
6. *Psalms 72*
7. *Genesis 2:18-25*
8. *Genesis 3:1-13*
9. *Genesis 3:14-24*
10. *Genesis 4:1-16*
11. *Genesis 6:5-22*
12. *Genesis 7:1-16*
13. *Psalms 71*
14. *Genesis 7:17-24*
15. *Genesis 8:1-12*
16. *Genesis 8:13-22*
17. *Genesis 9:1-17*
18. *Genesis 9:18-29*
19. *Genesis 11:1-9*
20. *Psalms 107:1-22*
21. *Romans 1:1-7*
22. *Romans 1:8-17*
23. *Romans 1:18-23*
24. *Romans 1:24-32*
25. *Romans 2:1-16*
26. *Romans 2:17-29*
27. *Psalms 107:23-43*
28. *Romans 3:1-20*
29. *Romans 3:21-31*
30. *Romans 4:1-12*
31. *Romans 4:13-25*

February 2019

1. *Romans 5:1-11*
2. *Romans 5:12-21*
3. *Psalms 82*
4. *Romans 6:1-11*
5. *Romans 6:12-23*
6. *Romans 7:1-6*
7. *Romans 7:7-13*
8. *Romans 7:14-25*
9. *Romans 8:1-17*
10. *Psalms 63*
11. *Romans 8:18-25*
12. *Romans 8:26-30*
13. *Romans 8:31-39*
14. *Romans 9:1-5*
15. *Romans 9:6-13*
16. *Romans 9:14-29*
17. *Psalms 60*
18. *Romans 9:30-10:4*
19. *Romans 10:5-13*
20. *Romans 10:14-21*
21. *Romans 11:1-10*
22. *Romans 11:11-24*
23. *Romans 11:25-36*
24. *Psalms 61*
25. *1 Samuel 1:1-20*
26. *1 Samuel 1:21-28*
27. *1 Samuel 2:1-11*
28. *1 Samuel 2:12-26*

March 2019

1. *1 Samuel 2:27-36*
2. *1 Samuel 3:1-21*
3. *Psalms 62*
4. *1 Samuel 4:1-11*
5. *1 Samuel 4:12-22*
6. *1 Samuel 5:1-12*
7. *1 Samuel 6:1-7:1*
8. *1 Samuel 7:2-17*
9. *1 Samuel 8:1-22*
10. *Psalms 64*
11. *1 Samuel 9:1-14*
12. *1 Samuel 9:15-10:16*
13. *1 Samuel 10:17-27*
14. *1 Samuel 11:1-15*
15. *1 Samuel 12:6-25*
16. *1 Samuel 13:1-23*
17. *Psalms 10*
18. *1 Samuel 14:1-15*
19. *1 Samuel 15:1-35*
20. *1 Samuel 16:1-13*
21. *1 Samuel 16:14-23*
22. *1 Samuel 17:1-30*
23. *1 Samuel 17:31-58*
24. *Psalms 34*
25. *1 Samuel 18:1-16*
26. *1 Samuel 20:1-23*
27. *1 Samuel 20:24-21:1*
28. *1 Samuel 23:1-18*
29. *1 Samuel 24:1-23*
30. *1 Samuel 25:1-17*
31. *Psalms 84*

April 2019

1. *1 Samuel 25:18-42*
2. *1 Samuel 27:1-28:2*
3. *1 Samuel 28:3-25*
4. *1 Samuel 30:1-31*
5. *1 Samuel 31:1-13*
6. *2 Samuel 1:17-27*
7. *Psalms 69:1-16*
8. *Matthew 26:1-16*
9. *Matthew 26:17-30*
10. *Matthew 26:31-35*
11. *Matthew 26:36-46*
12. *Matthew 26:47-56*
13. *Matthew 26:57-68*
14. *Psalms 69:17-37*
15. *Matthew 26:69-75*
16. *Matthew 27:1-14*
17. *Matthew 27:15-30*
18. *Matthew 27:31-44*
19. *Matthew 27:45-56*
20. *Matthew 27:57-66*
21. *Matthew 28:1-10*
22. *Matthew 28:11-20*
23. *Romans 12:1-8*
24. *Romans 12:9-13*
25. *Romans 12:14-21*
26. *Romans 13:1-7*
27. *Romans 13:8-14*
28. *Psalms 116*
29. *Romans 14:1-12*
30. *Romans 14:13-23*

May 2019

1. Romans 15:1-6
2. Romans 15:7-13
3. Romans 15:14-21
4. Romans 15:22-33
5. Psalm 23
6. Romans 16:1-16
7. Romans 16:17-27
8. 2 Samuel 2:1-11
9. 2 Samuel 5:1-16
10. 2 Samuel 5:17-25
11. 2 Samuel 6:1-23
12. Psalm 103
13. 2 Samuel 7:1-16
14. 2 Samuel 7:17-29
15. 2 Samuel 11:1-27
16. 2 Samuel 12:1-25
17. 2 Samuel 15:1-12
18. 2 Samuel 15:13-37
19. Psalm 108
20. 2 Samuel 16:1-14
21. 2 Samuel 16:15-17:4
22. 2 Samuel 17:5-23
23. 2 Samuel 18:1-18
24. 2 Samuel 18:19-19:9a
25. 2 Samuel 19:9b-41
26. Psalm 77
27. 2 Samuel 21:1-14
28. 2 Samuel 23:1-7
29. 2 Samuel 24:1-25
30. Psalm 110
31. Philippians 1:1-11

