

Globalization Prayer Circle Calendar

"He who rescued us from so deadly peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again, as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted to us through the prayers of many". Second Corinthians:1:10-11

As people of faith we remember and celebrate God's action in history. But we have roles to play in God's actions. No matter what other roles we may take -- service, advocacy, accompaniment-- all of us are called to engage in prayer for our communities, neighbors and ourselves; for the economic and social realities of our nation and for global problems that are our collective responsibility

Our spiritual power is our most important strength. When we meet together throughout the year let us take the opportunity to exercise our spiritual power together and offer prayers for all who are seeking to live faithfully in the midst of globalization. Below are some suggestions for focusing those prayers on some of globalization's realities.

January - Prayers for the Hungry

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon Son John, do you love me more than bees?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." John 21: 15 -16

Around the world policies of free trade and privatization have threatened the livelihood of many families at the very basic level. Families who no longer have land to farm may no longer have food to eat or may have to glean their food from the fields of another. Families where jobs have been lost or downsized struggle to live on limited incomes and often must choose between food and other necessities. Let us lift up these families in our prayers, celebrating their courage and perseverance in the midst of difficulty, acknowledging our Christian responsibility to play a part in the meeting of these very basic needs. Let us pray for the hungry.

February- Prayers for Victims of Racism and Xenophobia

Is not visit the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed to go free, and to break every yoke? Isaiah 58:6

In many communities in the United States and around the world, newcomers seeking economic survival arrive in search of a better life. They are met with the hostility bred by racism and xenophobia. The architects of economic globalization

count on the tensions created by racism to enhance their own position by allowing the exploitation of workers and families. Let us lift up these newcomers and strangers in our communities, celebrating their courage, acknowledging racism wherever we find it and accepting our responsibility for creating a more beloved community. Let us pray for the victims of racism and xenophobia.

March- Prayers for Women Exploited by Globalization

"There is no longer Greek or Jew, no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3: 28

Economic globalization utilizes women's labor as a key element in its strategy. Women workers often work long hours under dangerous conditions with little or no job security or protection in sweatshops, in call centers, on farms. They are recruited as workers, often traveling thousands of miles away from their home country in order to feed their families but are often seen as the most easily expendable. Women are often subjected to sexual harassment and a total lack of concern for their health. International free trade treaties failed to acknowledge the differences in the treatment of women workers or to provide adequate human rights protection. Let us lift up these women with a sense of responsibility and commitment to the well-being of their families, acknowledging our responsibility to contribute to their protection. Let us pray for women exploited by globalization.

April- Prayers for an Environment Endangered by Globalization

"And God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was good."
Genesis 1:31a

Under the policies of economic globalization the resources of the earth have become commodities to be bought and sold in the marketplace. The bounty of God's creation is available only to those with the ability to pay. Powerful forces declare their "ownership" of soil, water, minerals and even genetic material. Economic globalization's pursuit of short-term profits endangers the lives of future generations and their ability to access the basic resources of the earth necessary for survival. The extravagant materialistic lifestyle of too many jeopardizes the availability of basic resources for the majority of the inhabitants of the planet. Let us lift up prayers for the environment, celebrating its precious gifts to us and examining our own ways of living in order to understand our role in protecting God's gift of the environment. Let us pray for an environment endangered by globalization.

May- Prayers for the Families Affected by Globalization

"Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality," Acts 10: 34

Globalization's impact is broad, affecting each member of a family or household. Under globalization the loss of a job by a father or mother will affect how much children will eat, whether they will go to school or whether they will have medical care. The entire livelihood of a family can be affected positively or negatively by strategies determined by corporate decision makers who live very far away and who may have no regard for the family's well-being. Families are split, with one family member moving to another area or another country in search of economic security. Other family members remain at home caring for those who are left behind struggling to survive in difficult economic times. All of these families are a part of God's world. We have responsibility for all families. We are inspired by the struggles these families make for their survival. We acknowledge that we are in a common struggle together. Let us pray for the families affected by globalization.

