



International Day of Prayer for Peace

**21 September 2008
Pacific Focus**

Atua, allow us to drink from the tanoa of Your peace
Right the course of our canoes to overcome
the currents of violence, hatred, war, abuse
Give us peace of being at rest, so that peace prevails
over any wind that gusts through our islands
Tattoo in our hearts Your righteousness and purity
Through all cultures and walks of life, we pray as instruments
of Peace and as the people of Pasifika

(Prayer by M. Aunoa)



WITNESSING to the PEACE
of GOD in OCEANIA



WITNESSING TO THE PEACE OF GOD IN OCEANIA

The theme for the 2008 Pacific Focus of the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) invites us to accept the challenge of overcoming violence all around us while relying on God's promise and power, so we may witness to peace and justice.



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

In 2008 again, the WCC promotes the International Day of Peace by inviting churches, ecumenical organizations and all people of good will to pray for peace on 21 September.







There are many ways to observe the DOV Regional Focus and the International Day of Prayer for Peace. Be creative! Some communities have used the day for public events, art contests, educational and cultural programmes. Church bells have tolled at noon and school children have written stories and letters.

Please send us an email to tell us how the day was observed in your community:
prayerforpeace@wcc-coe.org



Abandoned Church, Savai'i - Foto: F. Talapusi

Other ideas for action:

-  Organize a time of prayer and reflection on peace in your community, workplace, school or home
-  Share information about the Day of Prayer with others. Distribute copies of this brochure
-  Prepare a 24 hour prayer vigil for peace with other faith communities around the world (see: www.idpvigil.com)
-  Arrange a meeting with representatives of other church and religious communities to discuss how faith groups can build a culture of peace.
-  Join a growing network of Christians contributing to an Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace
-  Collect special offerings to support peace initiatives in your community or abroad





Fautasi Race - Foto: F. Talapusi



2001-2010
DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE

INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL PEACE CONVOCATION

The IEPC aims at witnessing to the Peace of God as a gift and responsibility of the oikoumene. It seeks to assess and strengthen the church's position on peace, provide opportunities for networking and deepen our common commitment to processes of reconciliation and peace.

For more information on the IEPC, visit our website
www.overcomingviolence.org-iepc

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, today the WCC brings together over 340 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing more than 550 million Christians, and works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church.

www.oikoumene.org

THE DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE

The Decade to Overcome Violence 2001 - 2010: Churches seeking reconciliation and peace (DOV) is an initiative of the World Council of Churches. It is a global movement that strives to promote efforts and networks for preventing and overcoming violence and for peace making.

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