

CWM Sunday 2025

General Secretary's Introductory Video Message

Dear sisters and brothers, Warmest greetings from the Council for World Mission!

Each year, we come together as a global community to celebrate CWM Sunday—a time when we remember and recommit ourselves to God's mission in the spirit of partnership, justice, and transformation.

This annual celebration takes place on a Sunday close to July 18, marking the founding of the restructured **CWM in 1977**. It was on this day that member churches gathered at the communion table in City Temple, London, and committed to participating in the new Council and to working together as equal partners of churches in mission. With that shared commitment, a new chapter of decolonised mission began, where the members are committed to sharing the resources of money, people, gifts, and insights equally in the service of God's mission.

This year, we celebrate CWM Sunday on 20 July 2025. This is the 48th anniversary of CWM, a significant moment as we also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the **Singapore Consultation of 1975**. It was the first consultation at which the representatives of both the associated churches and the constituent bodies of CWM gathered in Singapore, in an Asian setting, rather than in London. The participants strongly emphasised the aspect of interdependence and rejected paternalistic relationships. As a result, a restructured and renewed CWM emerged in 1977, highlighting the need for missions from everywhere to everywhere.

For this year's CWM Sunday, we carry forward the powerful **theme** from the CWM Assembly 2024, "Rise to Life: Together in Transformation", and focus especially on one of the key sub-themes, "Transforming Power." In a world marked by deep injustice, ecological crisis, violence, and economic inequality, we are called to examine what power truly means. "**Transforming Power**" invites us to reflect on the contrast between the oppressive powers of empire and the liberating power of the Spirit of God. Empire seeks control, dominance, and destruction. But God's transforming power is life-giving, liberating, and rooted in love and justice. This theme reminds us that mission is not merely about service but about solidarity, joining with movements for justice, standing with the oppressed, and embodying alternative ways of life that reflect the kingdom of God.

As part of this celebration, **worship** becomes central to how we remember, reflect, and respond. For this year's CWM Sunday, we prepared **liturgical resources**, including prayers, songs, and images. These resources are designed to help your communities worship meaningfully around the theme of Transforming Power.

Though we are separated by oceans and continents, worshipping together in spirit reminds us that we are one body. We are CWM: a partnership of churches in mission.

Therefore, for every CWM Sunday, we collect a **special offering** to support one of our member churches or ecumenical partners in need. This year, we are committed to supporting the **Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV)** as they are on the road to recovery from a devastating earthquake that hit Vanuatu in December 2024. While we also supported Myanmar in the aftermath of the recent deadliest earthquake, our commitment to Vanuatu remains.

Therefore, I would like to encourage all the member churches to make a special offering for the earthquake victims of Vanuatu.

As we approach **CWM Jubilee in 2027**, we are invited once again to Rise to Life: Together in Transformation, for the flourishing of all of God's creation. May this CWM Sunday renew our collective hope and deepen our shared commitment to be instruments of God's transforming power in the world.

Thank you.

Please find this video message at: <https://youtu.be/S86FSeZFN4s>