June - Prayers for Peace

*He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more. Isaiah 2:4*

Economic globalization's strategies of privatization have added to the militarization of our world. Global corporations find profit in the selling of arms to nations big and small and even to children. They find profit in supplying basic necessities like food and equipment to soldiers operating in faraway places. They find profit in serving as interrogators of prisoners. They offer employment opportunities at high wages but often with high danger. The quest for peace is likely to endanger the quest for profit. Let us recognize that war and profits have become bound together in a frightening way and that we must unravel them if we are to find the road to peace. Let us pray for peace in this era of globalization.

July -Prayers for Communications and Media

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages,
as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts: 2:4*

Global media brings the rest of the world into our living rooms and our world into the living rooms of others. A profit-driven monopoly control of media packages and censors what we see. It has the potential to broaden our understanding but also to shape our perspectives through misinformation and disinformation. New voices can be heard, but often the voices of the marginalized – the poor, the racial and ethnic minority, women, the powerless can also be silenced. Let us

celebrate the new possibilities for information and understanding that global media brings us. At the same time let us be aware of the need to struggle to maintain a critical perspective on what we see and hear. Let us listen for the voice of truth and justice. Let us pray for global media and information technologies in this time of globalization.

August- Prayers for Indigenous Peoples

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to
The captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To let the oppressed go free. Luke 4:18*

Corporate globalization does not need to respect the rights of indigenous peoples. Placing the resources of the earth in the market place means that historical ownership of land and traditional practices carried out for millennia can be cast aside. Depending on whichever is most convenient, ancient wisdoms can either be appropriated by corporate interests or discredited as superstition in the name of science or progress. The indigenous are not often afforded a seat at the tables of power that are deciding their future. Let us pray for indigenous peoples around the world as they struggle to maintain their identities and their traditions in the face of economic forces that threaten their survival.

September -Prayers for Workers

*They shall build houses and inhabit them,
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
They shall not plant and another eat;
For like the days of a tree shall the
Days of my people be,
And my chosen shall long enjoy the w
Work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain,
Or bear children for calamity;
For they shall be offspring blessed by
The Lord-
And their descendants as well.- Isaiah 65:21-23*

A central element of economic globalization's strategy is that workers are an element to manipulate to maximize profit. When it is profitable jobs will be created, when it is no longer profitable those jobs can be eliminated. It is a useful

strategy to pit one group of workers against another in order to secure the lowest wages. Workers' rights to fair wages and safe working conditions must always be defined within the boundaries of corporate profitability. Let us pray for workers whose lives are controlled under corporate globalization, continuing to listen for their voice on behalf of justice for all workers.

October - Prayers for Children

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - Matthew 19:14.

Children are often caught up in the changes brought by globalization. They may be put to work in factories or the fields or they may be forced to live far from their parents. Economic globalization's policies may help to keep their families and their nations poor. It may make going to school all but impossible. Globalization also helps to turn them into soldiers. Let us pray for the survival of children everywhere and for their possibilities, remembering that we must all share the responsibility for children. Let us pray for children affected by globalization.

November- Prayers for World Community

*For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.*
Isaiah 65:17-20

Corporate globalization's vision of the future often seems to be filled with an endless procession of exploitation, greed and domination. But we Christians have another vision of the future, a future where there shall be no hunger and where those who have long been enemies will live together as friends. This vision of a beloved world community is the vision of the kind of globalized world

that we believe God is making. Let us pray for the realization of that vision and seek ways to make the vision both plain to others and real to ourselves.

December - Prayers for Immigrants, Migrant and Refugees

Let mutual love continue do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:1 - 2

175 million people around the world are living away from home and family, largely as a result of economic globalization. Free trade policies lead to loss of farms and income from farms. Factories and businesses leave one community or country to find another where they can increase their profits. Mothers travel across the world to feed their families. Wars started by greed for power and resources make refugees. Let us pray for immigrants, migrants and refugees, recognizing their contributions to home and host communities and renewing our commitment to work for just trade and immigration policies.