June 2019

1. Philippians 1:12-26
2. Psalm 27
3. Philippians 1:27-30
4. Philippians 2:1-4
5. Philippians 2:5-11
6. Philippians 2:12-18
7. Philippians 2:19-30
8. Philippians 3:1-11
9. Psalm 118:1-14
10. Psalm 118:15-29
11. Philippians 3:12-21
12. Philippians 4:1-9
13. Philippians 4:10-23
14. Proverbs 10:6-12
15. Proverbs 10:22-32
16. Psalm 111
17. Proverbs 11:24-31
18. Proverbs 14:29-34
19. Proverbs 15:13-18
20. Proverbs 16:1-9
21. Proverbs 16:18-33
22. Proverbs 17:1-17
23. Psalm 105:1-23
24. Proverbs 18:8-17
25. Proverbs 19:16-23
26. Proverbs 20:19-24
27. Proverbs 21:13-31
28. Proverbs 23:29-35
29. Proverbs 24:10-20
30. Psalm 105:24-45

July 2019

1. James 1:1-12
2. James 1:13-18
3. James 1:19-27
4. James 2:1-13
5. James 2:14-26
6. James 3:1-12
7. Psalm 112
8. James 3:13-18
9. James 4:1-12
10. James 4:13-17
11. James 5:1-6
12. James 5:7-12
13. James 5:13-20
14. Psalm 100
15. Matthew 4:18-25
16. Matthew 5:1-12
17. Matthew 5:13-16
18. Matthew 5:17-20
19. Matthew 5:21-26
20. Matthew 5:27-32
21. Psalm 119:89-96
22. Matthew 5:33-37
23. Matthew 5:38-48
24. Matthew 6:1-4
25. Matthew 6:5-15
26. Matthew 6:16-18
27. Matthew 6:19-24
28. Psalm 119:97-104
29. Matthew 6:25-34
30. Matthew 7:1-6
31. Matthew 7:7-11

August 2019

1. *Matthew 7:12-23*
2. *Matthew 7:24-29*
3. *Matthew 8:1-4*
4. *Psalms 119:105-112*
5. *Matthew 8:5-13*
6. *Matthew 8:14-17*
7. *Matthew 8:18-22*
8. *Matthew 8:23-27*
9. *Matthew 8:28-34*
10. *Matthew 9:1-8*
11. *Psalms 4*
12. *Matthew 9:9-13*
13. *Matthew 9:14-17*
14. *Matthew 9:18-26*
15. *Matthew 9:27-34*
16. *Matthew 9:35-10:4*
17. *Matthew 10:5-15*
18. *Psalms 70*
19. *Matthew 10:16-26a*
20. *Matthew 10:26b-33*
21. *Matthew 10:34-42*
22. *Matthew 11:1-19*
23. *Matthew 11:20-24*
24. *Matthew 11:25-30*
25. *Psalms 101*
26. *Matthew 12:1-14*
27. *Matthew 12:15-21*
28. *Matthew 12:22-32*
29. *Matthew 12:33-37*
30. *Matthew 12:38-42*
31. *Matthew 12:43-45*

September 2019

1. *Psalms 113*
2. *Matthew 12:46-50*
3. *Matthew 13:1-9.18-23*
4. *Matthew 13:10-17*
5. *Matthew 13:24-30.36-43*
6. *Matthew 13:31-35*
7. *Matthew 13:44-46*
8. *Psalms 78:1-31*
9. *Matthew 13:47-52*
10. *Matthew 13:53-58*
11. *Matthew 14:1-12*
12. *Matthew 14:13-21*
13. *Matthew 14:22-36*
14. *Matthew 15:1-20*
15. *Psalms 78:32-55*
16. *Matthew 15:21-28*
17. *Matthew 15:29-39*
18. *Matthew 16:1-12*
19. *Matthew 16:13-20*
20. *Matthew 16:21-28*
21. *Matthew 17:1-13*
22. *Psalms 78:56-72*
23. *Matthew 17:14-21*
24. *Matthew 17:22-27*
25. *Matthew 18:1-14*
26. *Matthew 18:15-20*
27. *Matthew 18:21-35*
28. *Matthew 19:1-12*
29. *Psalms 40*
30. *Matthew 19:13-15*

October 2019

1. *Matthew 19:16-30*
2. *Matthew 20:1-16*
3. *Matthew 20:17-28*
4. *Matthew 20:29-34*
5. *Matthew 21:1-11*
6. *Psalms 104*
7. *Matthew 21:12-17*
8. *Matthew 21:18-22*
9. *Matthew 21:23-27*
10. *Matthew 21:28-32*
11. *Matthew 21:33-46*
12. *Matthew 22:1-14*
13. *Psalms 25*
14. *Matthew 22:15-22*
15. *Matthew 22:23-33*
16. *Matthew 22:34-46*
17. *Matthew 23:1-12*
18. *Matthew 23:13-28*
19. *Matthew 23:29-39*
20. *Psalms 16*
21. *Tobias 1,1-9 (1-10)**
22. *Tobias 1,10-22 (11-25)*
23. *Tobias 2,1-10 (1-18)*
24. *Tobias 2,11-3,6 (2,19-3,6)*
25. *Tobias 3,7-17 (7-25)*
26. *Tobias 4,1-21 (1-22)*
27. *Psalms 22,1-22*
28. *Tobias 5,1-17a (1-23)*
29. *Tobias 5,17b-23 (24-29)*
30. *Tobias 6,1-19 (1-23)*
31. *Tobias 7,1-17 (1-20)*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to
thank the following
team of writers, YMCA
and YWCA staff and
volunteers and contributors for
developing the content of this year's World week of Prayer booklet

Members of the 19th World Council Worship Committee:

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Printed in 2018