



WITNESS SEASON

MINUTE FOR MISSION

November 1, 2007

Drawing Together through Prayer (Italy)



A group prayer meeting held by the Waldensian Evangelical Church in Turin draws people from many faiths and countries.

Three members of the Waldensian Evangelical Church in Turin, Italy, have been promoting a group of prayer for some years, drawing inspiration from the verses "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). About ten people from different countries meet for this moment of meditation called "Listening, Meditation, and Prayer." By listening we mean listening to the Word of God through biblical readings and listening to one another as brothers and sisters who have difficulty finding the right place for sharing their troubles. We also share moments of joy. The meditation is spontaneous and in response to the biblical text. Everyone describes what the passage has moved in his or her own heart. It is not a high-level theological debate but a way of expressing one's own emotions. The prayers are likely to be those of request, thanks, praise, and, in particular, intercession. Through group prayer we try to approach those people within the congregation who are especially afflicted. We alternate



WITNESS SEASON

MINUTE FOR MISSION

November 1, 2007

Drawing Together through Prayer (Italy)



A group prayer meeting held by the Waldensian Evangelical Church in Turin draws people from many faiths and countries.

Three members of the Waldensian Evangelical Church in Turin, Italy, have been promoting a group of prayer for some years, drawing inspiration from the verses "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). About ten people from different countries meet for this moment of meditation called "Listening, Meditation, and Prayer." By listening we mean listening to the Word of God through biblical readings and listening to one another as brothers and sisters who have difficulty finding the right place for sharing their troubles. We also share moments of joy. The meditation is spontaneous and in response to the biblical text. Everyone describes what the passage has moved in his or her own heart. It is not a high-level theological debate but a way of expressing one's own emotions. The prayers are likely to be those of request, thanks, praise, and, in particular, intercession. Through group prayer we try to approach those people within the congregation who are especially afflicted. We alternate

prayer with songs of praise to the Lord, and we use moments of silence for meditating and creating a favorable atmosphere. We always say the Lord's Prayer joining hands. We are often invited into homes of those who are ill or unable to go out. It represents a way to be with those who are in need and who feel alone. We sometimes share cakes or pizzas to prolong our joy of being together.

The following prayer was written by Ms. Alga Barbacini, a deacon of the Waldensian Evangelical Church in Turin.

God, our Lord,
We thank you for being among us,
gathered to pray and share our joy and pain.
Be with those who are suffering;
give them hope and make them strong in their struggles.
Help them to feel your presence through us
so that they do not feel alone
because we like to be your hands, your eyes, and your ears.
God, be with the mournful ones.
Help us to comfort them with words and actions inspired by your love.
God, we ask all this of you because you sent your only Son among us to
show us your love. We ask you to make us able to express the same love
to those we meet every day.
Amen.

prayer with songs of praise to the Lord, and we use moments of silence for meditating and creating a favorable atmosphere. We always say the Lord's Prayer joining hands. We are often invited into homes of those who are ill or unable to go out. It represents a way to be with those who are in need and who feel alone. We sometimes share cakes or pizzas to prolong our joy of being together.

The following prayer was written by Ms. Alga Barbacini, a deacon of the Waldensian Evangelical Church in Turin.

God, our Lord,
We thank you for being among us,
gathered to pray and share our joy and pain.
Be with those who are suffering;
give them hope and make them strong in their struggles.
Help them to feel your presence through us
so that they do not feel alone
because we like to be your hands, your eyes, and your ears.
God, be with the mournful ones.
Help us to comfort them with words and actions inspired by your love.
God, we ask all this of you because you sent your only Son among us to
show us your love. We ask you to make us able to express the same love
to those we meet every day.
Amen.

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.