



# **Christians Against Torture FREEDOM FEAST**



## **WHAT IS IT?**

The Freedom Feast is an opportunity for Christians in Wales to celebrate their freedom, and give special consideration to those who are not free.

## **WHO IS IT FOR?**

The Freedom Feast is for anyone prepared to share a meal – simple or lavish – both with friends, *and* with an unseen prisoner of conscience or victim of torture. In some places, a whole church might decide to eat together – or a youth group, a Sunday School class, sisterhood, Mothers' Union, or men's meeting. Or friends might meet in homes, or visit a restaurant.

## **WHEN DOES IT ALL HAPPEN?**

At any time during September or October. It can include early breakfasts, mid-morning snacks, lunches, afternoon teas, dinners, suppers...anything the local church or group decides.

## **WHAT ARE THE AIMS?**

The Freedom Feast will be an opportunity to give thanks for Christian freedom, and to consider the continued need for Christian resistance to the use of torture. It will encourage action for one or more prisoners, and stimulate prayer.

## **WHAT PRACTICAL PREPARATIONS SHOULD I BE MAKING?**

- ▶ **Identify** the people and groups in your church who might be interested, and win their enthusiasm. Consider whether to broaden the invitation to neighbouring churches.
- ▶ **Seek the support** of your minister or other church leaders. Offer some Christians Against Torture literature, and ask whether Christian freedom could be taken as the theme for one of the Sunday services.
- ▶ **Decide** what sort of meal will be most suitable – time of day? in a home, at church, at a restaurant?
- ▶ **Don't be afraid** to be imaginative! One Freedom Feast took place in a pizzeria; high school pupils shared a bread and soup lunch; there were suppers in a leisure centre, in private homes and in church halls.

- ▶ **Decide** how the food is to be supplied, prepared and served, who will do the work, and whether a charge will be made.
- ▶ **Consider** how many people to invite, and ask them to make firm bookings.
- ▶ **Invite** everyone who will be coming to bring a postcard with a view of somewhere in Wales (and get some spares yourself).
- ▶ **Make sure** you have a candle, matches and a supply of pens
- ▶ **Let** your local paper know what you are up to!
- ▶ **Keep on** praying!

### ***On the day itself***

- ▶ Before the meal begins, **light a candle** to symbolise your special guest – you might also like to keep one chair empty.
- ▶ At some stage in the meal, **read out the information** about your special guest.
- ▶ Try to use one or more of the **prayers** which will be available.
- ▶ Invite everyone present to **write a simple greeting** on their postcards to the prisoner.
- ▶ Tell everyone how much **postage** will need to be put on each card, and if necessary offer to post them.
- ▶ **Find out** if anyone would like to do more for those suffering because of torture.

### ***After the event***

- ▶ Think how you might **follow up** any interest shown (with our Christmas card campaign, for instance; by regular letter-writing and praying; possibly by arranging to meet regularly).
- ▶ **Let us know** how it's gone. We can all learn from each other.
- ▶ **Keep on** praying!

**If you have any queries, please ring Judi Williams 029 2061 6110,  
or Roy Jenkins 029 2062 7431**