“Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.” Psalm 96:3

On February 18, 2016, we will open the Fourth Unity Women’s Consultation. The Old Testament daily text reading will be from Psalm 96:3, and what verse could be more appropriate? Women from five continents, twenty-eight countries, and numerous cities, towns, and villages, will be convening on February 18 to begin discussing how to declare the glory of God and to continue to share God’s marvelous works among all the peoples around each and every woman.

That is February 18, but what about the time between now and then? What are we doing and what can we do to prepare ourselves-our hearts, our heads, our bodies, our souls-to be wholly present in Paramaribo, Suriname? Perhaps the daily text for January 18, 2016 can help us with that; it says: “The Lord makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters.” (Isaiah 43:16). So exactly a month before the first official day of the Fourth Unity Women’s Consultation, our texts tell us the Lord will help us to prepare. Beyond travel arrangements, last minute details, and literal sea-crossings, we can pray each and every day for the guidance and support of our Lord so that we will arrive with open hearts and willing minds. Open hearts and willing minds that will allow us all to be wholly present with our Lord and with each other. Open hearts and willing minds that show us the way to creating resolutions and solutions for our focus areas for the Consultation: Violence Against Women, Health Care for Women and Children, Education for Girls and Women, Women in Ministry, Employment and Overcoming Poverty, and Parenting for a More Just Society. Open hearts and willing minds that make connections and lifelong friendships. Open hearts and willing minds that will bring us all one step closer to living in the world as Jesus imagined it.

We not only ask for open hearts and willing minds for our delegates, observers, and staff, but also for the friends and family members who will remain home. We ask that you keep your hearts open and your minds willing, and that you pray for all of the women who will be in attendance at the Fourth Unity Women’s Consultation in Paramaribo, Suriname, and that you pray for safe travels and resolutions, but also that you pray that love and friendships will blossom and further bring each and every disciple closer to Jesus and each other.

While travel plans, charts, more charts, Skype meetings, program books, and busy everyday lives might feel overwhelming, there is always time to take a moment to read the daily text and pray for an open heart and a willing mind. Because with those, the travel plans, charts, meetings, and booklets will fall into place and be exactly as they are meant to be.

So as the Lord makes his path, we will prepare ourselves to declare his glory to all nations and with our sisters from all nations.

Adriana, Assistant Secretary — Unity Women's Desk