



# Spirit Renewal Ministries

*Transforming Lives - Renewing Communities*

## Corporate Prayer for 2025

### Theme - Hope

With the dawn of a new year, Spirit Renewal Ministries, as a global Christian ministry and community enters a time of great promise and hope, as well as a new era of international and local political and social upheaval and uncertainty. Wars and conflict rage. The Geneva Academy is monitoring more than 110 armed conflicts, some of which make daily headlines, others do not. Bob Dylan's classic protest song "Blowin' in the Wind" (1962) addresses the incomprehensible cruelty of war and oppression, stating, "how many deaths will it take till he knows, that too many people have died? The forces of war are indeed powerful - so is prayer!

Food insecurity is rampant, with the United Nations estimating that up to 757 million people were undernourished in 2023, 152 million more than in 2019 – one out of eleven people in the world, and one out of every five in Africa. Apart from hunger, the report also highlights that 2.33 billion people experienced moderate or severe food insecurity and 900 million people faced severe food insecurity. Over 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet. Many children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition.

As of 2024, the world's refugee population is over 37.9 million, which is more than 160% higher than the 14.38 million recorded in 2014. The number of people displaced from their homes has also increased, with over 122 million people forced to leave their homes.

That is now. What about life in the Roman Empire during the time of Jesus and the writing of the New Testament? Ninety percent of persons lived close to the subsistence level or below it. For the people of Israel, the Roman Empire was a terrible place to live. Land was concentrated in the hands of a few. Life was brutal and extreme poverty was normal. The life expectancy at birth in the Roman Empire was around 22–33 years. No wonder people were looking for a Messiah who would break the shackles of Rome and free them from the burden of debt, tax, and tribute. Jesus was born into this harsh, unforgiving environment and was summarily arrested, tortured, and crucified as a common criminal. It was in this unforgiving environment that the gospel accounts and pastoral letters that make up our Bible were written. It was in this context that Matthew wrote, quoting Isaiah 42: 1-4, speaking of Jesus, "and in his name the Gentiles will hope. "The evangelist Paul, later wrote to the church in Rome, "we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God" (Romans: 5:2).

We in Spirit Renewal Ministries are not alone in this year's prayer initiative with the theme of hope. The theme of General Synod of the Anglican Church in Canada for 2025 will focus on hope, strength and renewal. The global Catholic Church has chosen the focus of hope for 2025, the Jubilee Year, with the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope", inspired by Romans 5:5, which says "hope does not disappoint." We in SRM literally join with over a billion Christians around the world as we pray daily for hope, renewal, strength, perseverance, peace, reconciliation, and God's grace for the world (Isaiah 61: 1-3). No matter where you are, in Poland, Uganda, Kenya, Curaçao, the USA, Burundi, Tanzania, Nigeria, Switzerland, Turkey, Greece, or Canada, you will meet people who need hope. Remember the promise of scripture, "this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" 1 John 5:14.

# FOR THE NEEDY SHALL NOT ALWAYS BE FORGOTTEN, NOR THE HOPE OF THE POOR PERISH FOR EVER, PSALM 9.18

**January 2025, Prayer Focus: Signs of Hope.** The gospel of Christ, preached throughout the Ancient Near East, and thus on to us, delivers the great message of hope to all people that fulfills the ancient promise and remembers Jesus, crucified, dead, and risen. The promise leads to glory and is grounded in the everlasting love of God for all peoples in all times.

**February 2025: Prayer Focus, our prayers and support for the sick, in body, mind, and spirit.** For those you have given up, for the sick and dying, for those with short term and long term illnesses, and for families and caregivers who walk day by day with all in need, Matthew 4:23; Matthew 10: 1; Mark 2:17.

**March 2025: Prayer Focus, we pray for the poor.** Matthew 5.3: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. There are billions of souls who cannot afford a proper daily meal and millions of refugees are on the move with no permanent place to lay their head at night. "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind" Luke 14.13.

**April 2025: Prayer Focus, pray for the elderly.** The number of Americans ages 65 and older is projected to increase from 58 million in 2022 to 82 million by 2050 (a 47% increase). In Canada, by 2030, seniors are expected to make up to 24% of the population. As the number of low income seniors increases, so too does the number of persons who are vulnerable to poverty and unable to meet their basic living needs.

**May: 2025: Prayer Focus. Pray for migrants and those displaced from their homes and nations.** The Wilson Center provides counsel and insights on global affairs, hosted an event in 2023, "*Driven Out: Global Response to the Plight of Forcibly Displaced People*." The problems raised and solutions sought are beyond comprehension. Yet, we can pray for each person that comes into our orbit of care - pray for hope and care for the dignity of each person in a fractured, broken world.

**June 2025: Prayer Focus. Prayer for patience and perseverance.** Romans 15: 4-5 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience, Romans 8.25.*

**July 2025: Prayer Focus, pray for the hungry, thirsty, and abandoned.** In 2023, 9% of the world's population, or 735 million people, were chronically hungry. This is an increase from 2019, when 122 million fewer people were chronically hungry. Hunger rates are especially high in Africa, where 1 in 5 people go hungry each day. The UN projects that more than half of the world's chronically undernourished people by 2030 will be in Africa. *Matthew 25: 35-40.*

**August 2025: Prayer Focus, Faith love, and hope.** We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. These three virtues express the heart of the Christian faith. 1 Thess. 1:3; 1 Cor 13:13.

**September 2025: Prayer Focus, The Promise of Life Everlasting.** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16. But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' Matthew 19.14

**October 2025: Prayer Focus. Pray for the young,** Many young people and adolescents look to the future with a sense of despair and even despondency, facing uncertain times for employment, affordable living, and even bigger issues like the stability of nations and global health. Did you know that by 2030, young people in Africa are projected to make up 42% of the world's youth population. This is due to Africa's large youth population, with more than 60% of the population under the age of 25. We need to pray for and walk beside the young! SRM is blessed to serve and pray for the youth in Africa.

**November 2025: Prayer Focus, God is our refuge and strength.** Pray, remembering that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble Psalm 46. Remember the promise, *.....we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain ...." Hebrews: 6: 18-20.*

**December 2025: Prayer Focus, Pray for church leaders, lay and ordained.** We pray for an increase in the numbers called to serve in the Body of Christ, remembering the words of Jesus, "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few, Matthew 9.37. We also pray with hope for well being, wisdom, compassion, fortitude, and strength of purpose for those called to ministry, for Jesus said, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" Matthew 10.16.