



## Creative Ways to Enhance Your Day of Prayer Experience

When Baptist women come together in Christ, God creates shalom for all!  
This experience connects women worldwide as we pray for each other.

When planning your Day of Prayer, think about your event as “an experience”. The word, “experience”, throws open the doors to creativity, allowing you to think outside the box when planning and promoting the Day of Prayer. Let the younger women plan it or have them on the planning team as they often have good creative ideas.

Because of the diversity of women, consider offering a choice of different Day of Prayer events. This will allow more women to be involved in a variety of ways.

- One of the ways you can all comprehend the huge body you are participating with is by encouraging your women to be engaged with the Day of Prayer celebration on the BWA Women’s Department Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/BWAWomensDepartment/>) This is a 24 hour Day of Prayer event where, as time goes by on November 5th, you will see photos posted of women’s Day of Prayer events around the world. Consider posting a photo of *your* event too! Or have a laptop on to the Facebook page and women can see when new photos are added from around the world.
  - You can reach out to your community by asking women to take their laptops, tablets and phones to those who unable to leave their homes, or are in shelters, nursing homes, and hospitals to share these photos and to take time to pray for some of the prayer requests together.
- You can create prayer groups to expand your event to 24 hours by using Facebook or by having groups gather in homes at different times for prayer before and after your event.
- Our theme this year is Unity and Justice. As a side event, you could take a team to a ministry center in your area to pray with the leaders there and to see or learn about what they are doing as they work with the homeless, those incarcerated, trafficked, etc.
- You could hold the program portion (using items of your choosing in the Day of Prayer program) and then have prayer stations for the prayer component. If your space is big enough to have a separate room for each Continental Union (7), here are some suggested ideas.
  - Set an appropriate time for each group to rotate or suggest that each woman goes to 2 or 3 (depending on the time length you set for each) during the prayer component of the event.
  - Have music of that continental area played in the room during the transition time from one group to the next, welcoming women in with the music.

- Decorate that area with balloons and a table cover of the CU color. (The Continental Union colors are: Africa – purple; Asia – light blue; Caribbean – green; Europe – dark blue; Latin America – yellow; North America – orange; South West Pacific – red.)
- You could have a woman in each room dressed in the color of that Continental Union and play a short video on that area of the world or have a snack that the women can pick up from that area of the world as they watch the video. The leader in that room could lead the participants through the prayers for that area. They could be prayed as individuals, in groups of 2 or 3 or as a group.

- Sunrise/Sunset Experience

Address the theme, “Arise, Shine!” by having a breakfast event or evening event (just before or after dark). Give each person a flashlight, battery candle, tea light, or glow stick that can be used during a processional or recessional. Take home the light as a reminder of the event. Other items to enhance the experience can be star-shaped, lightbulbs or reflectors (Be reflectors of Christ’s light).

- For a 24-hour vigil or open prayer space:

With this idea you would have an open space set up with stations of prayer. It would be self-guided with one or two leaders there if someone would like to pray with another person rather than on their own. Doors to the church or meeting place could be left open for a set number of hours so that people can come in and pray during those hours at any station of prayer they choose, using the prayer guide at that section. These could be set up below as tables around a room, or in separate rooms.

- Have a large cork board on the wall with a map and area for women to add their prayers as below. Have pins available.
- Have seven stations of prayer set up around the room. Each station will be a small table draped with a covering that is a Continental Union color. (The Continental Union colors are: Africa – purple; Asia – light blue; Caribbean – green; Europe – dark blue; Latin America – yellow; North America – orange; South West Pacific – red.)
- On each draped table have:
  - The prayers for that Continental Union
  - A list of the projects that the 2018 Day of Prayer will support
  - An offering envelope with instructions to deliver to another table
  - The prayer guide
  - A prayer request for a ministry of justice in your area
  - A paper with printed instructions (see below)

Printed instructions:

  - Please use the pieces of paper and pens as you pray the prayers in the Prayer Guide. If there are any phrases, words or prayer requests from the Prayer Guide that move you deeply, write out your prayer for that request on the paper. Take your paper(s) to the cork board and pin your prayer there as you offer it to God.
- Prepare another table in the center of the room. One candle or lamp is set on this table and it remains lit throughout the vigil or time when the prayer space is open.
  - Prepare a small sign that explains why the candle/lamp is lit and sitting on a separate table: “This lighted candle (or lamp) reminds us that God’s glory shines through the humblest vessel. YOU are like a candle (lamp), shining out for the world to see and know God’s love. ARISE and SHINE! This candle (lamp) also reminds us that God’s glory is

shining on us right now because others around the world are praying for us this day.”  
Place this sign on the table next to the candle or lamp.

- Set up another table with an offering basket (woven preferably to go with our unity theme).
  - Printed words: “The offerings on this day support the projects as well as the continental and worldwide ministries of BWA Women. BWA Women depend on this one-day offering as the main source of income. God bless you for your generous gift of worship.”
- Have instrumental worship music quietly playing throughout the vigil or open time.
  
- Suggestions for a One to Three Hour Day of Prayer Experience as a service rather than stations
  - Play the Arise and Shine theme song (available on CD or as MP3 from the bwawd.org website)
  - Welcome – BWUSWP’s president greetings on video
  - Song
  - Prayer by a leader
  - Go through the items in the program that you have decided previously to feature
    - Have two different women read the stories by Vani and Norma
    - After the Bible study on justice, ask women to share if they have personally been involved in ministry in any way to those who are vulnerable and in need of justice in their context. Pray for those women.
  - Highlight a need for justice in your community, region or nation. Provide a paper for each to write out a short letter to their government to address this. Give them the address or have them look up the address on the website.
  - Highlight Offering (as below)
  - Offering
  - Prayers of the people could be divided into individual prayer times, groups of 2 or 3 and prayers as a group or can be in stations as described above.
  - Arise, Shine Theme song video again in closing
  - Close with a prayer of blessing

## **Making the Most of the Prayer Guide**

Some Ways to Use the Prayer Guide:

- Together in unity, we shine brighter: Mark off an area on the floor in the shape of a cross. Give each woman a battery tea light that they can place in the cross after they are finished praying.
- Alternate the stories and devotional thoughts and prayers for individual continental unions. Some of the prayer times could be individual, some in twos or threes and others in groups
- Write each prayer request on a post-it note, place them on globe or world map and have each woman take one.
- Divide into groups to pray for one continental union. Choose one woman in that group to represent the continental union and lay hands on her while praying.
- Incorporate various styles of prayer: sentence, longer prayers, silent, standing, kneeling, sitting.
- If possible, have prayers offered in the languages representing the various continental unions.

- Use the prayer guide throughout the entire year:
  - There are almost 50 prayer requests in the guide. Pray for one each week.
  - Create a prayer calendar using the requests.
  - Take a copy of the guide and visit an elderly woman who is no longer able to attend Day of Prayer events.
  - Include requests from the prayer guide in the regular prayer events at your church.
  - Request to have one per week put in your church bulletin throughout the year.
- Start a new prayer group.
- Contact the BWA WD international officers to receive updates. (Contact information found on the website ([www.bwawd.org/continental-unions](http://www.bwawd.org/continental-unions)))
- Find out who is your Continental Union prayer partner. (<http://bwawd.org/prayer>)

### **Highlight the offering**

- Encourage women in their giving. The offerings on this day support the continental and worldwide ministries and projects of BWA Women. BWA Women depend on this one-day offering as its main source of income. One-half of the offerings received remain in the Continental Union and the other half is sent to the international office of BWA Women
- Share the projects briefly

**Share your own creative ideas** for Day of Prayer by sending them to [womenbwa@bwawd.org](mailto:womenbwa@bwawd.org) to be added to the website.