

Wycliffe World Day of Prayer

11th November 2020



WYCLIFFE | World Day of Prayer

Shalom in a VUCA World

Shalom is the theme for the Wycliffe World Day of Prayer 2020. Shalom, often translated as *peace*, has a meaning that goes beyond just an absence of conflict. ‘*The Hebrew word Shalom (peace) can be defined as a life put together, a life characterized by a sense of wholeness and well-being.*’^[1] We cannot have shalom apart from God. Jesus is the *Prince of Peace* and the source of all peace (Isaiah 9:6-7).

We live in a VUCA world, that is **V**olatile, **U**ncertain, **C**hanging and **A**mbiguous. This has been true for some time. In the season of the global pandemic of COVID-19, we have experienced weeks and months where very little has felt calm, certain, stable or clear. We are aware that even when the most intense phase of the pandemic is over the aftermath will continue to impact the whole world. The Bible translation movement will not be immune.

Just before going to the cross, a very turbulent time for him personally, Jesus said: *I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid* (John 14:27 NLT). Together we can explore this wonderful gift of peace as we pray together.

Meditations

Shalom is a gift of God, it is not something we earn. It is not dependent on circumstances or on anything we can do. Shalom is experienced through encountering the presence of God. *Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory* (Romans 5:1-2 NLT). *For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through Him, God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross* (Colossians 1:19,20 NLT).

We start this *Wycliffe World Day of Prayer* by focusing on the cross of Christ and all that Jesus accomplished there. Thank Him that we now have peace with God because God loved us so much He sent His son to the earth. He lived a perfect life, died to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself and rose again in victory over death. Take time for sung or spoken worship and reflection on the Scriptures above. Perhaps take communion together.

Stories of Shalom and other resources are available to enhance worship times during the Day of Prayer. [Holy Moment](#) is a story that goes along with this meditation.

Experience God's Peace through yielding to Him

In quietness, we yield to God's will individually and corporately.

He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth' (Psalm 46:10 NIV).

In silence, we still our hearts, our thoughts and our bodies. We may encounter a sense of God's presence and he may speak to us, as we open our hearts to Him. We can then give

Him our hopes and fears, trusting Him to align them with His will. We acknowledge Him as Lord and ask Him to fill our lives with Shalom.

Suggested Shalom stories:

- [God's Peace in the Midst of an Unexpected Storm](#)
- [When Hope Arrived](#)

Pray for Shalom for the nations of the world

No nation has been left untouched by the direct or indirect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, many people are displaced or otherwise impacted by wars and poverty. Around the world, people are in mourning. Many are in desperate financial need having lost incomes, jobs, businesses and the ability to provide for their families. Many others are struggling with physical and mental health problems. We pray:

- for healing in regions, nations and individuals who are suffering economically in this season. Ask God to provide all their needs and ours as well.
- for those who mourn, that they will be comforted.
- for those who are sick, physically or with mental health issues, and ask God to bring healing and hope.
- that many will come to God, repent and find the wholeness that comes from a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

Suggested Shalom stories:

- [Shalom by Surprise](#)
- [Working Together for God's Word](#)
- [The Least of These: Following Jesus in Uncertain Times](#)

Pray for God's Shalom within the Bible translation movement

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Colossians 3:15 (NLT) God's peace extends beyond his relationship with a person. As a result of the peace we have through Christ, God's peace guides us in developing unity and community. We praise God for the good relationships with and the service of colleagues, partners and Alliance organisations.

We pray for our work and colleagues, partners, Alliance organisations and those involved in Bible translation movements around the world. This is an opportunity to pray for *Partnering with Prayer* colleagues. Where we struggle to experience unity and peace with colleagues, partners or others we can start by thanking God for them. It is as we praise and thank Him that He often changes our perspective. As we see things in His light we also experience peace. Lift specific requests you have for colleagues, partners and Alliance organisations to God and ask Him to bring Shalom to their lives.

