



## World Fellowship Sunday 2005 - An Order of Service -

### Bread and Peace

Biblical texts: Psalm 85; John 6:1-15

#### Invocation/opening prayer

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, here are  
your children, the people who walked in  
darkness and have seen a great light (Isa.9).

We pray that you will guide our feet  
into the way of peace (Lk.1:79); of love for  
you and for our neighbor (Jn.9); and of  
righteousness and justice, the foundation of  
your throne (Ps.89:14). Give us this day our  
daily bread, and do not let us forget to share  
with others.

As we worship you this day, along with a  
worldwide host of the faithful, may the  
words of our lips and the thoughts of our  
hearts be glad unto you, oh Lord.  
Amen.

**Song:** "To God be the Glory!" (or choose  
one or more songs or hymns of praise.)

**Why World Fellowship Sunday?** (see  
attached cover letter)

**Biblical text: Psalm 85**

**Short Story from Colombia** (see  
attachments)

**Song:** "You called me, Lord, my God" (#32  
International Songbook 1997 / #59  
International Songbook 1990)

**Brief news excerpts** (see attachments)  
**Give opportunity to share witness to  
similar stories**

**Readings and comments on the Biblical  
text: John 6: 1-15**

(The following may be used in place of a  
sermon)

#### Reading #1: John 6:1-5

*Bread and solidarity.*

Comment: A world where bread is shared  
begins with sensitivity towards humanity  
and the needs of our neighbors. Jesus noticed  
the hunger in the multitude and felt the same  
hunger. This is the meaning of compassion –  
'to feel with.' Change in Colombia  
(Zimbabwe, Mexico, Indonesia, etc) will  
happen when others feel solidarity with  
people there in their hunger, their search,  
their need, their dreams and their anguish.

#### Reading #2: John 6:7

*Bread and Financial Resources.*

Comment: Philip responds to Jesus using the  
categories of market economy. When the  
motive of economy is hoarding by a few  
who become rich, the needs of all will hardly  
be met. But if the motivation for economy is  
to provide for the actual needs of people, we  
will find that there is richness and abundance  
for all.

#### Reading #3: John 6:8-9

*Bread shared in Community.*

Comment: The alternative to the economy of  
our days, which leaves millions suffering  
hunger and need, was started by a child. He  
offered what he had - the lunch box his mom  
that packed for him. If we share what we  
have for the well-being of others, we will  
create a community of joy and plenty.

#### Reading #4: John 6:10

*Bread and Organization.*

Comment: Goodwill is not enough. Jesus  
organized the people into groups. The  
multitude understood that if they put aside  
their individualism and egotistic attitudes

they could instantly change their situation. Organization and working together make it possible to achieve changes in our country so that there may be "Bread and Peace" for all.

**Reading #5: John 6:11**

*Bread and Prayer.*

Comment: Instead of complaining and asking so much from God, we should give thanks for all he gives us and share everything with love. When we sow the seed of community and sharing, God multiplies our efforts in astounding ways. The narrative does not explain where all that food came from: whether everybody shared what they had brought along or if the bread was multiplied. It is a fact that work backed with prayer achieves a lot.

**Reading #6: John 6:12-13**

*Bread shared - abundance for everybody and even leftovers.*

Comment: Today, when millions of our fellow citizens lack food, a roof over their heads, land, health care and education, let us realize that in Colombia as in many other countries, there are plenty of riches to fill the needs of everybody. If, instead of using one billion pesos for weapons and war, that money could be used for food and the well-being of our people, we could transform Colombia into a country of Bread and Peace for all.

**Response:**

- Time for verbal response and for sharing concerns and joys
- Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving (see attachments for additional prayer requests)
- Offering (for a church agency promoting peace and relief, MWC or other choice)

**Songs:** (Choose several songs or hymns)

**Sending:**

*Let us make commitments that help bring peace and bread for all:*

We invite our brothers and sisters in the Anabaptist world communion to adopt the non-violent, simple and just lifestyle of our Lord Jesus Christ as we take care of ourselves, our neighbors, of creation, and to seek and build fraternal economies and develop ways to serve our societies.

- We commit personally and as a family to a spirituality of love and non-violence.
- We commit to respect and protect human life and dignity in all forms and to take care of all of creation.
- We commit to the practice of non-violence in all our family relationships, rejecting all physical, verbal and psychological abuse.
- We commit to love our neighbors and to seek non-violent resolution of conflicts.
- We commit to build solidarity and to work for an alternative economy that promotes integral and sustainable human development.
- We commit to reject carrying weapons and to refuse to take part in military programs.
- We commit to dedicate our gifts, talents, skills, time, and resources to build a society of justice and peace by means of active non-violence.

**Song and Benediction**

