

**DAILY SCRIPTURE & PRAYER RESOURCE**  
for the  
**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**  
**16 MAY—23 MAY 2010**

**DAY 2—MONDAY 17 MAY**

## Witness through Sharing Stories

**Jeremiah 1:4-8** *Go to all to whom I send you*  
**Psalm 22:23-end** *You who fear the Lord, praise him!*  
**Acts 14:21-23** *They strengthened the souls of the disciples*  
**Luke 24:13-17a** *What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?*

*What are you discussing with each other while you walk along? (Luke 24:17)*

### Reflection

Sharing our stories is a powerful way in which we give witness to our faith in God. Listening to one another with respect and consideration allows us to encounter God in the very person with whom we are sharing. In Australia, storytelling is also embedded in the cultures of our first peoples.

The reading from Jeremiah offers us a powerful witness of God's call to the prophet. He is to share what he has received, and so allow God's Word to be heard and lived out. This call

to proclaim God's Word is also experienced by the disciples in the early Church, as witnessed to in the reading from Acts. Our psalm allows us to sing to God with a spirit of praise and thanksgiving. Today's gospel passage then further presents a Jesus who enlightens our blindness and dispels our disillusionment. He helps us to understand our stories within the one unfolding plan of God.

During this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we listen to the faith stories of other Christians in order to encounter God in the variety of ways God's very self is revealed to us. We are aware also that we can share with others through the virtual reality of technology. Modern means of communication can help us share more widely, and so create a community that is broader and more extensive than the purely physical. In listening with attentiveness we grow in faith and love. In spite of the diversity of our personal and collective witness, we find ourselves intertwined in the one story of God's love for us revealed in Jesus Christ.

### Reflection questions

1. Are you "gossiping the Gospel" or just gossiping?
2. How open are you or your church to be drawn into the stories of others?
3. How open are you to share with others your stories of faith,  
*and to give witness to God's presence in your personal experiences of life and of death?*
4. In what ways do modern means of communication have enormous potential to offer the Church today?
5. How are we listening to the stories of our fellow Australians, especially Indigenous people and refugees?

### Prayer points

- \* Give thanks for today's prophets of peace who unceasingly pray, speak out and witness for peace
- \* Pray for the work of Christians in the media and for all other Australian ministries of communication
- \* Pray for all those involved in technological development and for its wise and just use
- \* Pray for the churches of Africa & the All Africa Conference of Churches
- \* Pray for those who find their home in the Anglican and Mar Thoma Churches



### Prayer for the Day

God of history, we thank you for all who have shared their story of faith with us and so have given witness to your presence in their lives. We praise you for the variety of our stories both as individuals and churches. In these stories we see the unfolding of the one story of Jesus Christ. We pray for the courage and the conviction to share our faith with those with whom we come into contact, and so allow the message of your Word to spread to all. Amen.