Suggested Shalom stories:

- [A New Way of Working](#)
- [‘Satan’ Repents](#)
- [Joy in God’s Word](#)

The following Scriptures are useful promises of God and blessings to help us pray for Shalom over ourselves and others involved in Bible translation movements:

- John 16:33 (NLT) — *I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.*
- John 14:27 (TPT) — *I leave the gift of peace with you—my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don’t yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous!*
- Psalm 29:10-11 (NLT) — *The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses them with peace.*
- Isaiah 26:3-4 (NLT) — *You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.*

Pray for communities with no access to God’s Word

Shalom is explained like this in the Foundational Statements of the Wycliffe Global Alliance:

*A vision of transformed communities **where all manner of relationships between people and God, with oneself, each other and with God’s creation are reconciled.** It is an authentic and nurturing community that shows peacefulness, wholeness and unity, and where participants fully develop their potential because they are secure, cared for and mutually respectful. It is a vision of peoples of all nations sharing equally in God’s loving concern because no person, people group, language or nation is above the other in God’s eyes. It is a declaration that God uses the translated Word as a foundational means for holistic transformation.*

Pray today for the language communities where God’s Word is not yet available or only partially available. May God in His grace and mercy provide all the necessary resources for the translation of the entire Bible in each community.

Suggested Shalom story: [Strength and Courage to Share Bible Stories: Mexico](#) Let this be our prayer for one another:

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favour and give you his peace.

— Numbers 6:24-26 (NLT)

Or use the *Blessing* video of this passage read in different languages.

[Check the web for Blessing in 15 Languages](#) from [Wycliffe Global Alliance](#) on [Vimeo](#). [Why Pray for Zero?](#) videos



Having a Wycliffe World Day of Prayer event when we cannot meet together in person

The Coronavirus pandemic has changed so much in our lives. Many of the changes have been painful or challenging. As we come to plan our World Day of Prayer events, some of us may still face restrictions meaning that gathering together in large groups will not be possible. However, with some forward planning, we can still hold a meaningful collective time of prayer and worship.

Here are some suggestions of ways to pray together:

- If you have access to a paid [Zoom](#) account and those who will 'attend' have a steady internet connection, Zoom offers many features that mimic the experience of a physical meeting. Zoom prayer times generally work well when they are interactive and structured.

- Include as many participants as possible by asking them to prepare Bible readings, prayers and testimonies within your overall plan.
- Ask different ones to read one or more of the 'Shalom stories'.
- Breakout rooms are a useful tool for open times of prayer. This feature allows meeting in smaller groups within the main zoom meeting. This way more people can pray at the same time. It may be helpful to have someone coordinate this aspect
- Other video conferencing platforms are available. These include, [Google Hangouts](#), [Messenger](#) and [Skype](#). Use whatever works well in your context.

We recognise that in many parts of the world video conferencing is not supported by the available internet networks or may not be available. There are still ways to have a communal prayer experience. Here are just a few ideas:

- Put together a programme and email it to all the staff. Ask them to pray alone, with their families in their homes or those with whom they can safely interact within government guidelines. This can include:
 - A recorded audio devotion sent via WhatsApp on the theme.
 - Email or send recorded Shalom stories via voice notes
 - Prayer items for yourselves, partners and even your 'partner in prayer' ○ Suggested worship songs to sing, Bible readings and meditations. ○ Create a [WhatsApp](#) group purely for the event. Assign an administrator and for 12-24 hours on a designated date (usually 11th November) use this to host prayer requests and prayers written by participants as they interact with the materials. The administrator will need to curate the group and ensure that people do not post links or inappropriate content. ○ Alternatively, create Google documents on specific topics to which you invite participants to add their prayers. Encourage them to read out loud the prayers of others.

By holding a virtual event, or a combined virtual and in-person event, we can include those who would not normally be able to join our physical day of prayer.

Consider inviting:-

- staff members assigned in remote places
- ministry partners
- churches
- prayer intercessors
- family and friends

We encourage each one not to miss the opportunity to connect with God, to be refreshed and renewed and to offer our prayers to Him. We may need to be more creative as we plan our World Day of Prayer events this year. In this season of uncertainty, change and challenge it is more important than ever **to prioritize listening to God and gathering to seek His face.**