

Stephen S. Wise Temple Jewish World Watch Committee Matzah of Hope
Passover, 2005

As you sit around your Passover table, share this prayer with family and friends.
As Jews, we need to remember those who are still enslaved.
“Do not stand idly by the blood of others.” -- Leviticus

The Matzah of Hope *

We raise this fourth matzah to remind ourselves
that slavery and genocide still exist,
that people are still being bought and sold as property,
that ethnic peoples are being persecuted and slaughtered,
that the Divine image within them is yet being denied.

We make room at our seder table and in our hearts for those in Sudan
and around the world who are now where we have been.

We have known such treatment in our own history.
Like the men, women and children enslaved, violated,
tortured and murdered today, we too have suffered while
others stood by and pretended not to see, not to know.

We have eaten the bitter herbs.
We have been taken from our families and brutalized.
We have experienced the horror of being forcibly converted.
In the end, we have come to know in our very being
that none can be free until all are free.

And so, we commit and recommit ourselves to work for the freedom of these people. May the
taste of this ‘bread of affliction’ remain in our mouths
until they can eat in peace and security.

Knowing that all people are Yours, O God,
we will urge our government and all governments to do as
You once commanded Pharaoh on our behalf:

Shalach et Ami!
Let My People Go!

* “Matazah of Hope” is adapted from The Dream Freedom Program, Milken Community High School of Stephen Wise Temple, Passover 2002 & 2004

Join the Jewish World Watch, and embody the passion of this blessing. We need to raise our voices and say “Never Again” as we have learned that silence is lethal. As a coalition, through Jewish World Watch, we need to mobilize our congregation, our schools, and our constituents to combat genocide and other violations of human rights.

How do we get involved? We must stay politically active by expanding our knowledge of the Sudanese situation. Write letters to the media and our congressional representatives. Make a financial commitment in the people of Darfur and join the Jewish World Watch Committee at Stephen S. Wise Temple. We will continue to work with the International Medical Corps to help supply nutritional, health and medical needs, along with providing much needed water and sanitation programs.

Along with your Seder plates, Haggadot, candles and wine, every Pesah table should have a “Save Darfur” tzedakah can placed on it. Every individual on reciting this blessing should commit to wearing a green “Do Not Stand Idly By - Save Darfur” bracelet. You can also make a difference by joining the Stephen S. Wise Temple Jewish World Watch Committee. To purchase bracelets, get tzedekah cans, make donations, or to learn more about the Jewish World Watch coalition, please contact Diane Kabat at 310.889.2274, dkabat@sswt.org; www.sswt.org/jewishworldwatch.org. Or, mail donations to SSWT/Jewish World Watch, 15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90077.

Upcoming community Jewish World Watch Lectures:

Wednesday, April 6, Sinai Temple, 7:30 p.m.

3rd in the series, Keynote Speaker: Ruth Messinger, President and Executive Director of American Jewish World Services. This past fall, Ruth visited Darfur, Sudan along with Jerry Fowler from the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

Thursday, May 26, Stephen S. Wise Temple, 7:30 p.m. 4th in the series, Keynote Speakers: John Prendergast, International Crises Group. He worked with the Clinton Administration as Director of African Affairs for the National Security Council and as Special Advisor to the State Department; Paul Rusesabagina, Hotel Manager from Hotel Rwanda, who single-handedly saved thousands of Rwandans from annihilation.

Recommended Reading:

Power, Samantha: [A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide](#)

Scroggins, Deborah: [Emma’s War: A True Story](#)

Prendergast, John: [God, Oil and Country, Changing the Logic of the War in Sudan.](#)

