

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

**DAY 4—WEDNESDAY 19 MAY**

## Bearing witness through celebrating the faith we have received

**Deuteronomy 6:3-9** *The Lord is our God,  
the Lord alone.*

**Psalms 34** *I will bless the Lord at all times.*

**Acts 4:32-35** *Of one heart and soul.*

**Luke 24:17-24** *But we had hoped...*

*"What things?" They replied, "The things  
about Jesus of Nazareth." (Luke 24:19)*

### Reflection

We have an enormous debt of gratitude to those whose faith has provided the foundation for our Christian lives today. Numerous men and women through their prayer, witness and worship have ensured that the faith is handed down to the next generations. In Scotland there is for example an impressive Christian history, including Saint Ninian in the 4th century, Saint Columba in the 6th century and the many Celtic saints whose faith was rooted in the love of God and wonder at his creation. The faith of Scottish people can also be seen in the very important role Scotland played in the Reformation of the 16th century and the way this spirit has been firmly maintained since.

Today's readings affirm the importance of supporting the community of faith in order to ensure the dissemination of the Word of God. The passage from Deuteronomy gives us the beautiful prayer of our Jewish sisters and brothers who every day use these words to praise God. The extract from Acts reveals a community united in faith and charity. The gospel passage shows us Jesus as the centre of what we have received in faith.

As we unite with our Christian brothers and sisters in praying for unity during this week, we welcome the rich variety of our Christian heritage. We pray that awareness of our common heritage may unite us more closely as we progress in faith. We celebrate also those Australians who have also shared God's Holy Dreaming and, like Mary MacKillop, continue to inspire others today.

### Reflection questions

1. Who has inspired you in your faith ?
2. What are the aspects of faith which inspire you in your everyday life ?
3. What do you feel were the most important teachings which were passed on to you ?
4. How can you recognize God at work with you  
in the transmission of faith the future generations ?
5. How do we celebrate our faith beyond the church walls?

### Prayer points

- \* Give thanks for those who have shared the faith of God with us and for the holiness in the lives of our Christian ancestors
- \* Give thanks for the work of bible translators, teachers and evangelists and for all those pass the faith on to others today
- \* Pray for the churches in Asia and the Christian Conference of Asia
- \* Pray for those who find their home in the Roman Catholic Church



### Prayer for the Day

Lord God, we give you thanks for all the people and communities who have communicated the message of the Good News to us, and thus given us a solid foundation for our faith today.

We pray that we too may together bear witness to our faith, so that others may know you and place their trust in the truth of salvation offered in Jesus Christ for the life of the world. Amen.



National Council of  
**Churches in Australia**  
Faith and Unity Commission