

## **Week 6: Building the Community**



"When women come together, we have something powerful to share. We listen to each other's sorrows, we help to heal each other's wounds. We laugh and cry together. And we encourage each other with practical skills that help us to earn a living." Rev Taisia

Women in the Pacific are the backbones of their communities; creative and capable, strong and savvy. They also carry unseen burdens, caring for their families when men are working overseas, juggling practical responsibilities like growing food as well as the complex challenges of raising children in an increasingly globalised world.

UnitingWorld's projects focus on supporting women because they play such a foundational role in building their communities, both spiritually and practically. That community extends to us here in Australia as we give, pray and advocate on their behalf.

In this week's Lent Event video, Monika tells us how the disaster in 2022 impacted her family and Rev Taisia shares about the church bringing women together to heal, supported in part by UnitingWorld. **Watch** here.

### **Prayer spotlight**

- Pray for ministers like Rev Taisia who have been trained through the UCA's Disaster Chaplaincy Network to
  provide psycho-social care and spiritual support in the aftermath of disaster. Give thanks for the
  effectiveness of their work and pray for its extension across other vulnerable regions.
- As we come to the end of Lent, pray for all those in partner churches around the world who live out the
  realities of sacrifice, death and resurrection in practical ways as they care for each other and their
  communities. Give thanks for the hope they share with each other and the world, for their longing for God's
  Kingdom come and their willingness to work to bring it to fruition.
- Pray especially that we may continue to see creation as a critical part of that resurrection and renewal, ready to step up and lead on issues of climate and environmental care. Give thanks for all those who have worked, prayed and given tirelessly to the body of Christ, and ask that we too may share in that generosity of heart, hands and spirit.

## Ideas for personal action this week

Read and share our daily Lent devotional series – find it on Facebook or Instagram.

<u>Spend some time this week in creation</u> – your own garden, a park, a nearby nature reserve.

Walk. Breathe. Pray. Meditate. Touch things.

Tend the earth, plant or water something.

Give thanks and commit yourself anew to caring for creation and for those who depend most deeply upon it for their day-to-day existence.

## Suggestions to help your church to take part in Lent Event

### Put it in your news sheet and socials

**Lent Event.** Join UnitingWorld for 40 days of faith-filled action for God's creation from 5 March-17 April, to stand with people fighting on the frontlines of climate change in the Pacific, Africa and Asia. <a href="https://www.lentevent.com.au">www.lentevent.com.au</a>

Promotional assets are shared on the <u>resources page</u>, including PowerPoint slides, social tiles, a video thumbnail and a banner for your newssheet.





**Show the videos** during your worship services and pray for the work of UnitingWorld and our partner churches (you can follow the Prayer Spotlight provided here).

Share our daily Lent devotional series on your church socials – Facebook or Instagram.

If you received **Lent Event brochures** in the mail, distribute them to your members. Let us know if you want more.

Help us reach our fundraising target by **making a donation** or taking up a special collection.

Set up a **team fundraising challenge** through our new 40 for the Future platform. Find out all about it and register at <a href="https://www.40forthefuture.com.au">www.40forthefuture.com.au</a>.



# There's a global challenge driving poverty, inequality and injustice. Climate change.

It affects every one of us, but not equally. Those who contribute least to climate change are the most affected.

The only way to tackle it is together – we all have a part to play.

Register now to take on a 40 day challenge.

Transform the way you eat, shop, travel or use energy. Set a fundraising goal and inspire your family and friends to sponsor you.